

4640 Noble Avenue
Sherman Oaks, California
91403

July 5, 1972

Dr. Cyril H. Wecht
Coroner, Allegany County
542 4th Avenue
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
15219

Dear Dr. Wecht,

My friend Sylvia Meagher advised that I should furnish copies of my correspondence with the Archives and Justice Department on a matter that may soon concern your attention.

As you can see, my request has been denied, but I intend to carry this matter further since the reasons stated for the non-disclosure border on the silly.

For the past 2½ years, Perry Adams and I have been writing a manuscript on the JFK assassination, part of which deals with the medical attention and the autopsy.

Neither one of us have had any medical training, so we are greatly handicapped when we rely on our judgments.

On the face of it, our purpose in writing you is therefore somewhat presumptuous. In some aspects it is not, however, since we feel that we have hit upon certain concepts that have never, to our knowledge, been publicly expressed.

The information we have developed is not entirely new, since most of it was published or is available in the National Archives, while a small part was gained through interviews with witnesses.

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Basically our research has lead to three tentative conclusions:

1. That President Kennedy was shot at close range from a point in front of him.
2. That the resulting head wounds were "medically altered" so as to make the wound pattern ambiguous.
3. That wounds were inflicted on the body at some point after the body left the hands of the Parkland staff and before the Bethesda autopsy. These wounds tended to "deceive" the military pathologists into thinking that the President was shot from behind.

We would not ask you to take the above, unsupported general statements as fact, but to respectfully request that in your medical review that you, at least, consider the possibility that some of the wounds you see (especially the one on the back) were made after death and before the autopsy.

We have no way of knowing whether it is possible to distinguish from the photographs whether or not a wound was made before, at or after death. Perhaps the distinctions are so subtle as to defy examination.

It may be possible for you to either confirm or deny a report by two F.B.I. agents who attended the autopsy. They reported that when "the President's body was removed from the casket...it was apparent that...surgery of the head area, namely in the top of the skull" had been performed. (CD7, page 283)

It is a great encouragement that someone of your qualifications will have a chance to view these materials, and we are thankful of your interest in this vital subject.

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to learn the results of your examination when you feel it appropriate.

Sincerely,

Fred T. Newcomb

FTN:mkn
Enclosures

I added P.S. to keep this confidential until we ...