

## PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION (420)

WASHINGTON, MARCH 8 (AP)-THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS TODAY A BILL THAT WOULD MAKE IT A FEDERAL CRIME TO ASSASSINATE, KIDNAP OR ASSAULT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE BILL, SUBMITTED BY ATTY. GEN. NICHOLAS KATZENBACH, APPLIES ALSO TO THE VICE PRESIDENT OR ANY OTHER OFFICER NEXT IN LINE OF SUCCESSION, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT.

A NUMBER OF SIMILAR BILLS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS SINCE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

KATZENBACH SAID THE ADMINISTRATION BILL IS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN WHICH INVESTIGATED THE ASSASSINATION. HE SAID SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY DOUGLAS DILLON JOINED HIM IN SUBMITTING THE BILL. DILLON WAS CHAIRMAN OF A COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON TO STUDY THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE PROPOSED LAW WOULD APPLY A PENALTY OF DEATH OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR KILLING OR KIDNAPING THE PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT, AND A JAIL TERM OF UP TO 15 YEARS FOR ASSAULT.

IN A LETTER TO VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY AND HOUSE SPEAKER JOHN W. MCCORMACK, KATZENBACH SAID THE KENNEDY SLAYING "FOCUSED ATTENTION ON AN ANOMALY IN FEDERAL LAW: IT IS NOT A FEDERAL CRIME TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT...NOR DO FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES HAVE ABSOLUTE JURISDICTION TO INVESTIGATE THE ASSASSINATION OF A PRESIDENT."

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AFTER KENNEDY'S DEATH, KATZENBACH SAID, "THERE WAS NO CLEAR BASIS FOR THE EXERCISE OF FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION, AND WHEN THE ASSASSIN WAS APPREHENDED, FEDERAL AUTHORITIES WERE UNABLE TO ASSERT AUTHORITY AND TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY FOR QUESTIONING AND SAFEKEEPING. THE TRAGEDY WHICH RESULTED FROM THIS INABILITY TO ACT IS TOO WELL KNOWN TO REQUIRE FURTHER DETAILING HERE."

THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN, LEE HARVEY OSWALD, WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY JACK RUBY WHILE IN CUSTODY OF DALLAS, TEX., POLICE.

THE ADMINISTRATION BILL INCLUDES TWO PROVISIONS DESIGNED TO AID IN SOLVING AND PROSECUTING VIOLATIONS OF THE PROPOSED LAW. ONE WOULD AUTHORIZE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PAY REWARDS UP TO \$100,000 FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE DETECTION OF A VIOLATOR. THE OTHER WOULD AUTHORIZE COMPULSORY TESTIMONY ABOUT A VIOLATION AND WOULD GRANT IMMUNITY FOR THAT TESTIMONY.

TO PREVENT CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND A STATE, THE BILL PROVIDES THAT THE ASSERTION OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION OVER A VIOLATION WOULD PRECLUDE THE EXERCISE OF THAT JURISDICTION BY STATE OR LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO SUCH AN EXTENT AS DIRECTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

KATZENBACH SAID THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION, POINTING OUT THAT THE NATURE OF THE OFFICE REQUIRES A PRESIDENT TO BE EXPOSED TO UNANTICIPATED DANGERS.

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