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Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

August 26, 1977

(202) 225-4624

Received WA-N
AUG 30 1977

Mr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Mr. Rhoads:

I am in receipt of your letter of August 10, 1977, relative to the neutron activation analysis tests which will be performed by Dr. Vincent P. Guinn of the University of California, Irvine, in connection with the Select Committee's investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The conditions and arrangements outlined in your letter are satisfactory to the Committee.

In addition to the Commission Exhibits and the piece of curbstone mentioned in my letter to you of July 29, 1977, it is our intention to also subject the "Walker" bullet, Warren Commission Exhibit #573, to neutron activation analysis.

In compliance with your request in paragraph one of your letter of August 10, 1977, I am forwarding to you a copy of a letter from Dr. Guinn to Mr. Stephen Fallis of our staff, in which he outlines his method of obtaining samples for neutron activation analysis, his method of analysis, his plan for documentation and security of the evidence. It should be noted that Dr. Guinn will have to remove a small sample for analysis from those exhibits which are in excess of 100 milligrams in weight. Thus, for example, a sample of approximately 15 milligrams will have to be removed from Commission Exhibit #573 as well as Commission Exhibit #141, as stated in my letter of July 29, 1977. Moreover, such samples may have to be obtained from Commission Exhibit #399 and the larger bullet fragments which we plan to subject to neutron activation analysis. Dr. Guinn has informed us that with respect to those exhibits which have been previously subjected to neutron activation analysis (at Oak Ridge in 1964), he will be able to utilize the samples which were originally used at that time. We are currently in the process of attempting to locate those samples and would like

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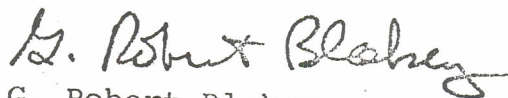
to know if they are in the custody of the Archives. If the samples are not available, Dr. Guinn will have to obtain new samples from those exhibits which are in excess of 100 milligrams in weight.

The Select Committee on Assassinations' Ballistics Panel has examined the curbstone and has found that they will be unable to scrape a sufficient quantity of lead residue without contaminating the sample with pieces of concrete. In order that the issue may be finally and definitively resolved, we would like to have the whole curbstone taken to Dr. Guinn's laboratory along with the other evidence.

The neutron activation analysis has been tentatively scheduled for commencement on Monday, September 12, 1977. Please notify me if that date is satisfactory and if the evidence can be transported in accordance with that timetable.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,



G. Robert Blakey
Chief Counsel and Director

Enclosure
GRB/sfj