

# U.S. Gets Kennedy X-Rays

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Washington

**The Justice Department disclosed last night that photographs and X-rays taken of President Kennedy's body at his autopsy were turned over to the national archives Monday by the Kennedy family.**

The 65 X-rays, color slides and black and white negatives had been withheld by the family for reasons of taste, and were not seen by the Warren Commission.

The material will be available to Federal law enforcement officials. However, for the next five years, access by scholars and other unofficial investigators will be granted only with the consent of the Kennedy family.

Although the material had not been seen by the Warren Commission, Chief Justice Earl Warren, the commis-

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sion chairman, had viewed it.

At the request of the Justice Department, the photographs and x-rays have now been deposited at the archives, where their availability will be closely restricted during the lifetime of the slain President's immediate family.

A Justice Department spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said last night that the action was prompted in part by the rash of recent books that cast doubt on the Warren Commission's conclusions about the assassination.

## CONCLUSION

The Commission concluded that one of the assassin's bullets struck both President

Kennedy and Governor John Connally of Texas.

Some critics charged that the bullet did not pass through President Kennedy's body, as the Commission had reported, and suggested that the pictures and X-Rays taken at the autopsy were being suppressed to conceal the truth.

These critics implied that another bullet, perhaps fired by another assassin, struck Connally.

It had been widely reported that the Secret Service had delivered all the undeveloped pictures and X-Rays to the Kennedy family.

## RESTRICTION

According to the spokesman, the items will be restricted as follows:

- Access will be immediately granted to law enforcement officials of all Federal investigative agencies.

- No public display or release will be permitted.

- For the next five years, access by scholars and other unofficial investigators will be granted only with the specific consent of the Kennedy family. After five years, the family will permit all qualified pathologists and other medical experts to study the items.

These limitations will remain in effect throughout the lifetimes of Jacqueline Kennedy, the late President's parents, his brothers and sisters and his two children.

## LETTER

The limitations were included in a letter sent to the archives by the executors of the Kennedy estate — Jacqueline Kennedy and Senators Robert F. and Edward M. Kennedy.

Under Federal law papers and other items may be deposited in the archives subject to limitations and restrictions imposed by the donors.

Yesterday two of the three physicians who performed the autopsy, Dr. J. J. Humes, and Dr. J. Thornton Boswell, both naval officers in the Bethesda Naval hospital, went to the National Archives and authenticated the X-Rays and pictures as those taken during the autopsy.

## QUANTITY

The third physician, Colonel Pierre A. Finck, is on duty in Vietnam. The radiologist who took the X-Rays, whose name was not given, also authenticated the X-rays.

The spokesman said there were 14 X-Rays, 25 black and white negatives and 28 4x5 inch color transparencies. The spokesman gave as one reason for the department's request for the data was to complete the historical record of the assassination.

"I am sure that the questions which some of these books helped to raise in the eye of the public, led to the Justice Department's action," he added.

Yesterday morning, acting Attorney General Ramsay Clark officially turned over to the archives all of the physical evidence considered by the Warren report. The material had been in the hands of the Justice Department.