

Oswald's Weapons Due U.S. Seizure

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The rifle and pistol owned by accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald have been shipped to Dallas for official "seizure" by an agency of the federal government, The Times Herald learned Tuesday afternoon.

For several months the government has been attempting to take permanent custody of the weapons. They include the 6.5-mm Manlich-

er-Carcano rifle believed to be the weapon which killed President Kennedy and severely wounded Gov. John Connally on Nov. 22, 1963.

A .38-caliber revolver which killed Officer J. D. Tippit on an Oak Cliff street shortly after the assassination also is included in the expected seizure action.

The government's intentions to confiscate the weapons were confirmed by Asst. U.S. Atty. Tim Timmons late Tuesday in a state-

ment authorized by the Department of Justice.

"The weapons are being proceeded against by the government, giving notice of summary forfeiture of the firearms under appropriate federal statutes," Mr. Timmons said.

This procedure will be to advertise three times on three consecutive weeks, giving notice to all claimants having interest in the weapons."

He said that in addition actual notice to the parties with apparent interest had been served Tuesday. Any claimant has 30 days to file a claim and cost bond, and if they do so the government will file a liability in federal court.

If no claimant comes forward, the treasury will claim the weapons in 30 days.

Mr. Timmons also confirmed that the weapons were in Dallas in custody of the FBI.

The guns, which have been in the custody of the Department of Justice or the Warren Commission since shortly after the assassination and the killing of Oswald, have been the subject of controversy.

A special congressional bill

which would permit the government to permanently seize the weapons is also pending and a federal civil suit is now on file in Denver.

In that suit, a Colorado oilman filed for possession of the weapons, which he claimed were sold to him by the widow of the assassin for \$10,000.

John J. King of Inglewood, Colo., filed the suit against the Justice Department, but Mrs. Marina Oswald did not join in the action.

In addition to the reported sale price, another payment was to be made if the guns were recovered from the government.

The suit claimed the Justice Department has been using the euphemism that "the matter is under study" in declining to give him the weapons.

It was learned that a newspaper legal notice is being prepared to run Wednesday informing the public of the administrative seizure.

It asks anyone with claims against the weapons to step forward. That procedure is commonly used in administrative matters and can be taken without court action unless some owner steps forward to protest. In that case the government is required to take steps to file a liability in federal court, where a hearing will determine if the guns can be seized.

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