

1735 Highland Place, Apt. 25  
Berkeley, Calif. 94709  
October 29, 1970

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

Dear Dr. Wecht:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, concerning the draft report I sent you relating to President Kennedy's head wounds.

Unfortunately, that draft omitted my analysis of the degree to which the melon tests might be applicable to the assassination; as you pointed out, heads and melons are quite different. The enclosed supplement to that draft report discusses this and other questions of interpretation in some detail.

I would be most grateful if you could comment on some of the purely medical questions:

- (1) (Page 10, middle) How easily and unambiguously can the bone fragment found by Harper be identified?
- (2) (Page 10, end of first paragraph) In Zapruder frames 313 and 314, can you tell where the major streaking fragments come from - i.e., which parts of the skull?
- (3) (Page 12, middle) How do you assess the evidence of the beveling at the occipital wound?
- (4) (Page 13, first line) Do you still consider the "coagulation necrosis" to be conclusive evidence that the occipital wound was an entry? How likely is it that the diagnosis in the supplemental autopsy report was wrong?
- (5) From the weight of the brain, can you place reasonable limits on the mass lost? What estimate of the loss can you make, based on the medical descriptions of the damage? (Pages 13-14)
- (6) (Page 14) Roughly, what is the density of bone from the skull? What is the weight of the entire skull?
- (7) (Pages 14-20) Can you offer any opinions on Bernabei's hypothesis, as presented here, that the distribution of fine metal fragments localized in the front of the head is suggestive of a shot from the front?

I realize that I am asking for quite a bit of information and opinion, but I am at a loss to tackle these questions myself, and would really appreciate any comments you have time to provide.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul L. Hoch*

Paul L. Hoch

*Sylvia -*  
*I'm not inclined to spend time supplying him with information, in light of his apparent objectives. What do you think? If you feel I should reply, please let me know if you have any comments or observations referable to his questions.*  
*Thanks!*

*Cyril*

*(over)*

See notes on  
Weddit letter to  
Meagher dated  
11/9/70