

T: 8/22/74

AUG 22 1974

AUG 22 1974

HEP:GWB:JRR:mac  
129-11

AUG 22 1974

Mr. James H. Lesar  
Attorney at Law  
1231 Fourth Street, S. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your request for a copy of a letter dated April 3, 1965 to the Attorney General from then Chief Justice Earl Warren, concerning availability to the public of materials stemming from the work of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. We have this date requested initiation of the necessary search of our files for the letter to which you refer. We will promptly advise you if circumstances preclude accomplishment of our response to your request within 20 working days of our receipt thereof on August 8, 1974.

Sincerely,

HENRY E. PETERSEN  
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

Records ✓  
Gen. Crimes Sec.  
Mr. Robinson (2)

MKHY  
Records + Data  
system Section  
Attn. Robert Yahn

By:  
CARL W. BELCHER  
Chief, General Crimes Section

T: 8/22/74

Shirley O. Chatfield  
Acting Chief, Records and Data  
Systems Section  
Office of Management and Finance  
Carl W. Belcher, Chief  
General Crimes Section  
Criminal Division  
Request for Document Search

AUG 22 1974

CWB:JRR:mac

577  
In order to act upon a request for public release of a copy of a letter dated April 3, 1965 to the Attorney General from then Chief Justice Earl Warren, concerning availability to the public of materials stemming from the work of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, we need copies of that letter for review. Please conduct the necessary search and furnish us a certified copy thereof. Unless minimal, also please advise us of the cost of retrieving this document so we may obtain reimbursement as provided in 28 C.F.R. 16.9.

Class

Records ✓  
Gen. Crimes Sec.  
Mr. Robinson (2)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	Mr. Carl W. Belcher	CRIM	FTRI	504
2.				
3.				
4.				

<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____		

**REMARKS**

Robert Yahn, Acting Ch., Record & Data Systems Section advised that search could ~~XX~~ probably be completed in time. Gist of letter, already in the public domain, is that public access to Commission materials be as free as possible, consistent with existing policies on release, e.g., protection of informants. Accordingly, when found, review and decision as to release should take little time. I see no reason now to respond to Lesar's garbage about DJ suppression, etc. As attorney for Weisberg he will persist and at some suitable time if necessary we can note that he should not infer from our policy of denying access to FBI files (recently upheld in Lesar's suit

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
	Mr. James R. Robinson	✓		8/22
		✓		

JAMES H. LESAR  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
1231 FOURTH STREET, S. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024  
TELEPHONE (202) 484-6023

August 5, 1974

Mr. Henry E. Petersen, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Petersen:

In response to your letter of June 14, I request that you conduct a search, to the extent it is needed, for the April 3, 1965, letter which former Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote to the Attorney General concerning the public availability of Warren Commission files.

I will, of course, pay whatever fees are required by law.

However, I call your attention to 28 C.F.R. §16.9(a), which authorizes you, in conformity with 31 U.S.C. §483a, to determine that "such charges or a portion thereof are not in the public interest." I request that in this case you do make that determination.

As you are no doubt aware, serious charges have been made that the Department of Justice is suppressing important information pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy. Disclosure of the April 3, 1965, letter of former Chief Justice Earl Warren should shed additional light on who is responsible for this policy of suppression. Because this makes the letter's release a matter of paramount benefit to the public, any costs validly incurred in searching for it should be waived.

My own view is that you are trying to delay and avoid the release of Warren's letter because you know that its text is opposed to the policy of suppression which the Department of Justice is carrying out. If my view is wrong, then the release of this letter serves not only the public interest, but your own interest as well. If my view is wrong, I am sure I can anticipate the letter's speedy and inexpensive release.

Sincerely yours,

*Jim Lesar*

Jim Lesar

RECEIVED

AUG 8 1974

CRIMINAL DIVISION

129-11

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
21 AUG 7 1974	
FBI - WASH DC	

CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SEC.

*men 8/19*

Aug 6 4 35 PM '74

Typed 7/17/74  
RLG:XXX GLCS:ght  
129-11

AUG 5 1974

General Edwin A. Walker  
4011 Turtle Creek Boulevard  
Dallas, Texas 75219

Dear General Walker:

Your letter to the Attorney General concerning a bullet allegedly fired at you by Lee Harvey Oswald has been referred to me.

The bullet in question is housed at the National Archives in Washington, D. C. It is the property of the United States Government. Then Attorney General Ramsey Clark issued an order on October 31, 1966, vesting ownership of the bullet, among other things, in the United States. That order was published in the Federal Register, Vol. 31, No. 212, page 13968, on November 1, 1966. The Attorney General's authority to issue such orders is derived from 79 Stat. 1185 also known as Public Law 89-319, enacted on November 2, 1965.

I hope this information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

RONALD L. GAINER  
Chief, Legislation and Special  
Projects Section  
Criminal Division

Files  
Stebbins

**EDWIN A. WALKER**

4011 TURTLE CREEK BLVD.  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75219

July 3, 1974

US Attorney General  
Dept. of Justice  
Wash. D.C.

Dear Sir:

I hereby request that the bullet that was fired at me by L. H. Oswald -- according to the WCR, be returned to me. I would think by now your interest in it and desire to protect it would have diminished.

In the interest of evidence--law, it and other related items will be needed for a complete lab analysis of the two window frames and the copper weather strip that the bullet passed through which no law enforcement agency has shown any interest in.

The value of the bullet and the copper strip can only be determined in their relationship in evidence, as evidence.

An expeditious reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely

*Edwin A. Walker*  
Edwin A. Walker

RECEIVED

JUL 11 1974

CLCU

129-11  
JUL 10 1974

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	<del>W. H. Paff</del>			
2.	Files			
3.				
4.				

