

Dr. John Nichols
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15 October 1970

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of the 13th and the copy of your excellent supplementary brief. A few minor errors: on page 1, text line 6, Specter was Assistant Counsel (not "Chief Counsel"); on page 8, last paragraph, line 3, the date should be December 6, 1963 (not "January").

Now, let me deal with the specific questions or requests you addressed to me, but in reverse order.

(1) Regarding Galloway's memorandum of 25 November 1963, I enclose a copy of my letter to the Archives requesting a 3x4 negative, which I will transmit to you immediately upon receipt.

(2) I am unable to ascertain the specific date on which the Hearings and Exhibits, including CE 397 (your Exhibit D), went to the printers. However, we can infer with confidence that it was sometime subsequent to 7 September 1964, when the Commission held its final hearing of testimony. (In late May 1964 Warren announced that the testimony and exhibits would not be published, but the other Commission members ultimately persuaded him to reverse his decision. See Inquest by Epstein, page 24.) The statement on page 7 of your brief is thus entirely well-founded; the interval was probably nine months.

(3) You ask about any requests made between April 26, 1965 and October 29, 1966 to examine the autopsy photographs and X-rays. I have reviewed my recollections and re-read my correspondence file for that period of time without success. I do not know of any requests of a direct, formal nature. In the realm of public editorializing, there was an article in The Nation of 11 July 1966, by Jacob Cohen, "The Vital Documents," urging study of the autopsy photos and X-rays, which was widely reported in the press during July 1966. I enclose a press clipping which is fairly typical (you may keep it) and the article itself (which please return). The only direct requests to examine these materials of which I know were made after October 1966 (by Kupferman, for Helpern and Wecht and myself). Incidentally, if you have the Document Addendum to the Warren Report published by and with an introduction from David S. Lifton, you might wish to read pages 257-261, in which the Commission in executive session on 30 April 1964 discusses the pro's and con's of examining the autopsy photos and X-rays and appears to agree that the examination was necessary to ensure "that there is nothing inconsistent with the other findings in connection with the matter in those pictures." (I enclose my review of that book.)

Best regards.

Sylvia Meagher
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ENCLOSURES: (4)

cc 11/2/70
to Wecht