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BY GREGORY GORDON

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE SECRET SERVICE WEDNESDAY TURNED OVER MORE THAN 200 PAGES OF STILL-SECRET FILES ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY FOR REVIEW BY THE FEDERAL JUDGE WHO HAS BEEN ASKED TO MAKE THEM PUBLIC UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT LAWYER AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS, WHO BROUGHT SOME OF THE REQUESTED DOCUMENTS TO THE COURT HOUSE IN A SAFE, TRIED TO PERSUADE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE GERHARD GESELL TO KEEP THEM SEALED.

THEY ARGUED MANY OF THE FILES ARE PROTECTED BY A NUMBER OF FOI EXEMPTIONS, AND SOME HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. GESELL SAID HE WOULD CONDUCT AN "IN CAMERA" REVIEW OF SOME OF THE DOCUMENTS TO SEE WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE WITHHELD.

MICHAEL LEVY, A 31-YEAR-OLD PHARMACIST, SUED ON MAY 1, 1977, AFTER HE WAS DENIED ACCESS TO MOST OF THE THOUSANDS OF PAGES OF DOCUMENTS HE SOUGHT IN REGULAR FOI REQUESTS.

APPARENTLY, FEW OF THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BY LEVY WERE AMONG SOME 90,000 PAGES OF FBI FILES AND MORE THAN 500 PAGES OF SECRET SERVICE FILES MADE AVAILABLE TO UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL UNDER FOI REQUESTS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

LEVY SAID IN AN INTERVIEW HE LEARNED THE DOCUMENTS EXISTED BY LEAFING THROUGH SECRET SERVICE INDEX CARDS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

HE SAID HE REQUESTED FILES ON KENNEDY'S NOV. 22, 1963, SLAYING FROM THE SECRET SERVICE, THE CIA, THE FBI, THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND AIR FORCE AND NAVAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

MOST OF THE AGENCIES TOLD HIM THEY HAD NO FILES, LEVY SAID, BUT DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DOCUMENTS SHOWED UP IN THE ARCHIVES' INDEX BECAUSE MANY OF THE FILES HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE SECRET SERVICE.

"YOU SEE, THEY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT AND NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN FOUND OUT IF IT WEREN'T FOR THOSE INDEX CARDS," LEVY SAID. "THEN THEY COULDN'T DENY THEY DIDN'T EXIST. I CAUGHT A LOT OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES LYING TO ME.

"ALL THESE AGENCIES STARTED SAYING, 'WHOOOPS. WE FOUND IT NOW.'"

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS SUBMITTED AFFIDAVITS TO GESELL ARGUING AGAINST RELEASE OF THE DOCUMENTS.

GENE WILSON, INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COORDINATOR FOR THE CIA, CITED ONE EXEMPTION MAKING "THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING SOURCES AND METHODS" USED IN INVESTIGATIONS.

ANOTHER, HE SAID, EXEMPTS THE AGENCY FROM ANY LAW REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES OF CIA EMPLOYEES.

SECRET SERVICE OFFICIALS STRESSED THE PRIVACY RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS AND THE NEED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES. JAMES MASTROVITO, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE OF THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, MAINTAINED THAT ABOUT HALF OF THE 234 SECRET SERVICE DOCUMENTS SOUGHT BY LEVY WERE NOT IN THE AGENCY'S FILES AT THE TIME OF HIS ORIGINAL REQUEST. HE SAID THERE IS NO RECORD SHOWING WHETHER THE AGENCY "EVER HAD SUCH DOCUMENTS IN OUR POSSESSION."

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