

Lawmakers call for release of JFK assassination files

By Adam Clymer
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Leading lawmakers from both houses of Congress on Thursday introduced legislation to make public almost everything in government files on the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, who headed the House investigation into the killing in the late 1970s, said the measure was supported by congressional leaders and had no discernible opposition.

"This resolution is going to sail rough," he predicted.

Sen. David L. Boren, D-Okla., who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he had been assured of cooperation by the directors of the CIA and FBI. He predicted that "99.999999999 percent of the documents" in government files would be fully released.

Under the legislation, a five-member commission would be appointed by federal judges to rule on whether information could be deleted or withheld.

None of the panel members could be government employees or have been involved with previous investigations of the assassination.

The commission would have two years to see to the release of files from the House Assassinations Committee, the Warren Commission and any material held by other government agencies.

The bill urges Russian authorities to make public information in the files of the defunct KGB and the GRU, the domestic and military intelligence agencies of the former Soviet Union.

The only grounds allowed for continued secrecy would be personnel records of previous investigations, cases in which a current intel-

IN CONGRESS

Here are other developments in Congress on Thursday:

■ **EDUCATION:** The House approved a bill that would add more than 2 million poor and middle-income college students to the federal financial aid program. The legislation now goes to conference. The Senate passed its version of the bill, covering about \$20 billion in programs, in late February.

■ **BUDGET:** The Senate killed a Democratic effort to shift billions of dollars from military to social programs, rebuffing party leaders who want to use the issue to score points with recession-battered voters.

■ **FORESTS:** The Senate passed a Montana wilderness bill to free up 4 million acres of roadless national forest land for logging, mining, oil drilling, tourism and other development. The bill now goes to the House.

SOURCE: Associated Press

ligence agent or informer's identity would be disclosed, where a current intelligence gathering method would be compromised, and where there would be a severe invasion of privacy of a living person.

Some details of the autopsy of Kennedy also would be kept from public display, Boren said.

The two leaders, and others of both parties who joined them, said it was important to make the information public to dispel suspicion, especially among young people whose view of the event came from Oliver Stone's movie "JFK," which suggests that the assassination was plotted by the government to keep the president from halting the Vietnam War.

Stokes said he doubted the files would provide any sensations.