

AUTOPSY PHOTOS PUT IN ARCHIVES BY THE KENNEDYS

Access to Negatives, Slides
and X-Rays of President's
Body Will Be Restricted

OPEN TO LAW AGENCIES

Justice Department Asked
Filing of Data—Doubts on
Warren Study a Reason

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1—
Photographs and X-rays taken
of President Kennedy's body at
the autopsy after his assassina-
tion were turned over to the
National Archives yesterday by
the Kennedy family.

This was disclosed tonight by
the Justice Department, which
said that under an agreement
with the family the 65 X-rays,
color slides and black and white
negatives would be available to
Federal law-enforcement agen-
cies.

However, for the next five
years access by scholars and
other unofficial investigators
will be granted only with the
consent of the family.

A Justice Department spokes-
man said that two Navy physi-
cians who participated in the
autopsy had seen the pictures
and X-rays today for the first
time and had said the material
corroborated their testimony to
the Warren Commission and the
commission's conclusions about
the wounds.

Family Withheld Pictures

The X-rays, slides and nega-
tives, plus some prints, were
made from film that had been
turned over to the Kennedy
family and withheld by them for
reasons of taste.

The autopsy was conducted
at Bethesda Naval Hospital in
suburban Bethesda, Md., on the
night of murder. Medical techni-
cians took the pictures, and the
film was given to the Kennedy
family by the Secret Service.

The President's body had been
 flown to Washington from Dal-
las, Tex., where he was shot to
death on the afternoon of Nov.
22, 1963.

The Warren Commission

headed by Chief Justice Earl
Warren, was appointed by Pres-
ident Johnson to investigate the
circumstances of the assassina-
tion.

Warren Saw Photos

As had been reported previ-
ously, the photographs and
X-rays were not seen by the
full commission, but Chief Jus-
tice Warren had viewed them.

The X-rays and photographs
were placed in the National
Archives at the request of the
Justice Department.

The department spokesman,
who asked not to be identified,
said tonight that the action was
prompted in part by several
recent books that expressed
doubt about the Warren Com-
mission's conclusions.

A rash of recent books and
articles have questioned the
commission's conclusion that a
single bullet from the rifle of
Lee Harvey Oswald passed
through the President's body
and struck Gov. John B. Con-
nally Jr. of Texas.

The limitations on access to

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the material were included in a
letter to the Archives signed by
Burke Marshall as lawyer for
the executors of the Kennedy
estate—Mrs. Kennedy and the
President's brothers, Senabrs
Robert F. Kennedy of New
York and Edward M. Kennedy
of Massachusetts.

Law Provides for Curbs

A Federal law regarding
Presidential libraries provides
that papers and other items
may be deposited in the
Archives subject to limitations
and restrictions imposed by the
donors.

This morning, Acting Attor-
ney General Ramsey Clark of-
ficially turned over to the
Archives all of the physical evi-
dence considered by the War-
ren Commission.

This had been in the hands of
the Justice Department.

According to the spokesman,
use of the photographs and
X-rays will be restricted as
follows:

¶ Access will be immediately
granted to law-enforcement of-
ficials of all Federal investiga-
tive agencies.

¶ No public display or release
will be permitted.

¶ For the next five years ac-
cess by scholars and other un-
official investigators will be
granted only with the specific
consent of the Kennedy family.
After five years, the family will
permit qualified pathologists
and other medical experts to
study the items.

These limitations will remain

in effect throughout the life-
times of Mrs. Kennedy, the late
President's parents, Mr. and
Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, and
the President's brothers and
sisters and his two children.

The clothing worn by the
President when he was assassi-
nated on Nov. 22, 1963, also was
turned over to the National
Archives. This had been in the
hands of the Government. Pho-
tographs of the clothing appear
in the Warren Commission
report.

Under the restrictions appli-
cable to them, any Government
investigative body has full
access, but public display is
prohibited.

However, any serious scholar
would be permitted to look at
the garments.

Arlen Specter, who was a key
Warren Commission lawyer and
is now District Attorney of
Philadelphia, has reported that
the commission, in investigat-
ing the circumstances of the
assassination, decided it was
unnecessary for its members to
review the photographs or X-
rays.

Mr. Specter had interviewed
Comdr. James J. Humes, an
autopsy surgeon, and had asked
if X-rays would assist him in
further specifying the nature of
President Kennedy's wounds.
The published testimony, in
Volume II, Page 371, shows the
Navy surgeon replied:

"I do not believe, sir, that
the availability of the pictures
would materially assist the
commission."

Questioned by Warren

Asked by Mr. Specter about
the other photographs, Com-
mander Humes said these would
show more accurately and in
detail the character of the
wounds, giving perhaps a more
graphic picture.

Chief Justice Warren, who
was presiding, then asked:

"If we had the pictures here
and you could look them over
again . . . would it cause you
to change any of the testimony
you have given here?"

Commander Humes replied:

"To the best of my recollec-
tion, Mr. Chief Justice, it would
not."

