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KENNEDY-EVIDENCE (300)

BY RAYMOND J. CROWLEY

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, NOV. 1 (AP)—THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TOOK LEGAL TITLE TODAY TO THE GREAT MASS OF EVIDENCE CONSIDERED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

IT ORDERED THAT THE EVIDENCE BE PRESERVED FOR THE AGES IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

THIS INCLUDES WHAT THE COMMISSION HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN DESIGNATED AS THE DEATH WEAPON—"ONE 6.5 MM. MANNLICHER-CARCANO RIFLE, WITH TELESCOPIC SIGHT, SERIAL NUMBER C2766, INCLUDING SLING AND CARTRIDGE CLIP."

IT ALSO INCLUDES A .38 SPECIAL SMITH AND WESSON REVOLVER WHICH, THE COMMISSION FOUND, WAS USED BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD TO KILL DALLAS POLICEMAN J. D. TIPPITT WITHIN AN HOUR OF THE ASSAULT ON KENNEDY.

A COLORADO GUN COLLECTOR, JOHN J. KING, HAS GONE TO COURT IN A FIGHT FOR POSSESSION OF THE TWO GUNS, NOW IN FBI HANDS. HE SAYS HE PAID OSWALD'S WIDOW, MARINA, \$10,000 FOR THEM.

HOWEVER, CONGRESS IN A STATUTE PASSED LAST YEAR, EMPOWERED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO TAKE LEGAL TITLE TO ALL THE EVIDENCE, LEAVING QUESTIONS OF COMPENSATION TO BE DETERMINED LATER.

ACCORDINGLY, ACTING ATTY. GEN. RAMSEY CLARK, IN AN ORDER PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S FEDERAL REGISTER, SAID:

"I HEREBY DETERMINE THAT ALL OF THE ITEMS OF EVIDENCE NOT OWNED BY THE UNITED STATES WHICH WERE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION, AND WERE NOT RETURNED BY THE COMMISSION TO THE PERSON WHO FURNISHED THEM, SHOULD BE ACQUIRED BY THE UNITED STATES AND BE PRESERVED TOGETHER WITH ALL OF THE ITEMS OF EVIDENCE ALREADY OWNED BY THE UNITED STATES."

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EXPLAINING THE REFERENCE TO ITEMS RETURNED BY THE COMMISSION TO PERSONS WHO FURNISHED THEM, OFFICIALS SAID THAT IN SOME CASES COPIES OF DOCUMENTS WERE MADE; THE COPIES WERE RETAINED BY THE COMMISSION AND THE ORIGINALS RETURNED.

ITEMS OF EVIDENCE COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ORDER OCCUPY SEVEN PAGES OF FINE PRINT IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER. THEY RANGE FROM THE RIFLE TO OSWALD'S CORRESPONDENCE, AND EVEN A BUS TRANSFER.

THE COLLECTION IN THE ARCHIVES IS EXPECTED TO BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO FUTURE HISTORIANS. JUDGING FROM RECENT BOOKS, A CONTROVERSY OVER WHETHER THE WARREN COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION WAS ADEQUATE AND DEFINITIVE SHOWS NO SIGNS OF DYING OUT.

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