

9/30/70 sent cc letter to Hoch dated 8/31/70 also TT letter " 9/15/70 i note

September 23, 1970

Cyril Wecht, M. D., J. D.  
Coroner, Allegheny County  
542 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburg, Pa. 15219

Sylvia Meagher  
302 West 12th Street  
New York City 10014 ✓

Sylvia: Many thanks for your letter of September 14.  
Cyril: Your letter of September 15 is at hand.

I attended the 22nd annual meetings of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Chicago on February 25-28, 1970, in large part, for the specific purpose of hearing Doctor Noguchi talk about the investigations in the assassination of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy. I sat on the front row and heard every word and also paid close attention to his slides which were gross pictures taken of the autopsy and slides of X - ray films. Doctor Noguchi also showed a picture of his report. It had been set in type and bound in a spiral binder with stiff covers and on the front were two seals, viz., the Great Seal of the State of California and the Seal of his Office.

I distinctly remember hearing him say that neutron activation analysis was done on fragments removed from the Senator's brain, unfired bullets in Sirhan's gun, and metal from ammunition in a box attributed to Sirhan and that all of these examinations revealed a common source. Doctor Noguchi said that the results of these examinations were not presented in testimony because of the fact that the evidence was otherwise overwhelming but instead he kept these results in reserve for possible use subsequently. I came away from his talk with a warm comfortable feeling because I knew what he had said was in the public domain and I would be able to obtain his report to use in my efforts.

I know Doctor Noguchi has given several other talks on this subject but I did not attend any of these because I felt the Chicago talk would cover the matter. In fact about two months ago he talked in nearby Wichita and I did not go. Only recently have I become disturbed when various authorities declined to let me have a copy of Doctor Noguchi's report and his testimony.

On or about October 30 Doctor Noguchi spoke to a conference called by the Governor of Kansas in Topeka to hehash "drug problems". On that night two of my three counsel, myself, and our three wives spent about an hour with him in his hotel room. We were all greatly disturbed to learn that he had not done neutron activation analysis on the stated items but only had them ready to do so if it became advisable. ~~It~~ As you may surmise this was a disappointment.

As you can see from the Xerox copy of the horrible account by Mr. Bill Stinchcomb from the Topeka State Journal for Friday September 18 we have had oral testimony (Arguments) on the government's motion to dismiss. These were favorable to ourself. You will notice that the Washington lawyers, in their brief, allege that I havenot exhausted available administrative remedies to obtain the "Memorandum of transfer" covering the original deposit of the X - ray films, photographs, and clothing. I did not request this "Memorandum of transfer"!!!! The defense (local assistant attorney McAtee) consumed fifteen minutes explaining this mistake was already contained in the brief sent down from Washington and the mistake was not his!!!! The judge had a smile on his face.

We have about another week to file written briefs in support of our oral pleadings. I will send them to you.

Sincerely,

  
John Nichols