

CYRIL H. WECHT, M.D., J.D., F.C.A.P.
CORONER

JOSHUA A. PERPER, M.D., LL.B., M.Sc.
CHIEF FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST
CHARLES L. WINEK, Ph.D.
CHIEF TOXICOLOGIST
BERNARD J. MCGOWAN, Esq.
SOLICITOR



County of Allegheny

542. FOURTH AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

(412) 355-4460 355-4466

OFFICE OF THE CORONER

November 21, 1975

The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
Vice President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

I am writing to you in your previous capacity as Chairman of the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States. Inasmuch as the Commission is now disbanded, there appears to be no other official channel to which I may address my request.

I testified by deposition before Mr. Robert Olsen of the Commission staff in Washington, D. C., on May 7, 1975, for more than five hours. A very small portion of that deposition, in no way representative of its content, is cited in the Commission's final report. On a number of occasions before and after issuance of the report, I have requested that I be provided with a copy of the transcript of my deposition. In addition, Congressman Edward I. Koch of New York, has also addressed an inquiry to Mr. Olsen in regard to this matter. Numerous members of the news media also made direct requests to Mr. David Belin and Mr. Olsen to obtain a copy of my deposition, or in the alternative, to be permitted to read through it at the Commission's offices.

The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller

Page 2

November 21, 1975

All such requests have been denied. Mr. Olsen's reply to Congressman Koch, which is printed in full in the Congressional Record of November 6, 1975, at H 10785-10786, stated that Mr. Olsen, as a member of the staff, was not "in a position to grant or withhold" my request. Other responses to such inquiries have included assertions by the staff that it was Commission policy to withhold all such transcripts to protect the confidentiality of witnesses, and that my own testimony would not be made available to anyone outside the Commission or the Office of the President.

I now have indisputable evidence that my testimony has been made available to outsiders, although it is still withheld from me. In an article in the October, 1975, issue of a national magazine, Commentary, an author with no visible connection to your Commission cites a portion of my testimony in detail, prefacing the citation with the revealing phrase, "Testifying before the Rockefeller Commission, Dr. Wecht...". The citation also includes an error which almost certainly is of typographical origin in the transcript provided to the author of the article.

It is thus evident that some member of the Commission or its staff has made a mockery of the alleged policy of protecting the confidentiality of witnesses by making my testimony available to outsiders, while at the same time, withholding it from me. Personally, I do not wish to be "protected" in this matter anyway. I want my testimony to be available to the public, but to be available in full, and not to be distorted or misrepresented through disclosure of selected portions, as has now happened on two occasions that I am aware of.

It is incredible to me that an official or quasi-official body of the United States Government can perform in such viciously unethical fashion. I hereby repeat my request for a copy of the transcript of my testimony. I also request that you make inquiry of the former staff members of your Commission to determine how that transcript could have come into the possession of an author entirely

The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
Page 3
November 21, 1975

outside the Commission, when the staff persistently refused to make it available to me on grounds of "protecting the confidentiality of witnesses".

Very truly yours,

Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

CHW/cjk

cc: The Honorable Frank Church
United States Senator

The Honorable Richard S. Schweiker
United States Senator

The Honorable Thomas N. Downing
House of Representatives,
Congress of the United States

The Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez
House of Representatives,
Congress of the United States

The Honorable Edward I. Koch
House of Representatives,
Congress of the United States

The Honorable William S. Moorhead, Jr.
House of Representatives,
Congress of the United States