SIGNATURE       COMMENT       PER CONVERSATION  
 APPROVAL       NECESSARY ACTION       AS REQUESTED  
 SEE ME       NOTE AND RETURN       NOTE AND FILE  
 RECOMMENDATION       CALL ME       YOUR INFORMATION  
 ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS

This was an attachment to a letter <sup>76</sup>W. H. Paff wrote to Archives & telephoned Mr. Johnson at Archives at that time & told him our position in 1967 has not changed. The attached letter & note from Johnson belongs in files as an attachment to the Paff letter.

<sup>76</sup> April 18, 1973

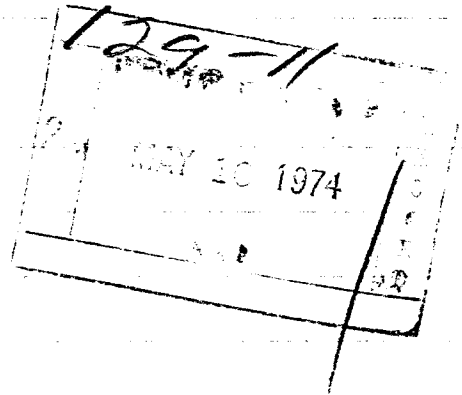
FROM:	NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
	Mc			

*Files*

Mary:

The attached was sent to me. I called  
Marion Johnson at GSAT who told me that  
you informed him that OLC still objected to  
the disclosure of these documents. Since you  
are apparently handling this matter, I will  
leave these letters with you.

Doug Marvin





DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	<i>Doug Marvin</i>			
2.				
3.				
4.				

<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
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<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION

ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_

PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS

*As I recall it, this was involved in a declassification request. I think that Bill Reiser is familiar with it.*

*#S - 1323171  
1334092*

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
	<i>JN</i>			

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	Saloschin			
2.	Lauter - Ullman			
3.	Dixon			
4.				

<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____		

REMARKS

What is this all about?

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
	per D			

GENERAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION											
ROU					.IP						
TO	CO	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
NAME/TITLE						CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL					
1. <i>Mintz, Frederic Pass</i>						2. <i>Department of Justice, Rm. 5215</i>					
3.											
4.											
5.											
<input type="checkbox"/> ALLOTMENT SYMBOL <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED <input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE <input type="checkbox"/> CORRECTION <input type="checkbox"/> FILING <input type="checkbox"/> FULL REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____											
<input type="checkbox"/> HANDLE DIRECT <input type="checkbox"/> IMMEDIATE ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> INITIALS <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN <input type="checkbox"/> PER OUR CONVERSATION <input type="checkbox"/> PER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION											
<input type="checkbox"/> READ AND DESTROY <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION											
RECEIVED APR 25 9 33 AM '73 OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL											
REMARKS											
<p><i>This is the document that I talked to you about, Martin F. Richman, formerly with the Office of Legal Counsel, requested by telephone in 1967 that we withhold the document from release on the ground that the letter from McNaughton was in the nature of a confidential letter of advice from an official of another department that was not related to us.</i></p>											
FROM	CO	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
NAME/TITLE						CORR. SYMBOL		BUILDING, ROOM, ETC.			
<i>Marion M. Johnson</i>						<i>NNFL</i>		<i>NARS, Rm. 2E</i>			
						TELEPHONE		DATE			
						<i>CI3, X23171</i>		<i>3/22/73</i>			

to his official duties. The letter  
from DeBevoise is not involved.  
Please call me when you have decided  
whether this should be released.

mmg

Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

Department of Justice  
Washington

*Herbert J. Miller*  
DEC 28 1963  
*Printed*  
*Chambers*

December 18 1963

✓X *Handwritten notes*  
*1-11-64*  
✓X *ace*

Mr. J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
The President's Commission  
Room 401  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Building  
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I am enclosing two letters which I believe will be of interest to you. One is from Mr. Paul C. Aebersold, Director, Division of Isotopes Development, Atomic Energy Commission, and the other is from Mr. John T. McNaughton, General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

Sincerely yours,

*Herbert J. Miller, Jr.*  
Herbert J. Miller, Jr.  
Assistant Attorney General

729-11  
1974

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP		ACTION	
1 TO (Name, office symbol or location)	INITIALS	CIRCULATE	
	DATE	COORDINATION	
2 <i>M. Rijden Room 1675</i>	INITIALS	FILE	
	DATE	INFORMATION	
3	INITIALS	NOTE AND RETURN	
	DATE	PER CONVERSATION	
4	INITIALS	SEE ME	
	DATE	SIGNATURE	
REMARKS			
<p><i>Tom,</i></p> <p><i>This is identical to citizen card" &amp; delivered to you last week. We may have citizens group plan to immediately visit that request.</i></p> <p>Do NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disapprovals, clearances, and similar actions.</p>			
FROM (Name, office symbol or location)		DATE	
<i>Bob Butler</i>		PHONE	<i>9346</i>

OPTIONAL FORM 41  
AUGUST 1967  
GSA FPMR (41CFR) 100-11.206

GPO 643-16-31418-1 410-015 5041-101

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Hugh M. Durham  
Chief, Legislative & Legal Section  
Office of Legislative Affairs

DATE: May 24, 1973

*WJL*  
FROM : Acting Director, FBI

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF THE SHOOTINGS OF  
PRESIDENT KENNEDY, SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY,  
GOVERNOR WALLACE, AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.;  
INQUIRY OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
JAMES D. "MIKE" MC KEVITT

This is to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum dated May 18, 1973, enclosing a letter from Senator Cotton to Mr. McKevitt and its enclosures together with a copy of Mr. McKevitt's reply to Senator Cotton. These enclosures are returned herewith.

