

U.S. to Appeal Ruling on Autopsy Material

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Justice Department has announced it will appeal a District of Columbia judge's order that autopsy X rays and photographs of President John F. Kennedy be taken to New Orleans for the Clay L. Shaw conspiracy trial.

Judge Charles Halleck of the Court of General Sessions Friday ruled that a potential witness in the trial may examine the autopsy material now sealed in the National Archives.

The potential witness,

Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, a Pittsburgh pathologist, was to be permitted access to the material by 4 p.m. Monday, but the Justice Department allowed the deadline to pass without complying with Halleck's order.

Joseph M. Hannon, an assistant U.S. attorney, told Halleck there was no way to change the government's agreement with the Kennedy family to keep the material sealed until 1971 and the government would not even ask the family to change it.

Halleck ordered the national archivist, Dr. James Rhoads, to take the X rays

and photographs when New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison requests them.

The apparent effect of the government's appeal action was to hold Halleck's order in abeyance pending the outcome of a

hearing before Court of Appeals. *end*