

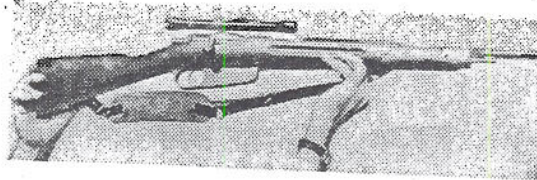
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DESTINY OF DEATH WEAPON?**Oswald Gun to Archives**

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The rifle that killed President Kennedy would remain in government hands forever if Congress approves a bill to be proposed by the Justice Department.

This and other key evidence used by the Warren Commission in pinning the assassination on Lee Harvey Oswald would go into the national archives if the Attorney General determined its retention would be in the public interest.

While no decision has yet been made about what items of evidence the government will want to keep,



A MAIL-ORDER RIFLE WORTH THOUSANDS
But U. S. may not release JFK death weapon

an authoritative federal source said it will certainly include the 6.5-millimeter, Italian - made, mail-order rifle used by Oswald when he fired on the Kennedy motorcade in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

It also will include the 38-caliber pistol wielded

by Oswald in the fatal shooting of Dallas policeman J. D. Tippett on the day of the assassination, the source said.

Oswald's wife, Marina, as administrator of his estate, has been offered \$10,000 for the two weap-

ons by a gun collector — even though they are still in government possession.

Under the bill being drafted by the Justice Department, persons whose property is claimed by the government could sue in Federal Court for compensation.

The Justice Department will base its proposal solely on the argument that because the assassination will be burned in the memories of Americans for generations to come, the key physical evidence should be made absolutely secure so that no doubts can be raised about it in the near or distant future.