In accordance with your request, there is set forth below a recommended reply to Senator Norris Cotton in response to his inquiry on the part of a constituent *7C* [REDACTED] relating to a possible conspiracy in the shootings of President Kennedy, Senator Robert Kennedy, Governor Wallace, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Relating to the shootings of President Kennedy, Senator Robert Kennedy, Governor Wallace, and Martin Luther King, Jr., for your information the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted thorough and extensive investigations of these shootings. Their investigations developed no information indicating the respective assailants acted in conspiracy with any other person.

Enclosures - 4



5010-108

*Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan*

LU:FP:frj

Files  
Miss Paff  
Mrs. Gauf

APR 18 1973

RECORD  
4

129-11  
out 4/18/73

Mr. James B. Rhoads  
Archivist of the United States  
General Services Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Mr. Rhoads:

*Ju*  
This letter is in response to your request of May 15, 1972 that the Department of Justice undertake a review of certain documents in the Numbered and Unnumbered Document Files of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy for purposes of public release and declassification, and will confirm information conveyed by phone to Mr. Marion Johnson of your staff.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has undertaken a review of these documents and recommends that the unnumbered documents continue to be withheld from public scrutiny. It also recommends that those numbered documents bearing security classifications not be downgraded or declassified and continue to be withheld under Guideline 2.

Sincerely,

Leon Ulman  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Counsel

*File*



ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP		ACTION	
1 TO (Name, office symbol or location) <del>Mr. Belmont</del> <i>dy</i>	INITIALS	CIRCULATE	
	DATE	COORDINATION	
2 <i>Jib</i>	INITIALS	FILE	
	DATE	INFORMATION	
3	INITIALS	NOTE AND RETURN	
	DATE	PER CONVERSATION	
4	INITIALS	SEE ME	
	DATE	SIGNATURE	
REMARKS USA Hollingsworth checked w/ Martens' attorney - a discreet and reliable, respectable person! The perjury <u>press</u> of Martens is <u>dead</u> so there's just no way Harrison could use him now. Neither USA or JCKES have any qualms on that score. Clay Shaw's civil action will hot up around June. If his lawyers are smart they too will avoid Martens. Our press should be <u>in</u> and we should associate with <u>Ferris</u> . <u>Do NOT use this as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disapprovals, clearances, and similar actions.</u>			
FROM (Name, office symbol or location) <u>JAMES R. ROBINSON</u>		DATE <i>129-11</i>	PROB.

OPTIONAL FORM 41  
AUGUST 1967  
GSA FPMR (41CFR) 100-11.206

GPO : 1970 O - 406-388 5041-101

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	<del>Mr. [unclear]</del>			<del>2110</del>
2.	Mr. McWhorter			2110
3.	Mr. Robinson			2119
4.				

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE                                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT          | <input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN  | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION                           | <input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME          | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____ |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____ |   |   |

REMARKS

Although I just marked this file, the facts that it is addressed to you + has no records dir stamp cause this to seem unusual.

not correct 3705 JSM  
3/6

Harry - Jim is our expert

5 Jim - I guess Martens is [redacted] - but has the Kennedy

NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
People - and former AG			
Clark ever been forewarned that Martens makes such allegations			

-over-

If not forewarned —  
and there is indicators (now  
or later) that Masters  
will be put to trial for  
perjury (~~with~~ make the  
remarks re the others)

Wtl's consider a call  
by phone to Clark (& let him  
handle the Kennedy aspect)  
so as to forewarn him  
& them

Wtl 3/12

Geatherton

Carville

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service  
Washington, DC 20408



Honorable Richard G. Kleindienst  
Acting Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

RECEIVED  
MAY 24 9 40 AM '72  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Dear Mr. Kleindienst:

Enclosed are copies of our letter of August 17, 1970, to Attorney General Mitchell concerning the review of the Numbered Document File of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy and of his reply of November 3, 1970. In addition to the Numbered Document File involved in these letters, the records of the Commission include correspondence and internal records of the Commission, some of which relate to the functions of other Government agencies and their part in the investigation of the assassination. These records were reviewed by the National Archives in 1967 at the request of the Department of Justice. Some of them were withheld from research, and it is now time for the five year review of these documents provided for in the guidelines that apply to the records. I would like to ask the Department of Justice to review those documents which relate to its functions. They consist chiefly of correspondence between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Commission (about two linear inches).

*Handwritten notes:*  
3/24/72  
11/11/72

Both the material that we are now asking the Department of Justice to review and the documents withheld from research in the Numbered Document File of the Commission include some security classified documents. The Department may wish to consider these documents under the provisions of Executive Order 11652 of March 10, 1972 (37 F.R. 5209), to determine whether they should be declassified or downgraded, and if they are declassified, whether they should be made available for research or withheld under a different exemption to the "Freedom of Information Act" (5 U.S.C. 552) and a different guideline from Guideline 2.

The following staff members of the National Archives will be pleased to furnish any further information that may be needed: Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff, Chief, Legislative, Judicial, and Fiscal Branch, or Mr. Marion M. Johnson, on Code 13, Extension 23171.

Sincerely,  
*James B. Rhoads*  
JAMES B. RHOADS  
Archivist of the United States

*Handwritten:* 1-7-72  
21 MAY 11 1972  
CRIMINAL GEN. CRIME DIV.

Enclosures

*Handwritten:* 5/13/72  
Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds

*Handwritten:* 3-58

August 17, 1970

Honorable John N. Mitchell  
Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy transferred its records to the National Archives in November 1964 to be "permanently preserved" under the rules and regulations of the National Archives and applicable Federal law" (Report of the Commission, p. XV). The records included some documents which are withheld from disclosure by specific statutes, security classified records, investigatory files compiled for law enforcement purposes, and medical and personnel records. It was apparent that the records of the Commission would have to be reviewed on a document-by-document basis in order to identify the relatively few documents of this nature that could not immediately be made available for research.

