

August 13, 1972

Mr. Herbert Jaspers
c/o Senator Mondale
443 Old Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

20510

Dear Mr. Jaspers,

You may or may not remember but both you and Senator Mondale corresponded with me about two years ago on the subject of President John F. Kennedy's assassination and the Warren Report. At the time I was unable to get together with you but did send a friend, Harold Weisberg, to meet with you and discuss the case. The two of you made a trip to the archives to view several of the films pertinent to the case.

More recently I have been working with the Senator's office on the subjects of youth crisis centers and drug abuse, primarily through Ellen Hoffman, although I did meet with the Senator when I was in Washington, DC this past May to fill him in on a meeting I had with Elliot Richardson, the Secretary of HEW. Ellen tells me that she will be out of town next week so I won't be seeing her.

This brings me to the subject of this letter. On August 23 and 24, Dr. Cyril Wecht, a top notch forensic pathologist of at least national renown, will be examining the materials relating to the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy. Although Dr. Lattimer, a urologist, has already seen many of these items, he lacked the necessary expertise. Dr. Wecht is the first qualified pathologist to view these items (largely photographs and X-rays).

There is no way, of course, of knowing for sure what he will find. However, we now have in our possession a previously unavailable report on the Kennedy autopsy made by the President's personal physician, Admiral Burkley, which provides definitive evidence that the "official autopsy" misplaces the wounds. (You may remember that the report of two FBI agents, Sibert and O'Neill, as well as the testimony of two Secret Service agents, also provided a challenge to the "revised" or "official" version which was constructed after the original draft was burned by the man who wrote it, Commander Humes. Admiral Burkley's report coincides with their account.)

The implications of this situation are disturbing to say the least. Added to the testimony of pathologist Pierre Finck at the Shaw trial in New Orleans, which indicated that a general whose name Finck could not remember directed the autopsy (despite the fact that it was done in Bethesda Naval Medical Hospital) and ordered him to omit some very crucial features of the autopsy, this data raises serious questions about a purposeful falsification of the Kennedy autopsy. Furthermore, this falsification occurred at a time when Oswald was still alive and presumably going to face trial, and at a time when exact forensic determinations were crucial. Once Oswald was murdered, this could all be hidden. But, this was not a "smoothing over" of troubling details done during the Warren Commission investigation. Rather, it was an altering of the basic medical-legal record both the day of the assassination and two days later. Those involved are all high ranking military officers.

So, if Dr. Wecht's findings are consistent with the Burkley report (and the reports of the two FBI and two Secret Service agents), then a somewhat sensational disclosure may be in the offing. If the X-rays and photos do not match up with what we now know they must show, then serious questions could be raised as to their authenticity.

In any event, Dr. Wecht is bright and articulate and very frank in his public expressions of his views. If he smells a rat he is not likely to hedge, and is likely to call it a rat. He plans to do a professional paper on his findings, but is also likely to hold a press conference.

I will be glad to brief you fully as events unfold. Should you want to reach me, while in Washington DC I will most likely be reachable through Bob Smith, Committee to Investigate Assassinations, 927- 15th St. NW, #409, Wash. DC 20005 (202) 397-3837. My home address and phone in Minneapolis are: 1080 15th Ave. SE, Mpls, Minn. 55414 331-1174--work: 336-0564, 336-5508. I will probably leave for Washington on Tuesday Aug. 22. In reversal of ordinary protocol, I'm going to send a carbon of this to Senator Mondale.

Sincerely,

Gary Richard Schoener
Certified Psychologist
Coordinator--Walk-In Counseling Center