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THE DEATH WEAPON
It goes to the government

A Court Ruling on Oswald Rifle

Dallas

A Federal judge ruled yesterday that the purchase by a Denver oilman of the \$12.88 rifle that killed President Kennedy was a "flagrant violation of the Federal Firearms Act," and he gave the historical rifle to the U.S. Government.

United States District Judge Joe Estes made his ruling after studying stipulations, briefs and oral arguments.

John L. King, an independent oilman and gun collector, paid Lee Harvey Oswald's widow \$10,000 for the Italian military rifle.

Assistant United States District Attorney Tim Timmins argued that Oswald's purchase of the gun caused

false mail records to be kept. Oswald purchased the rifle through the U.S. mails under the assumed name of A. Hidell.

King's lawyer, William Garrett, argued that the government wanted the rifle free. President Johnson signed a law in November, 1965, which made all evidence complied by the Warren Commission on the assassination the property of the government, but provided compensation for owners of such evidence.

The judge ruled that the gun belonged to Oswald, never to his widow or King. Thus, judge Estes ruled neither King nor Oswald's widow was denied due process nor deserved compensation.

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