This review was conducted in 1965 in accordance with "Guidelines for Review of Materials Submitted to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy," which were prepared by the Department of Justice in consultation with the agencies which furnished records to the Commission (copy enclosed). Under these guidelines (page 2) it is the responsibility of the Archivist of the United States to arrange for successive reviews of the records of the Commission that are withheld from research. As it is now five years since the review of the Numbered Document File of the Commission in 1965, it is time for the documents that were withheld from research at that time to be reviewed again as indicated in the last paragraph of the guidelines. The National Archives will be pleased to show the documents withheld from research at the request of your Department to any members of your staff who may be selected to review them. The following documents are withheld at the request of the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice:

1. About four linear feet of reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

2. Commission Document 355, a volume (about two inches thick) of copies of summaries of FBI interviews with acquaintances of Jack L. Ruby which was transmitted to the Commission by a letter dated February 4, 1964, of the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division of the Department. Withhold under Guideline 3C.

The following staff members of the National Archives may be called for any additional information that may be needed: Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff, Director, Legislative, Judicial and Diplomatic Records Division, or Mr. Marion M. Johnson, on Code 13, Extension 23171.

Sincerely,

*Herbert E. Angel*

HERBERT E. ANGEL  
Acting Archivist  
of the United States

Enclosure

cc: Official file - NND  
Reading file - NNDC  
Day file - N

mg MJohnson/mmam x23171

✓ NND *MGE*

NN *Jpd*

GUIDELINES FOR REVIEW OF MATERIALS SUBMITTED TO  
THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

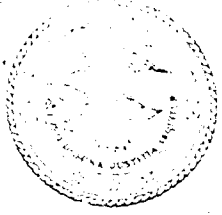
1. Statutory requirements prohibiting disclosure should be observed.
2. Security classifications should be respected, but the agency responsible for the classification should carefully re-evaluate the contents of each classified document and determine whether the classification can, consistently with the national security, be eliminated or downgraded.
3. Unclassified material which has not already been disclosed in another form should be made available to the public on a regular basis unless disclosure--
  - (A) Would be detrimental to the administration and enforcement of the laws and regulations of the United States and its agencies;
  - (B) Might reveal the identity of confidential sources of information and impede or jeopardize future investigations by precluding or limiting the use of the same or similar sources hereafter;
  - (C) Would be a source of embarrassment to innocent persons, who are the subject, source, or apparent source of the material in question, because it contains gossip and rumor or details of a personal nature having no significant connection with the assassination of the President;

~~(3) Would reveal material pertinent to the criminal prosecution of Jack Ruby for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, prior to the final judicial determination of that case.~~

Whenever one of the above reasons for nondisclosure may apply, your department should, in determining whether or not to authorize disclosure, weigh that reason against the overriding policy of the Executive Branch favoring the fullest possible disclosure.

Unless sooner released to the public, classified and unclassified material which is not now made available to the public shall, as a minimum, be reviewed by the agency concerned five years and ten years after the initial examination has been completed. The criteria applied in the initial examination, outlined above, should be applied to determine whether changed circumstances will permit further disclosure. Similar reviews should be undertaken at ten-year intervals until all materials are opened for legitimate research purposes. The Archivist of the United States will arrange for such review at the appropriate time. Whenever possible provision should be made for the automatic declassification of classified material which cannot be declassified at this time.





Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

NOV 3 1970

Mr. Herbert E. Angel  
Acting Archivist of the United States  
National Archives and Records Services  
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Mr. Angel:

This is in response to your letter of August 17, 1970, in which you notified me that it is time for the documents in the Numbered Document File of the Warren Commission to be reviewed for the purpose of determining whether any of these documents previously withheld may now be released to the public. You noted that the documents furnished the Commission by this Department include "about four linear feet of reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation" and "Commission Document 355, a volume (about two inches thick) of copies of summaries of FBI interviews with acquaintances of Jack L. Ruby."

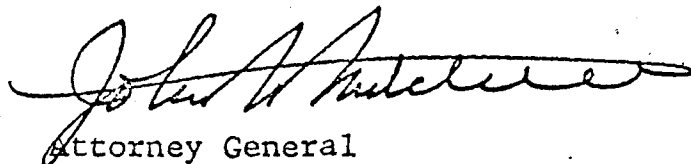
At my request, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Legal Counsel conducted a review of those documents. The accompanying memorandum of October 1, 1970, which is entitled "Five-Year Review of Warren Commission Files", contains this Department's recommendation with respect to release of the FBI reports. I believe you will find the memorandum self-explanatory.

As to the other item--Commission Document 355--the Department recommends partial disclosure. As noted, the Document contains copies of summaries of interviews by the FBI of individuals acquainted with Jack Ruby. The full interviews are contained in FBI investigative reports, some of

which have been released to the public. The Department has no objection to the release of those summaries in Commission Document 355 relating to interviews which themselves are in public view. However, if the interview being summarized has not been released to the public, we would oppose release of the corresponding summary in Commission Document 355.

If the Department can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to consult us.

Sincerely,

  
Attorney General

MCL:RLS:em

7/19

AUG 1 1972

cc:Files ✓  
Saloschin  
Gauf  
Dr. Rhoads  
Attention:Mr. Marion  
Johnson

Dr. Cyril H. Wecht  
Coroner  
County of Allegheny  
542 Fourth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219

*ent 8/1*

Dear Dr. Wecht:

This is in response to your letter to Attorney General Kleindienst of July 19, 1972, requesting assistance in locating microscopic slides relating to the autopsy on President Kennedy.

