

## House Votes to Put Assassination Rifle In Keeping of U.S.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (AP) —A bill to authorize the Government to retain permanently the rifle that was used to kill President Kennedy won House passage today.

The House also passed and sent to the President a bill providing Secret Service protection for the wife and children of any President for four years after his death.

Representative H. R. Gross noted that a gun collector reportedly had paid \$10,000 for the rifle. The Iowa Republican asked if the bill would provide payment by the Government of the \$10,000. Representative Byron Rogers, Democrat of Colorado said payment for privately owned items in the case would be decided by the courts.

A report accompanying the bill said the collector had sued the Government for possession of the weapons and that the Government had not yet responded to the suit. Mr. Rodgers identified the collector as John L. King of Denver.

Mr. King bought both the rifle and the pistol that was used to kill a Dallas patrolman from Oswald's widow.

The bill, which now goes to the Senate, also authorizes the Attorney General to decide what other items of evidence should be retained by the Government.

The House report said that "in years ahead allegations and theories concerning President Kennedy's assassination may abound. To eliminate questions and doubts the physical evidence should be securely preserved.

"A failure to do so could lead to loss, destruction, or alteration of vital evidence and in time might serve to encourage irresponsible rumors undermining public confidence in the work of the President's commission [that investigated the assassination]."

The bill to provide protection for widows of Presidents also includes protection for a former President and his wife during their lifetime, unless the protection is declined.

Representative William M. McCulloch, Republican of Ohio, said threats had been made against Mrs. Kennedy and her children "on at least more than one occasion."

Representative Emanuel Celler, Democrat of Brooklyn, noted a recent ransacking of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower's parked car.