

Judge Acts to Release JFK Data

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Judge Charles W. Halleck yesterday ordered the Government to obtain the Kennedy family's permission for a pathologist who questions the Warren Report to examine photographs and X-rays from President John F. Kennedy's autopsy.

If the Justice Department fails to obtain permission from the family by 4 p.m. Monday, Judge Halleck said he would order the National Archivist, Dr. Jame B. Rhoads, to appear at the Clay L. Shaw conspiracy trial in New Orleans with the autopsy materials.

Judge Halleck also ordered the Archivist to take other

pieces of evidence to the trial, pending court assurances they would remain in the archivist's custody. These items—the assassination rifle, a bullet, several bullet fragments and some documents—would go regardless of an examination by the pathologist.

The pathologist, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, testified yesterday before Halleck in the Court of General Sessions. He appeared for the State of Louisiana in its request to have Judge Halleck order the archivist to go to Louisiana with the autopsy materials.

The Government has sought to block the order on grounds that an agreement with the Kennedy family forbids disclosure and examination of the

autopsy materials without the family's permission. It is this permission that Judge Halleck ordered the Justice Department to obtain by Monday afternoon.

Dr. Wecht, who has both medical and law degrees, testified that on the basis of his examination of the Zapruder assassination film there is some evidence the President was shot from the front: The President lurches back upon impact of the bullet that shattered his head.

He also cited conflicting reports on the location of the head wound. The original autopsy report, Dr. Wecht said, places the wound in the back—about ear level. A 1968 review by four pathologists placed the wound some four

inches closer to the top of the head—in a spot accessible to a shot from the front.

Throughout the day-long hearing, Judge Halleck hinted at allowing Dr. Wecht examine the materials to make a pathological conclusion on the wound. But the judge said he hesitated to make wholesale disclosure of the pictures and X-rays, fearing they would turn up "on the cover of Life magazine," as he once put it.

Implicit in the judge's action is his questioning of the agreement the Kennedys made with the archivist.

More than once, Judge Halleck has raised the question of whether the Kennedy family had "right, title or interest" in the pictures and X-rays to attach the conditions.