

Bill Introduced to Curb Pretrial Data Release

Associated Press

Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) introduced a bill yesterday to restrict both prosecution and defense in releasing information before the trial of defendants in Federal courts.

Although the legislation would not apply to state or local authorities, Morse said events at Dallas after the assassination of President Kennedy Nov. 22, 1963, emphasized the need for it.

Morse told the Senate he referred to "the running television commentary" on

the weekend of the tragedy when, he said, Dallas police authorities passed on to national audiences "the evidence against Lee Harvey Oswald before the man ever saw a lawyer and before he was formally charged with any crime."

"The result was a second murder, a lynching, that was as shameful to the American system of government as was the murder of the President," he declared.

Oswald was shot to death

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by Jack Ruby, a Dallas night spot operator, in the basement of the city police station as he was being moved to the county jail.

Morse said his bill to restrict the pretrial release of information to news media by either defense or prosecution had been approved in principle by the Judicial Conference, made up of Federal court judges.

"The establishment of some rules on this subject at the Federal level would contribute greatly to improvement at the state and local level," he added.