

EX 9178



U. S. NAVAL MEDICAL SCHOOL
NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

In reply refer to

24 November 1963

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, James J. Humes, certify that all working papers associated with Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272 have remained in my personal custody at all times. Autopsy notes and the holograph draft of the final report were handed to Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School, at 1700, 24 November 1963. No papers relating to this case remain in my possession.

J. J. Humes
J. J. HUMES
CDR, MC, USN

Received above working papers this date.

J. H. Stover, Jr.
J. H. STOVER, JR.
CAPT, MC, USN
Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School,
National Naval Medical Center

Accepted and approved this date
George A. Burkley
Rear Adm MC USN
Physician to the President

... an original copy, also bears the endorsement of Dr. Burkley absent from the copy furnished by the Commission. Here Humes makes explicit that he never burned any notes during the autopsy. "Autopsy notes and the holograph draft of the final report" were preserved and given to Capt. Stover on November 24. Stover must have received all autopsy notes because Humes specifies that "all working papers" of the autopsy were in his possession until the transfer to Stover, after which "no papers relating to this case remain in my possession." With this transmittal, the mysterious story of the missing autopsy notes begins. See pp. 145, 261.



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24 November 1963

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, James J. Humes, certify that I have destroyed by burning certain preliminary draft notes relating to Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272 and have officially transmitted all other papers related to this report to higher authority.

J. J. Humes
J. J. HUMES
CDR, MC, USN

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Accepted and approved this date
George A. Burkley
Rear Adm MC USN
Physician to the President

This is the original of Humes' certificate that he burned a draft of the autopsy report. It is not the same as the copy printed by the Commission, 17th/8, which does not include the handwritten approval of Dr. Burkley. Indeed, what can be said when the President's physician certifies that he accepts and approves the turning of evidence in the crime? See p. 261.

This certificate has led to the myth, propagated by Arlen Specter, that Humes burned his autopsy notes. "The record is plain," Specter told U.S. News and World Report, 10/10/66, "that there had been a series of notes taken by Dr. Humes at the time of the actual performance of the autopsy which has been destroyed." Specter knew better, since he put this certificate (absent the Burkley endorsement) into evidence and had it confirmed by Humes (24/73). As the certificate on the next page makes clear, the "autopsy notes" were preserved. What Humes burned he alternately described as "preliminary draft notes" (above) and "that draft" of the autopsy report later revised, (24/73).

Having been assured by Humes that the first draft of the autopsy report had been destroyed forever by burning, Specter asked not a single question, not even the simple, indispensable question: Why? On this the Commission's record is barren. Specter, however, would like the public to believe otherwise. He now claims Humes "explained his reasons (for burning) fully before the Commission"—in his testimony.