

(350) OSWALD'S GUNS

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WASHINGTON, AUG. 17 (AP)-THE RIFLE THAT KILLED PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY IS BEING SENT BACK TO DALLAS, THE CITY WHERE HE WAS SLAIN, UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT SETTLES A BATTLE WITH A PRIVATE GUN COLLECTOR OVER ITS CUSTODY.

A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE WILL PLACE ADVERTISEMENTS IN DALLAS NEWSPAPERS TOMORROW ANNOUNCING ITS INTENTION TO SEIZE THE RIFLE AND A PISTOL THAT BELONGED TO THE ASSASSIN, LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

ANYONE WHO WANTS TO DISPUTE THE IRS CLAIM TO THE WEAPONS WILL HAVE 30 DAYS IN WHICH TO REGISTER HIS CLAIM.

THE 6.5-MILLIMETER MAIL-ORDER ITALIAN ARMY RIFLE WAS USED BY OSWALD TO SHOOT DOWN THE PRESIDENT AS KENNEDY RODE IN A MOTORCADE ON NOV. 22, 1963. THE WARREN COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE DEED SAID OSWALD USED THE 38-CALIBER PISTOL TO KILL DALLAS PATROLMAN J. D. TIPPETT WHEN THE OFFICER ACCOSTED HIM SHORTLY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION.

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THE GUNS HAVE BEEN IN FBI CARE SINCE THE ASSASSINATION. AND THE DALLAS FIELD OFFICE OF THE FBI WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH OVER THEM WHEN THEY REACH DALLAS, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

A BILL BEFORE CONGRESS WOULD GIVE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AUTHORITY TO DECLARE THE WEAPONS--AND OTHER EVIDENCE USED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION--ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY. THEY WOULD THEN BECOME GOVERNMENT PROPERTY FOREVER.

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MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, GUN COLLECTOR JOHN KING HAS BROUGHT SUIT IN A FEDERAL COURT TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO TURN THE WEAPONS OVER TO HIM. KING CONTENDS HE PAID \$10,000 TO OSWALD'S WIDOW, THE FORMER MARINA OSWALD, FOR THE WEAPONS. SHE WAS EXECUTOR OF THE ASSASSIN'S ESTATE.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THE ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TAX UNIT OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE IS SEEKING ADMINISTRATIVE FORFEITURE OF THE GUNS ON THE GROUND THAT OSWALD FALSIFIED DOCUMENTS IN PURCHASING THEM. THIS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, WILL GIVE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S CIVIL DIVISION A BASIS FOR OBJECTING TO TURNING THE WEAPONS OVER TO KING--AT LEAST UNTIL THE BILL IS PASSED BY CONGRESS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE LAW PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE FORFEITURE PROCEEDING APPLIES TO ITEMS VALUED AT LESS THAN \$2,500.

THE ORIGINAL COST OF THE RIFLE WITH ITS SNIPERSCOPE WAS \$19.95, AND THE PISTOL COST \$29.95. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE ARE THE FIGURES THE IRS IS BASING ITS ACTION ON, REGARDLESS OF THE FACT THAT KING PAID \$10,000 BECAUSE OF THEIR HISTORICAL VALUE.

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