

24 February 1972

Dear Ed,

Post-script to our lunch with Ned Crosby. He called yesterday late in the afternoon to report on his interview with Burke Marshall. BM was very ill at ease throughout. Said that his "client" in this matter was Mrs. Onassis. Said that Ned was not to worry, others would be allowed to see the photos and X-rays. He had concern in the case of Wecht, because he thought Wecht was a publicity-speaker, was aware of his Long John radio appearances. Made a slip and said that only pathologists would be given permission, had no retort when Crosby quickly cited Lattimer, the urologist/apologist, other than to say that Lattimer was the first to apply. Ned apparently did not point out that Kupferman had applied for Wecht and Helpert back in 1966. Marshall's excuse for not having replied yet to Wecht was that he had only one-third of a secretary at his disposal at present.

That is about all I remember of Ned's report. What really infuriated me was not so much BM's lame and self-contradicting "explanations" but Ned's attitude. He expressed fear that BM might let everyone who applied see the photos and X-rays, suggested that we should forestall such a decision by recommending a panel of forensic pathologists including Wecht, maybe Helpert, rejected my (sarcastic) nomination of Noguchi on the ground that he is "controversial", and had the crust to argue that we include on our panel Dr. Koritz, who was a member of the Russell Fisher Panel, for the sake of "balance" of the two opposing views! I really hit the ceiling--pointed out that the opposition had already had reviews by the 3 autopsy surgeons, the 4 on the Fisher panel, plus Lattimer, or a total of 8 vs NONE--that we had no reason to offer compromises or to pander to BM's proclivities or his prejudices, that we were entirely in the right and should not budget one inch, and that this is what I would tell Wecht if he asked me advice. Ned pointed out that Jerry Policoff had looked favorably on the idea of a panel--at which I again lost my temper and asked when Jerry had become a "maven" or words to that effect. At that point, Ned had to dash for his plane. I hope that Minnetonka received him with more enthusiasm than I felt.

As for Howard Hoffman being shaken up by my letter, yes, somewhat, but not enough to obviate a second letter in which he more or less renewed his (Weisberg's) earlier arguments, although indicating at the same time that he was reassessing the position and might yet change his mind.

Ed, I hope that you had a good journey and that you will be serene away from the world of the critics and pseudo-critics. I begin to think that I should wash my hands of the whole exasperating business and do my best to forget it. After all, I'm only a woman and cannot be expected to enter into the peculiar world of these male babies and lodge-brothers. Enough, enough! Be well, and let me hear from you when you have settled down. Very best wishes,

Sincerely,