

A115(CQ)(4RIFLE)!NA
(260)

3 APR. 1967
1012 AES

PUTNAMVILLE, IND., APRIL 3 (AP)- A RIFLE OF THE SAME MODEL AS THE ONE NAMED AS THE GUN USED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS FOUND IN A TERRE HAUTE, IND., HOTEL THREE DAYS AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S SLAYING, TERRE HAUTE'S FORMER POLICE CHIEF SAID TODAY.

FRANK RIDDLE, THE RETIRED CHIEF, SAID THE RIFLE, A 6.5 MILLI-METER ITALIAN MANNLICHER-CARCANO, WAS TRACED TO A SALESMAN FROM SAN ANTONIO, TEX.

RIDDLE, WHO RETIRED FEB. 15 AFTER 16 YEARS AS TERRE HAUTE POLICE CHIEF, NOW IS IN CHARGE OF CUSTODY AT THE INDIANA STATE FARM IN PUTNAMVILLE.

HE SAID ALL HIS INFORMATION ABOUT THE RIFLE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE WARREN COMMISSION AND THE RIFLE WAS TAKEN BY SECRET SERVICE ~~XXXX~~ AGENTS.

THE WARREN COMMISSION NAMED LET HARVEY OSWALD AS THE SLAYER OF ~~HE~~ KENNEDY IN DALLAS, TEX., NOV. 22, 1963.

RIDDLE SAID SAN ANTONIO AUTHORITIES INFORMED HIM THE SALESMAN HAD NO ~~XXXX~~ CRIMINAL RECORD, WAS A MEMBER OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE AND AN EXPERT RIFLE MARKSMAN. HE DECLINED TO NAME THE SALESMAN.

RIDDLE SAID THE SALESMAN REGISTERED AT THE TERRE HAUTE HOUSE NOV. 25, 1963 AND, ACCORDING TO THE DESK CLERK, WAS CARRYING A "LONG PACKAGE." SHORTLY AFTER NOON ON NOV. 26, ~~1963~~ HE CHECKED OUT WITHOUT THE PACKAGE, THE FORMER CHIEF RELATED.

THE RIFLE, FOUND BY A MAID, BORE NO FINGERPRINTS, RIDDLE SAID. TWO TELEPHONE CALLS FROM THE SALESMAN'S ROOM NOV. 25 WERE TO A TERRE HAUTE GUN SHOP AND TO A STORE THAT SOLD RIFLE AMMUNITION, RIDDLE SAID.

HE SAID INVESTORS LEARNED THE SALESMAN WAS TOLD THE WEAPON WOULD SELL FOR \$5. RIDDLE SAID THE SALESMAN LATER BOUGHT A BUS TICKET TO ST. LOUIS.

RIDDLE WAS QUESTIONED BY A NEWSMAN ABOUT THE INCIDENT ~~RECENTLY~~
FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS BY JIM GARRISON, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
ATTORNEY, INTO THE ASSASSINATION.

RIDDLE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO WORD FROM GARRISON AND ~~HE~~
ADDED, "I THINK GARRISON MAY HAVE SOMETHING, BUT I DON'T ~~REALLY~~
PLAN TO CONTACT HIM WITH THE INFORMATION I HAVE."

FS:1012AES M

A107NA

3 APR. 1967
803 PES

7
!NA

RIFLE BJT NL (220)

PUTNAMVILLE, IND., APRIL 3 (AP)--A RIFLE A TEXAS SALESMAN LEFT IN A TERRE HAUTE HOTEL THREE DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS OF THE SAME MODEL AS THAT NAMED IN THE PRESIDENT'S SLAYING, A FORMER POLICEMAN REVEALED TODAY.

FRANK RIDDLE, FORMER TERRE HAUTE POLICE CHIEF, SAID THE RIFLE, A 6.5 MILLIMETER ITALIAN MANNLICHER-CARGANO, WAS FOUND IN THE ROOM OCCUPIED BY A SALESMAN FROM SAN ANTONIO.

THE WEAPON WAS TURNED OVER TO THE SECRET SERVICE WITH DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION, SAID RIDDLE, NOW IN CHARGE OF CUSTODY AT THE STATE FARM NEAR HERE.

RIDDLE SAID SAN ANTONIO AUTHORITIES REPORTED THE SALESMAN HAD NO CRIMINAL RECORD, WAS A MEMBER OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE AND AN EXPERT RIFLE MARKSMAN. RIDDLE DECLINED TO NAME THE SALESMAN.

THE WARREN COMMISSION NAMED LEE HARVEY OSWALD AS KENNEDY'S ASSASSIN AND SAID HE ACTED ALONE.

THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION BY NEW ORLEANS DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON PROMPTED A NEWSMAN TO QUESTION RIDDLE.

RIDDLE SAID THE SALESMAN REGISTERED AT THE TERRE HAUTE HOUSE NOV. 25, 1963, AND WAS CARRYIN A "LONG PACKAGE," ACCORDING TO THE DESK CLERK. HE ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ MADE TWO TELEPHONE CALLS. ONE WAS TO A GUN SHOP WHERE THE SALESMAN WAS TOLD THE RIFLE WOULD SELL FOR \$5, RIDDLE SAID. THE OTHER CALL WAS TO A STORE THAT SOLD RIFLE AMMUNITION.

THE MAN CHECKED OUT NOV. 26, RIDDLE SAID, AND BOUGHT A BUS TICKET TO ST. LOUIS.

A MAID FOUND THE RIFLE, WHICH RIDDLE SAID CONTAINED NO FINGERPRINTS.

RIDDLE SAID HE HAS HAD NO ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ CONTACT WITH GARRISON OR HIS STAFF. "I THINK GA RRISON MAY HAVE SOMETHING," HE SAID, "BUT I

DON'T VBAN TO CONTACT HIM WITH THE INFORMATION I HAE."

I JD:803PES NM