*RLS  
ML*

This Department does not have any information on this matter. We are advised by representatives of the office of Dr. Rhoads, the National Archivist, that autopsy materials were not included in the materials which the FBI obtained pertaining to the Kennedy assassination. Accordingly, we have no information about the location or availability of any such microscopic slides to add to such information as may be available from the Warren Commission Report or from Dr. Rhoads' office. We regret we cannot be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Lawton  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Counsel

*File  
off*

CYRIL H. WECHT, M.D., J.D., F.C.A.P.  
CORONER

CHARLES L. WINEK, Ph.D.  
CHIEF TOXICOLOGIST

JUNE S. SCHULBERG, Esq.  
CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER

JUL 19 1972  
D. JUSTICE



# County of Allegheny

542 FOURTH AVENUE . PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

(412) 355-4460 355-4466

OFFICE OF THE CORONER

July 19, 1972

The Honorable Richard G. Kleindienst  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20530

RECEIVED  
JUL 27 9 55 AM '72  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Dear General Kleindienst:

Recently, I was given permission by Professor Burke Marshall, Deputy Dean of Yale University School of Law, acting in his capacity as Executor of the agreement between the Kennedy family and the National Archives, to review various materials at the National Archives relating to the death of President John F. Kennedy. I plan to make this examination sometime during the month of August, and the final arrangements are being made with Dr. James B. Rhoads, the National Archivist.

I am writing to you to request your assistance in locating the microscopic slides which were prepared immediately following the autopsy on President Kennedy on Friday, 22 November 1963. These slides are subsequently referred to and described in the official Warren Commission Report. Hence, there is no question about their availability.

Inasmuch as I am a Board-certified pathologist, it would be most desirable for me to review these microscopic slides as part of my overall examination of the various autopsy materials in this case.

Of course, I would examine the slides at whatever facility your Department would select, and at a time and date convenient for the personnel at that facility.

2948


129-11		RECORDED
31	JUL 25 1972	
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL		2.9.72

The Honorable Richard G. Kleindienst  
Page 2  
July 19, 1972

Your kindness in pursuing this matter and making these slides available to me for a brief examination would be very much appreciated.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

  
Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

Research Professor of Law and  
Director, Institute of Forensic  
Sciences, Duquesne University

Assistant Clinical Professor of Pathology,  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

CHW/mg

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	<i>Mr. [Signature]</i>			
2.	<i>[Signature]</i>			
3.	<i>Mr. [Signature]</i>			2119
4.				

- SIGNATURE
- APPROVAL
- SEE ME
- RECOMMENDATION
- ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_
- PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF \_\_\_\_\_
- COMMENT
- NECESSARY ACTION
- NOTE AND RETURN
- CALL ME
- PER CONVERSATION
- AS REQUESTED
- NOTE AND FILE
- YOUR INFORMATION

REMARKS: A copy of archives turned down is at last page before "yellows". Last 2 yellows are my previous reply to prior inquiry. Release of these files or access to them so someone can derive the name of the agent etc is for archives and I for one am glad of it. In for? Getting archives live with their reasons, good or bad, for such actions. Not giving opinions (as requested) on quality of their reasons.

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
	<i>[Signature]</i>			
<i>Jim, can't we use the usual form of no advisory opinions to public - only to Govt., etc</i>				

③ Last sentence "turn-off"  
~~was understood~~. Most of these writers  
5 [redacted] and, as with Mishkin,  
persist in a come back to any thing  
we write to them. [redacted] 7c  
was told once - go to [redacted]  
and his letter indicates that didn't  
satisfy him. We can tell him  
the same thing again with the  
"turn-off". saving the letter for  
the inevitable third letter but  
he'll be no happier with three  
letters than with two.

I still don't think we  
should tell the writer to  
go get a lawyer - let him  
figure that out - I agree to  
say no "No" - that this is a  
matter solely between Archibald  
& himself -

OK

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	<del>Mr. Tolson</del>			<del>119</del>
2.	Mr. Johnson			2119
3.				
4.				

- SIGNATURE
- APPROVAL
- SEE ME
- RECOMMENDATION
- ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_
- PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF \_\_\_\_\_
- COMMENT
- NECESSARY ACTION
- NOTE AND RETURN
- CALL ME
- PER CONVERSATION
- AS REQUESTED
- NOTE AND FILE
- YOUR INFORMATION

REMARKS

Do you want to say "No" in so seemingly abrupt a manner? Why can't we find out where Archives cannot divulge the name of the agent who apparently destroyed certain autopsy films re JFK. The reason they give to the public sure seems [redacted]. At the very least I recommend the elimination of the 2nd sent. in the 2nd par. A.L.S.

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
	Joseph "destruction of autopsy films" does NOT strike my recollection - maybe M. Johnson will give us a copy of Archives file # 100-44110	Autopsy		11/1/64



June 26, 1972

Mr. Carl W. Belcher  
Chief, General Crimes Section  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.  
20530

RECEIVED

RE: HEP:CWB:JRR:mdz  
129-11

JUN 30 1972

CO CU

Dear Mr. Belcher:

Thank you for your letter of June 20, 1972.

Your referral of my request to the National Archives has resulted in a reply from Mr. James B. Rhodes. Unfortunately, Mr. Rhodes has implied that release of the name of the agent responsible for the destruction of autopsy films would "constitute a clearly un-warranted invasion of personal privacy of the family of the late President Kennedy." (xerox attached)

It is regretable that this matter was not reviewed during the Warren Commission's ten month inquiry into the death of President Kennedy and that this subject only became known some nine years later as a result of the first non-governmental examination of these restricted films by Dr. John Lattimer of Columbia University.

The primary reason I direct my request to the Justice Department is because this information first came to light as part of a report ordered by your department, and not by the National Archives.

On November 1, 1966, at the request of the Justice Department, James J. Humes, M.D., and J. Thorton Boswell, M.D., examined, identified and inventoried these photographs and wrote a report. (1)

The note, describing the destruction of a roll of film, is part of this report, made at the request of your agency.

