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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVES RELEASE OF KENNEDY DOCUMENTS
WASHINGTON, AUG 12, REUTER - THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
APPROVED A BILL ON WEDNESDAY PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OF
LONG-SECRET DOCUMENTS AND OTHER MATERIALS ON THE 1963
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY.

THE ACTION FOLLOWED RENEWED CALLS FOR DISCLOSURE OF
INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION SPARKED IN PART BY THE FILM,
JFK, WHICH DEPICTED IT AS THE RESULT OF A CONSPIRACY.

THE WARREN COMMISSION THAT INVESTIGATED THE ASSASSINATION
SAID LEE HARVEY OSWALD ACTED ALONE IN SHOOTING KENNEDY FROM A
WINDOW IN THE TEXAS BOOK DEPOSITORY IN DALLAS AS THE PRESIDENT
WAS PASSING BELOW IN A MOTORCADE.

BUT THE CONCLUSION HAS BEEN DISPUTED IN DOZENS OF CONSPIRACY
THEORIES ADVANCED OVER THE YEARS, INCLUDING CHARGES THAT THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) WAS INVOLVED.

A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMITTEE SET UP TO INVESTIGATE THE
ASSASSINATION REPORTED IN 1979 THAT IT BELIEVED OSWALD HAD NOT
ACTED ALONE.

THE COMMITTEE'S FILES, ALONG WITH THOSE OF THE WARREN
COMMISSION, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND CIA AND OTHER
AGENCIES, WOULD BE COULD BE MADE PUBLIC UNDER THE BILL.
THE TIME HAS COME TO END THIS UNNECESSARY AND DESTRUCTIVE
SECRECY, REP JOHN CONYERS, A MICHIGAN DEMOCRAT, TOLD THE HOUSE
ON TUESDAY, NOTING THAT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOCUMENTS
REMAINED SECRET AND UNDER CURRENT LAW WOULD BE CLOSED UNTIL
2029.

UNDER THE BILL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WOULD WOULD HAVE 60 DAYS
TO REVIEW ASSASSINATION MATERIALS IN THEIR POSSESSION AND DECIDE
WHICH CAN BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY. THE MATERIALS WOULD BE SENT
TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.

A SPECIAL FIVE-MEMBER REVIEW BOARD WOULD BE SET UP TO DECIDE
WHETHER OTHER MATERIALS SHOULD BE RELEASED OR KEPT FROM PUBLIC
DISCLOSURE BECAUSE OF PRIVACY CONCERNS OR A POSSIBLE THREAT TO
NATIONAL SECURITY OR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

THE BOARD COULD ISSUE SUBPOENAS AND PETITION COURTS FOR
RELEASE OF INFORMATION.

THE BILL MUST BE RECONCILED WITH A SENATE-PASSED BILL BEFORE
A FINAL MEASURE CAN BE SENT TO THE PRESIDENT.

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