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U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES RELEASE OF JFK FILES

WASHINGTON, JUNE 25, REUTER - A U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY VOTED TO MAKE PUBLIC SECRET GOVERNMENT FILES ON THE 1963 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY THAT WERE NOT SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE UNTIL THE NEXT CENTURY.

THE BILL FROM THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CALLS FOR RELEASING FILES FROM THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON THE 1963 ASSASSINATION IN DALLAS. A FIVE MEMBER PANEL WOULD REVIEW THE PAPERS FOR SECURITY AND PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS.

MANY OF THE DOCUMENTS ARE BEING HELD UNTIL THE YEAR 2029. THE BILL DOES NOT AUTHORISE THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT ANOTHER INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. HOWEVER, IT WILL GIVE THE PUBLIC A FIRST-HAND OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME FULLY INFORMED THROUGH THE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION, OF THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THIS TRAGIC EVENT, :: SENATOR JOHN GLENN, AN OHIO DEMOCRAT, SAID IN A STATEMENT.

A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED A SIMILAR BILL. THE LEGISLATION WAS IN RESPONSE TO INCREASED INTEREST IN THE ASSASSINATION BECAUSE OF THE 1991 MOVIE JFK, :: WHICH SUGGESTED THERE WAS A GOVERNMENT-WIDE CONSPIRACY TO MURDER KENNEDY.

A COMMISSION HEADED BY THEN-CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN FOUND IN 1964 THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD ACTED ALONE IN KILLING KENNEDY WITH A RIFLE.

THE LEGISLATION MUST BE PASSED BY BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE AND MUST THEN BE SIGNED BY PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TO BECOME LAW.

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