With all due respect to Mr. James B. Rhodes of the Archives, I feel that any legal determination as to "unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" as mentioned by Mr. Rhodes should come from the Justice Department.

- 779-11
- (1) Report of inspection by Navy Medical Staff on November 1, 1966 at the National Archives on x-rays and photos of autopsy of President John F. Kennedy. 1968 Panel Report, page 1.

CRIME RECORDS SECTION

PAGE TWO  
CARL W. BELCHER  
JUNE 26, 1972

I do not understand how the release of the name of this agent can be construed as an "unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of the Kennedy family."

This is, more likely than not, simply another example of over-classification of documents that may prove embarrassing to one government agency or another.

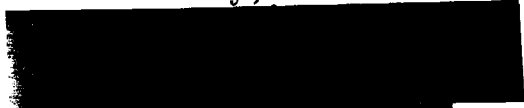
I do not wish to imply, nor do I believe, that the Justice Department is responsible for the restrictions placed on these documents.

Since two agents of the Justice Department (F.B.I.) and two agents of the Treasury Department (Secret Service) were present at this autopsy, it is reasonable to assume that one of these four agents was responsible.

Since this autopsy was not performed at a private institution by private physicians, but rather on government property at public expense, it would seem that full disclosure of this matter would be in the public interest.

I would greatly appreciate an opinion from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



7C



7C

7C  
Enclosures



7C

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service  
Washington, DC 20408



JUN 20 1972

[Redacted]

7C

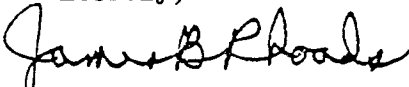
Dear [Redacted] 7C

This is in regard to the copy of your letter of June 5, 1972, to the Attorney General which you sent to Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff.

The notation concerning a roll of film referred to in Dr. Lattimer's article is part of a report entitled "Report of Inspection by Naval Medical Staff on November 1, 1966 at National Archives of X-Rays and Photographs of Autopsy of President John F. Kennedy."

Under the terms of 5 U.S.C. 552, subsection (b) (6), we do not furnish copies of the report because it is a part of "medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" of the family of the late President Kennedy. We show it to the researchers whose applications to examine the autopsy material are approved by the Kennedy family representative, Mr. Burke Marshall, because it contains a descriptive list of the material. We do not, however, furnish copies to them.

Sincerely,

*for*   
JAMES O'NEILL  
Deputy Archivist  
of the United States

*Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds*

1375

MCL:MOE:bow

L. Patrick Gray, III  
Acting Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

cc: FILE  
Gauf  
Eastwood  
Paff

Mary C. Lawton  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Counsel

AUG 2 1972

President's Commission on the Assassination  
of President Kennedy

Enclosed is a letter from the Archivist of the United States, with attachments, asking the Department of Justice to review certain documents of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy to determine which of the classified documents might be declassified or downgraded and which unclassified or declassified documents may be made available to researchers.

Fredericka Paff (187-2056) and Mary Eastwood (187-2058) of my staff have made a cursory review of these documents, which are contained in 12 boxes at the National Archives. All but one file, which includes Justice Department correspondence from the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission and part of the Commission transcript (January 27, 1964, meeting), appear to be FBI documents and correspondence. Several of the boxes contain tape recordings (reels).

We would appreciate your designating someone to review these files and reporting your conclusions respecting those which may be released to researchers to this Office so that we can prepare the Department's report to the Archivist.

Attachment

*Jill*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service  
Washington, DC 20408



MAY 24 1972

Honorable Richard G. Kleindienst  
Acting Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

RECEIVED  
MAY 24 9 40 AM '72  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Dear Mr. Kleindienst:

*to Mr. Kleindienst*

Enclosed are copies of our letter of August 17, 1970, to Attorney General Mitchell concerning the review of the Numbered Document File of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy and of his reply of November 3, 1970. In addition to the Numbered Document File involved in these letters, the records of the Commission include correspondence and internal records of the Commission, some of which relate to the functions of other Government agencies and their part in the investigation of the assassination. These records were reviewed by the National Archives in 1967 at the request of the Department of Justice. Some of them were withheld from research, and it is now time for the five year review of these documents provided for in the guidelines that apply to the records. I would like to ask the Department of Justice to review those documents which relate to its functions. They consist chiefly of correspondence between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Commission (about two linear inches).

Both the material that we are now asking the Department of Justice to review and the documents withheld from research in the Numbered Document File of the Commission include some security classified documents. The Department may wish to consider these documents under the provisions of Executive Order 11652 of March 10, 1972 (37 F.R. 5209), to determine whether they should be declassified or downgraded, and if they are declassified, whether they should be made available for research or withheld under a different exemption to the "Freedom of Information Act" (5 U.S.C. 552) and a different guideline from Guideline 2.

The following staff members of the National Archives will be pleased to furnish any further information that may be needed: Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff, Chief, Legislative, Judicial, and Fiscal Branch, or Mr. Marion M. Johnson, on Code 13, Extension 23171.

Sincerely,

*James B. Rhoads*

JAMES B. RHOADS  
Archivist of the United States

RECEIVED  
MAY 18 1972

7-29-11  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
21 MAY 11 1972  
CRIMINAL GEN. CRIME DIV.

Enclosures

*Copy assigned 5/20/72*  
Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

*6-586*

August 17, 1970

Honorable John N. Mitchell  
Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy transferred its records to the National Archives in November 1964 to be "permanently preserved under the rules and regulations of the National Archives and applicable Federal law" (Report of the Commission, p. XV). The records included some documents which are withheld from disclosure by specific statutes, security classified records, investigatory files compiled for law enforcement purposes, and medical and personnel records. It was apparent that the records of the Commission would have to be reviewed on a document-by-document basis in order to identify the relatively few documents of this nature that could not immediately be made available for research.

