

7 SEPT 1965
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OSWALD'S RIFLE (320)

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 7 (AP)-A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNMENT TO RETAIN PERMANENTLY THE RIFLE THAT KILLED PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WON HOUSE PASSAGE TODAY.

THE HOUSE ALSO PASSED AND SENT TO THE PRESIDENT A BILL PROVIDING FOR SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION OF THE WIDOW AND CHILDREN OF ANY PRESIDENT FOR FOUR YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH.

REP. H. R. GROSS, R-IOWA, NOTED THAT A GUN COLLECTOR REPORTEDLY HAS PAID \$10,000 FOR THE KENNEDY MURDER RIFLE, AS WELL AS THE .38 REVOLVER USED BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD TO KILL DALLAS PATROLMAN J. D. TIPPITT SHORTLY AFTER KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION.

GROSS ASKED IF THE BILL WOULD PROVIDE PAYMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS \$10,000. REP. BYRON ROGERS, D-COLO., SAID PAYMENT FOR PRIVATELY OWNED ITEMS INVOLVED IN THE CASE WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE COURTS.

A REPORT ACCOMPANYING THE BILL SAID THE COLLECTOR HAS SUED THE GOVERNMENT FOR POSSESSION OF THE WEAPONS, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO THE SUIT. ROGERS IDENTIFIED THE COLLECTOR AS JOHN J. KING OF DENVER, WHO SAID HE BOUGHT THE GUNS FROM OSWALD'S WIDOW.

REP. HALE BOGGS, D-LA., WHO SERVED ON THE WARREN COMMISSION WHICH INVESTIGATED THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION, SAID "IT WOULD BE TRAGIC INDEED IF THESE ITEMS DID NOT REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES."

THE BILL, WHICH GOES TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER ACTION, ALSO WOULD AUTHORIZE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO DECIDE WHAT OTHER ITEMS OF EVIDENCE SHOULD BE RETAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE REPORT SAID THAT "IN YEARS AHEAD ALLEGATIONS AND THEORIES CONCERNING PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION MAY ABOUND. TO ELIMINATE QUESTIONS AND DOUBTS THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE SHOULD BE SECURELY PRESERVED. A FAILURE TO DO SO COULD LEAD TO LOSS, DESTRUCTION, OR ALTERATION OF VITAL EVIDENCE AND IN TIME MIGHT SERVE TO ENCOURAGE IRRESPONSIBLE RUMORS UNDERMINING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE WORK OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION."

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THE BILL TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR WIDOWS OF PRESIDENTS ALSO INCLUDES PROTECTION FOR A FORMER PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE DURING THEIR LIFETIME, UNLESS SUCH PROTECTION IS DECLINED.

REP. WILLIAM M. MCCULLOCH, R-OHIO, SAID THREATS HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST MRS. KENNEDY AND HER CHILDREN "ON AT LEAST MORE THAN ONE OCCASION."

REP. EMANUEL CELLER, D-N.Y., NOTED A RECENT RANSACKING OF FORMER PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER'S PARKED CAR.

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