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CONGRESS PASSES BILL TO RELEASE JFK ASSASSINATION FILES

WASHINGTON, SEPT 30, REUTER - THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON WEDNESDAY PASSED AND SENT TO PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH A BILL TO RELEASE GOVERNMENT FILES ON THE 1963 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BACKS THE BILL, WHOSE SPONSORS SAID THEY WERE CONFIDENT BUSH WOULD SOON SIGN IT INTO LAW SO THE JFK:: CONSPIRACY THEORY IS PROVED OR FINALLY PUT TO REST.

THE BILL, PREVIOUSLY PASSED BY THE SENATE, WAS PROMPTED BY OLIVER STONE:S MOVIE JFK,:: RELEASED LAST YEAR.

THE FILM SPECULATED THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT TO MURDER KENNEDY. MANY AMERICANS ALSO BELIEVE IN THE CONSPIRACY THEORY.

THE BILL ESTABLISHES A BOARD NOMINATED BY THE PRESIDENT AND CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE TO REVIEW MATERIAL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS, SO SOME OF THE INFORMATION IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE MADE PUBLIC FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

BUT SENATOR DAVID BOREN, THE OKLAHOMA DEMOCRAT WHO CO-AUTHORED THE BILL, SAID MANY DETAILS SHOULD START FLOWING OUT FAST.

I THINK IT:S GOING TO BE MONTHS, NOT YEARS, IN TERMS OF GETTING THE JOB DONE,:: HE TOLD REPORTERS.

I WOULD EXPECT SOME

DOCUMENTS TO START ALMOST IMMEDIATELY COMING OUT.::

A COMMISSION HEADED BY SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN CONCLUDED IN 1964 THAT KENNEDY WAS KILLED ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963 IN DALLAS, TEXAS BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD ACTING ALONE.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR ROBERT GATES HAS SAID HE WELCOMES RELEASE OF THE FILES TO CLEAR THE AGENCY:S NAME OF SUSPICION THAT SOME OF ITS EMPLOYEES MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN KENNEDY:S DEATH.

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