The commission concluded
that President Kennedy and
Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of
Texas had been struck by the
same bullet, which passed first
through the President.

Some critics contended the

bullet had not passed through the President's body and suggested that the pictures and X-Rays taken at the autopsy were being suppressed to conceal the truth. These critics implied that another bullet, perhaps fired by another assassin, had struck Governor Connally.

Today Captain Humes — he has since been promoted — and another of the three physicians who performed the autopsy, J. Thornton Boswell, went to the National Archives and authenticated the X-rays and pictures as those taken during the autopsy. Both physicians are now stationed at the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

The third physician, Col. Pierre A. Finck, is on duty in Vietnam.

The radiologist who took the X-rays, whose name was not given tonight, also authenticated the X-rays.

Doctors' Testimony

According to the Justice Department spokesman, the two Navy doctors who authenticated the material, today, both said they saw nothing new in the X-rays and pictures.

In their testimony before the Warren Commission, both said their examination of the President's body indicated that the bullet that struck him in the back of the neck passed out his throat.

This testimony was crucial to the commission's conclusion that a single bullet had struck the President and Governor Connally.

Asked if everything they saw today was corroborative, the doctors were said to have replied, "Yes."

The spokesman emphasized they were merely trying to authenticate the material and did not study it from a medical standpoint.

14 X-Rays in Group

The Justice Department said there were 14 X-rays, 25 black and white negatives and 26 four-by-five-inch color transparencies. The spokesman gave as one reason for the department's request for the data the desire to complete the historical record of the assassination.

He added that he was "sure

that the questions which some of these books helped to raise in the eye of the public" helped lead to the Justice Department's action.

In an earlier action today, Acting Attorney General Clark took title for the Federal Government to all the physical considered by the Warren Commission.

Acting under a law of 1965 that authorized him to decide on articles that should be preserved in the National Archives, Mr. Clark concluded that "the national interest requires the entire body of evidence considered by the commission" to be preserved intact.

In a poignant recount of the memorabilia of the assassination, he listed first "one 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, with telescopic sight, serial No. C2786, including sling and cartridge clip."

The rifle was found by the Warren Commission to have been the weapon that killed President Kennedy and wounded Governor Connally.

The list also included the .38 special Smith and Wesson revolver owned by Oswald and hundreds of items found in the assassin's quarters.

These ranged from such items as Oswald's promise to repay the State Department for its loan of \$435.71 to bring him home from the Soviet Union and his undestrable discharge from the Marine Corps to a Top Value stamp book and a Sears, Roebuck catalog.

Many of the items listed were books and pamphlets on the Soviet Union and Cuba and on Communist theory. There were also press clippings of his pro-Castro activities and several letters to him, including one signed by John Connally, presumably the Texas Governor.

Under the law invoked today by Mr. Clark, anyone who has a legal claim to any of the items may file with the Government within the next year requesting compensation.

Gun Collector Sues

In the case of Oswald's effects, a Colorado gun collector, John J. King, has filed suit claiming ownership of the two weapons, which he says he pur-

chased from Oswald's widow, Marina, for \$10,000.

Although nothing has been published concerning the ownership of the remainder of Oswald's effects, presumably his widow could now claim them as her property and thus seek compensation.

The Warren Commission's internal memorandums and other papers and documents submitted to it by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and other agencies have already been turned over to the National Archives.

Critics of the commission report have complained that one-third or more of these papers are still classified and have not been released for scrutiny by scholars.

The National Archives Building occupies the block bounded by Seventh and Eighth Streets and Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues in Washington's northwest section.

Records Preserved

It houses the Office of Civil Archives and the Office of Military Archives, and it preserves Government and other records of permanent value, arranges and publishes guides to them, makes them available for use and exhibits those of historical significance.

It reproduces some important research materials on microfilm. These can be purchased at moderate cost. Historic documents, such as the Bill of Rights are reproduced in facsimile for sale.

Dr. Robert H. Bahmer, the Archivist of the United States, presides over an 1,800-man staff that files, preserves and thins out the 4½ million cubic feet of records the Government produces every year.

Most of the agency's activities concern the management of current Government records. Most of these are kept for several years in 16 record centers around the country. Eventually 1 to 3 per cent are placed in the Archives.

Other functions of the Archives include the preservation of Presidential papers in the several Presidential libraries.

The National Archives and Records Service is responsible



WARREN COMMISSION EXHIBIT 903

Warren Commission Exhibit 903, page 96, Volume XVIII, demonstrates hypothesis that one bullet struck President Kennedy and wounded Texas Gov. John Connally. Detectives in Dallas sit in positions similar to those occupied by President Kennedy, rear seat, and Governor Connally. Third detective holds rod showing path bullet could have traveled, entering President Kennedy's back and leaving

through the lower throat. Bullet then hit Governor Connally in back, shattering fifth rib, exiting by right breast, hitting right wrist, puncturing left thigh and then falling from thigh wound. Autopsy X-rays, color slides and black and white negatives taken of President Kennedy were viewed by Chief Justice Earl Warren before report was issued. Photographs are in National Archives.