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FMS BUDGET

KENNEDY FILM (350)

BY PEGGY SIMPSON

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

18 OCT 1966

923 PPD

1626 PCS

DALLAS, TEX., OCT. 18 (AP)-THE DRAMATIC DOCUMENTARY ABOUT PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY HAS DRAWN SMALL CROWDS IN THIS CITY WHERE HE WAS ASSASSINATED ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO.

THE MOVIE, "YEAR OF LIGHTNING, DAYS OF DRUMS," CLOSSES TONIGHT AFTER A TWO-WEEK RUN.

"I DON'T THINK TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE WANT TO SEE IT YET," SAID NORMAN LEVINSON MANAGER OF THE FESTIVAL THEATER.

"IF THEY CAN'T FORGET THE ASSASSINATION, THEY DON'T WANT TO GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO BE REMINDED OF IT," HE ADDED.

"THE MOVIE HAS DONE FAIR, BUT I HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED. I FELT IT WOULD DO BETTER THAN IT DID."

THE FILM INCLUDES PICTURES OF KENNEDY'S RECEPTION AT THE DALLAS AIRPORT AND OF THE MOTORCADE THROUGH DOWNTOWN DALLAS WHEN HE WAS KILLED NOV. 22, 1963 BY AN ASSASSIN THE WARREN COMMISSION SAID WAS LEE HAARVEY OSWALD.

GEORGE STEVENS JR. PRODUCED THE DOCUMENTARY FOR THE U. S. INFORMATION AGENCY TO BE SHOWN IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. A SPECIAL ACT OF CONGRESS PERMITTED THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED MOVIE TO BE SEEN WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.

LEVINSON DECLINED TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY DALLAS PERSONS HAD SEEN THE FILM. HE SAID HE HAD FEW COMMENTS ABOUT IT FROM CUSTOMERS.

"THEY WALK OUT CHOKED UP OR WITH MASCARA RUNNING. IT'S NOT A SHOW WHERE YOU'D STAND AROUND IN THE LOBBY AND ASK, 'HOW'D YOU LIKE IT?'" HE SAID.

TWO PREVIEW SHOWINGS WERE SOLD OUT IN THE 450-SEAT THEATER, WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS AND THE GREATER DALLAS DEMOCRATS SPONSORING THEM ON SEPARATE NIGHTS.

CONTROVERSY CENTERED AROUND THE DEMOCRATS' SHOWING, WITH SOME REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PROTESTING THE PROCEEDS WOULD HELP ELECT DALLAS DEMOCRATS. THE LOCAL DEMOCRATIC GROUP PROVED, HOWEVER, THAT TICKET SALES WOULD BE SENT TO THE KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN WASHINGTON, THE SAME AS FROM OTHER PREVIEW SHOWINGS OVER THE COUNTRY.

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KENNEDY GILM (BY PEGGY SIMPSON)

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THE MOVIE, WHICH HAS DRAWN HEAVY CROWDS IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, RECEIVED GOOD REVIEWS FROM DALLAS NEWSPAPERS.

VIRGIL MEIRS OF THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD PRAISED THE DECISION TO SHOW IT DOMESTICALLY, SAYING, "THE FILM CAN ONLY MAKE AN AMERICAN PROUD THAT HE AND THE APPEALING PRESIDENT KENNEDY ARE OF THE SAME NATION."

HE ADDED "THERE ARE SCENES HERE TO MAKE MEN WEEP AGAIN, FOR THE TRAGEDY IS STILL MUCH TOO CLOSE ON US."

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