This review was conducted in 1965 in accordance with "Guidelines for Review of Materials Submitted to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy," which were prepared by the Department of Justice in consultation with the agencies which furnished records to the Commission (copy enclosed). Under these guidelines (page 2) it is the responsibility of the Archivist of the United States to arrange for successive reviews of the records of the Commission that are withheld from research. As it is now five years since the review of the Numbered Document File of the Commission in 1965, it is time for the documents that were withheld from research at that time to be reviewed again as indicated in the last paragraph of the guidelines. The National Archives will be pleased to show the documents withheld from research at the request of your Department to any members of your staff who may be selected to review them. The following documents are withheld at the request of the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice:

1. About four linear feet of reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

2. Commission Document 355, a volume (about two inches thick) of copies of summaries of FBI interviews with acquaintances of Jack L. Ruby which was transmitted to the Commission by a letter dated February 4, 1964, of the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division of the Department. Withheld under Guideline 3C.

The following staff members of the National Archives may be called for any additional information that may be needed: Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff, Director, Legislative, Judicial and Diplomatic Records Division, or Mr. Marion M. Johnson, on Code 13, Extension 23171.

Sincerely,

*Herbert E. Angel*

HERBERT E. ANGEL  
Acting Archivist  
of the United States

Enclosure

cc: Official file - NND  
Reading file - NNDC  
Day file - N

*mg* MJohnson/mm x23171

✓ NND *MGE*

NN *Eng*

GUIDELINES FOR REVIEW OF MATERIALS SUBMITTED TO  
THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

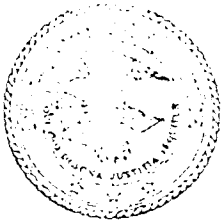
1. Statutory requirements prohibiting disclosure should be observed.
2. Security classifications should be respected, but the agency responsible for the classification should carefully re-evaluate the contents of each classified document and determine whether the classification can, consistently with the national security, be eliminated or downgraded.
3. Unclassified material which has not already been disclosed in another form should be made available to the public on a regular basis unless disclosure--
  - (A) Would be detrimental to the administration and enforcement of the laws and regulations of the United States and its agencies;
  - (B) Might reveal the identity of confidential sources of information and impede or jeopardize future investigations by precluding or limiting the use of the same or similar sources hereafter;
  - (C) Would be a source of embarrassment to innocent persons, who are the subject, source, or apparent source of the material in question, because it contains gossip and rumor or details of a personal nature having no significant connection with the assassination of the President;



~~(D) Would reveal material pertinent to the criminal prosecution of Jack Ruby for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, prior to the final judicial determination of that case.~~

Whenever one of the above reasons for nondisclosure may apply, your department should, in determining whether or not to authorize disclosure, weigh that reason against the overriding policy of the Executive Branch favoring the fullest possible disclosure.

Unless sooner released to the public, classified and unclassified material which is not now made available to the public shall, as a minimum, be reviewed by the agency concerned five years and ten years after the initial examination has been completed. The criteria applied in the initial examination, outlined above, should be applied to determine whether changed circumstances will permit further disclosure. Similar reviews should be undertaken at ten-year intervals until all materials are opened for legitimate research purposes. The Archivist of the United States will arrange for such review at the appropriate time. Whenever possible provision should be made for the automatic declassification of classified material which cannot be declassified at this time.



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

NOV 3 1970

Mr. Herbert E. Angel  
Acting Archivist of the United States  
National Archives and Records Services  
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Mr. Angel:

This is in response to your letter of August 17, 1970, in which you notified me that it is time for the documents in the Numbered Document File of the Warren Commission to be reviewed for the purpose of determining whether any of these documents previously withheld may now be released to the public. You noted that the documents furnished the Commission by this Department include "about four linear feet of reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation" and "Commission Document 355, a volume (about two inches thick) of copies of summaries of FBI interviews with acquaintances of Jack L. Ruby."

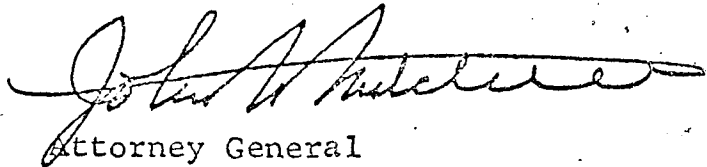
At my request, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Legal Counsel conducted a review of those documents. The accompanying memorandum of October 1, 1970, which is entitled "Five-Year Review of Warren Commission Files", contains this Department's recommendation with respect to release of the FBI reports. I believe you will find the memorandum self-explanatory.

As to the other item--Commission Document 355--the Department recommends partial disclosure. As noted, the Document contains copies of summaries of interviews by the FBI of individuals acquainted with Jack Ruby. The full interviews are contained in FBI investigative reports, some of

which have been released to the public. The Department has no objection to the release of those summaries in Commission Document 355 relating to interviews which themselves are in public view. However, if the interview being summarized has not been released to the public, we would oppose release of the corresponding summary in Commission Document 355.

If the Department can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to consult us.

Sincerely,



John W. Mitchell

Attorney General

JMG:bow

The Files

cc: FILE ✓

Gauf

June 15, 1972

Lawton

Ulman

Jack M. Goldklang  
Office of Legal Counsel

Goldklang

Classified files

Document Packet

129, 11

B. A. K.

Notes in OLC Safe on Warren Commission Documents

The OLC safe contains some handwritten and typewritten documents about six inches thick prepared by Dudley Chapman. These notes summarize documents collected by the Warren Commission which were not made public. According to Mr. Chapman, the law requires that every five years the documents be reviewed to see what additional documents can be released. The notes are therefore being retained in the OLC safe should the occasion arise when OLC may be asked again to participate in the required review.

