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(320)

ADVANCE FOR 530 PM EST SUNDAY JUNE 6--NOTE DATE
ASSOCIATED PRESS REGIONAL SERVICE

(ADVANCE) WASHINGTON, JUNE 6 (AP)-TWO HOUSE LEADERS WHO WERE MEMBERS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION WHICH INVESTIGATED THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AGREED TONIGHT THE ACT MIGHT NOT HAVE OCCURRED HAD THERE BEEN A FEDERAL LAW MAKING THE SLAYING OF A PRESIDENT A FEDERAL CRIME.

EXPRESSING THIS VIEW WERE REPS. HALE BOGGS, D-LA., DEMOCRATIC HOUSE WHIP, AND GERALD FORD, R-MICH., REPUBLICAN HOUSE LEADER.

THE TWO ALSO AGREED THAT A LAW MAKING THE MURDER OF A PRESIDENT A FEDERAL CRIME LIKELY WOULD SERVE AS A DETERRENT TO FUTURE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENTS.

BOGGS AND FORD GAVE THEIR VIEWS IN A PROGRAM FOR TAPED FOR TELEVISION BROADCAST OVER WWL-TV, NEW ORLEANS.

ON THE PROGRAM THE TWO DISCUSSED THEIR EXPERIENCES AS MEMBERS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION AND SUPPORTED LEGISLATION, WHICH THEY HAVE INTRODUCED, TO MAKE A PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION A FEDERAL CRIME.

BOTH MEN ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IF THE FBI AND THE SECRET SERVICE HAD HAD JURISDICTION IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE SHOOTING OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, THEN THE KILLING OF HARVEY LEE OSWALD WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED. THE TWO AGENCIES, THEY SAID, WOULD HAVE PROVIDED MORE SAFEGUARDS FOR OSWALD, THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN.

DISCUSSING THE LEGISLATION FORD SAID THAT "WE MUST MAXIMIZE WAYS TO PREVENT SUCH TRAGEDIES FROM HAPPENING. THIS LEGISLATION WILL BE A DETERRENT TO ANY SUCH ACTIONS, EVEN BY A MAN LIKE OSWALD." BOGGS AGREED.

DISCUSSING OSWALD, FORD SAID HE WAS "AN EXTREME LONER WHO HAD HAD A MOST UNHAPPY EARLY LIFE" AND WHO WAS "BROUGHT UP IN THE MOST ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES."

"WHEN YOU HAVE A PERSON WITH SUCH AN UNSTABLE EARLY LIFE AND MIXED UP WITH THE IDEOLOGY OF COMMUNISM, AND WITH A MARRIAGE WHICH WAS NOT A HAPPY ONE, THEN YOU HAVE A PERSON WHO CAN BE IGNITED BY ANY ONE INCIDENT," FORD SAID. "THE GREAT TRAGEDY IS THAT OSWALD DECIDED TO GET HIS PLACE IN HISTORY BY COMMITTING THIS TERRIBLE CRIME."

THE TWO SAID THAT MEMBERS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, NOT THE STAFF, WROTE ALL THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT AND ALSO WROTE OR REVIEWED CLOSELY ALL THE REST OF THE REPORT.

"THE REPORT HAS WITHSTOOD CRITICISM FROM ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBLE SOURCES," FORD SAID.

END ADVANCE FOR 530 P. M. EST SUNDAY, JUNE 6--SENT JUNE 6

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