

January 25, 1973

John K. Lattimer, M.D., Sc.D
College Of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University
630 W. 168 Street
New York, N.Y. 10032

Dear sir,

The Editor's Note preceding your article on the autopsy of President Kennedy in the September 1973 issue of Forensic Science Gazette explains "copies of...references and further bibliography can be obtained by writing to the authors directly." I would appreciate receiving a copy of the article described in Item two in the bibliography of your article - The Stabbing of Lincoln's Secretary of State on the Night the President Was Shot - which appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association, issue of April 12, 1965.


Apparently you perceive some parallelism in the assassinations of Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy. Perhaps your earlier article indicates the extent or depth and the limitations of that parallelism. Possibly, too, we may discover a common interest in Lincoln's assassination as, it seems, we have in that of John F. Kennedy.

Incidentally, the opening sentence of your Gazette article is somewhat misleading. It probably does not convey your thought exactly. As it reads you attribute "the precipitous removal of President Kennedy's body from the jurisdiction of the highly competent medical examiner at Dallas" to, in the first instance, "worry over the possibility of a wider assassination plot." I believe your thought is that worry led to the decision for Johnson's party to leave Dallas quickly

for Washington, and his decision not to leave without Mrs. Kennedy, who refused to leave without her husband's body, led to the kidnapping of the Presidential corpse, which, in retrospect, may be seen as an augury of greater crimes against law and humanity to come by the fleeing putative head of state. The necessity to be brief, I suppose, resulted in the miscarriage of your thought which appeared partly as error and partly as euphemism.

But do you ^xnot find it ironic that the "precipitous removal" of Kennedy's body from the jurisdiction of the "highly competent medical examiner" in Dallas, in violation of the law, led some hours later to the "fiasco" (Gazette Opinion and Commentary, same issue) of the autopsy in Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington by non-forensic pathologists, under restrictive military direction, in violation of established medico-legal practice, and to the suppression and destruction of evidence? I wonder you did not comment on that.

Very truly yours,



Thomas Stamm

2705 Bainbridge Ave

Bronx, NY 10458

P.S. May I have a copy, too, of your article, The Wound That Killed Lincoln, which appeared in the Feb. 15, 1964 issue of JAMA and is described in item 24 of your bibliography?