

More Restrictions on Viewing Kennedy X-Rays

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Washington

Private persons will not receive permission to see the autopsy photographs and X-rays of President Kennedy's body for the next five years, a representative of the Kennedy family disclosed yesterday.

For other material on autopsy x-rays, photographs, see Archives.

The statement by Burke Marshall, a New York lawyer who has been designated by the Kennedy family to handle requests to see the items, indicated that news media representatives may be denied access to them for much longer than five years.

The initial announcement on Tuesday indicated that the Kennedy family might consider granting permission for scholars and other unofficial investigators to view the material during the next five years.

ARCHIVES

The 65 X-rays, color transparencies and black-and-white negatives were placed in the National Archives by the Kennedy family Monday.

Only federal investigative agencies have the right to see the material during the first five years without Marshall's permission.

After the five-year period, selected scholars and researchers will be given access to the pictures and X-rays, Marshall said, but the news media will probably still be excluded. These restrictions will continue as long as any member of President Kennedy's immediate family lives.

DOCTORS

Meanwhile, two physicians who conducted the autopsy on President Kennedy said yesterday that their conclusions about his wounds were unchanged after they viewed the autopsy photographs for the first time Tuesday.

Captain James J. Humes

of the Navy and Dr. J. Thornton Boswell said the photographs corroborated their testimony to the Warren Commission and the commission's conclusions about the wounds.

The doctors told the Warren Commission that one bullet struck Mr. Kennedy in the back of the neck, passed through his body and out the front of his throat.

CHARGES

Later, critics charged that the bullet lodged in the President's back, and that the photographs and X-rays had been suppressed to conceal this fact.

According to Humes and Boswell, it was unimportant that they never saw the photographs, because they saw the X-rays during the autopsy and were able to describe the wounds to the Warren Commission.

"We were there and saw just exactly what the photographs show," Boswell said.

Yesterday, the national archives received several requests to see the materials. Mark Lane, a New York attorney and one of the commission's most strident critics, said he was considering filing a lawsuit to compel unrestricted public access to the materials.

New York Times