*gms*  
*noted*  
*pl*

*File*  
*8-15*

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, D.C. 20408



March 27, 1972

Honorable Richard S. Schweiker  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Schweiker:

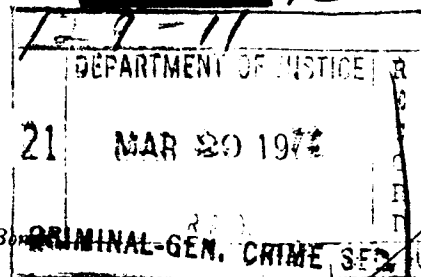
7C This is in reply to your letter of March 21, 1972, in behalf of [redacted] concerning records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy.

We have no information concerning Dr. John K. Lattimer's interpretation of the X-rays prepared during the autopsy of President Kennedy except what is stated in the New York Times story to which [redacted] refers.

7C The X-rays and photographs taken during the autopsy were turned over to Senator Robert F. Kennedy on April 26, 1965. A memorandum of April 30, 1964, by Arlen Specter, a member of the staff of the Warren Commission, among the records of the Commission indicates that Senator Kennedy, who was the Attorney General at that time, was at least consulted by the Secret Service concerning the question of access to the material before the date of the memorandum. In an interview (U.S. News and World Report, October 10, 1966) Mr. Specter said that he had been shown a photograph which was stated to be a photograph of President Kennedy's back but that the entire set of X-rays and photographs was not available to the Commission.

The laboratory investigative file relating to the spectrographic analysis of the bullet (CE 399) and bullet fragments involved in the assassination of President Kennedy is in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We are referring a copy of your letter and its enclosure to the Department of Justice in regard to [redacted] question about that file.

7C We can furnish an electrostatic copy of the memorandum by Arlen Specter for our minimum charge of \$1.00. To order [redacted] 7C



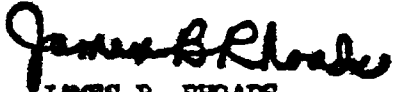
Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds

1379

2

should send a check or money order made payable to the General Services Administration (NSFL) and addressed to the Cashier, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C. 20408.

Sincerely,



JAMES B. ROADS  
Archivist of the United States

cc: Department of Justice

*United States Senate*

Respectfully referred to:

Archivist of the United States

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

.....  
U.S.S.

February 14, 1972

Dear Senator Schweiker,

Thanks for your help in the past, on matters I have requested information. I have a few more questions, which I hope some member of your staff can get the answers to.

As you are undoubtedly aware, several critics of the Warren Commission's Report on the Assassination of President Kennedy have raised certain questions concerning the validity of the Commission's conclusions, in several areas. The Sunday, January 10, 1972 edition of the New York Times contained a front-page article written by Fred P. Graham describing the recent research conducted in the National Archives by Doctor John K. Lattimer, a New York City physician.

Doctor Lattimer, evidently, had access to the autopsy photos and X-rays, which were supposedly not viewed by the members and staff officials of The Commission. His most interesting observation concerned the President's back-neck wounds. He said, that the X-rays prove that the front and back bullet holes were made by the same bullet, which passed thru the President's body and left two tiny flakes of metal and air in the tissues along the path between the two holes. Strange indeed, that the three doctors, who conducted the autopsy, or none of the X-ray technicians present, saw any of the underlined items. At least, the official Autopsy Report contained in the 'Warren Report' makes no mention of the items discovered by Doctor Lattimer.

Following, are quotations from two segments of Mr. Graham's article, which I hope you can finally straighten-out:

"The 65 X-rays, color transparencies and black-and-white negatives taken during the autopsy have been a focus of controversy because the Kennedy family had previously guarded them so closely that not even members and staff officials of the Warren Commission, which was appointed by President Johnson to investigate the assassination -- were allowed to see them."

"Shortly after the assassination the autopsy pictures and X-rays were given to the then attorney general, Robert F. Kennedy. On Oct. 29, 1966, they were placed by the Kennedy family in the National Archives, subject to a contract that denied access for the next five years to all but certain governmental bodies."

The number "65," cited as the total number of X-rays and photos taken during the autopsy must be a matter of numeral reversal, since two FBI agents present at the autopsy reported, that a total of 11 developed X-rays and 45 undeveloped photos were turned-over to a Secret Service agent, who was present.

My questions, in regard to the two quotations, are these: . On what date(s) did the Secret Service turn over the autopsy photos and X-rays to the late attorney-general, Robert F. Kennedy? At any time prior to the release of the Commission's report, did any member of the Commission, or a member of its staff view one or more of the autopsy photos and X-rays?



(2)

Graham also stated, that ballistics tests conducted by Doctor Lattimer reinforced the Warren Commission's theory that the same bullet which passed thru President Kennedy's neck, also wounded Governor Connally. This bullet, allegedly found on Mr. Connally's hospital stretcher, was designated Commission Exhibit 399.

I would like to know, if the results of the spectographic analysis tests conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning CE 399 and other bullet fragments, notably those pictured in CE 842 (fragments removed from Governor Connally's wrist), are now public information, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

There is no rush on these matters, but would appreciate reply when, and if, possible.

Sincerely yours,

 7C  
 7C

Form No. CM-1a  
(Rev. 11-20-63)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	Attorney General			
2.				
3.				
4.				

SIGNATURE                       COMMENT                       PER CONVERSATION  
 APPROVAL                       NECESSARY ACTION                       AS REQUESTED  
 SEE ME                       NOTE AND RETURN                       NOTE AND FILE  
 RECOMMENDATION                       CALL ME                       YOUR INFORMATION  
 ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS

Attached is suggested letter and list to Director of CIA.

You may wish to call Mr. Helms and send the list over to him without the letter.

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT.	DATE
	ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL Criminal Division		6/6/67