

December 8, 1970

MEMO TO: Art Kevin
Jo Pomerance
~~Harold Weisberg~~ >
Cyril Wecht
John Nichols

Enclosed is a bad copy of a copy of an interview Art Kevin had with Ramsey Clark. As it so typifies the problems of intellectual dishonesty with which we are plagued on this anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, I felt it therapeutic (for me) to make a few comments thereon. The comments are keyed to numbers in the margin.

- 1) Baloney!!!
- 2) Unless, perhaps, they would reveal a shot from in front of JFK, a second and third gunman, etc.
- 3) He knows full well you didn't have to be in Dallas to be part of a conspiracy. This from a former AG!!
- 4) How many has Clark seen? As the Garrison case brought forth, many had been lost or destroyed.
- 5) Picked by Clark, and they destroyed their notes.
- 6) If the Kennedy family wishes to make them available.... and on a very subjective basis.
- 7) The official USSR report of Oswald and his wife is still top secret!!
- 8) Then why not let us look at them?

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BRANNEY CLARK TRANSCRIPT
11/30/70

INTERVIEW WITH ART KEVIN

IN THE COURSE OF THE HEARING REFERENCED, SENATOR JAMES EASTON MR. CLARK
TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS MADE THAT CLARK HAD MADE A STRONG STATEMENT
OVER ALL OF OFFICIAL WASHINGTON BECAUSE OF THE DREADED ALLEGATIONS HE
HES ON KEY PEOPLE:

CLARK

1) WELL, I DON'T BELIEVE HE EXERTS THAT KIND OF POWER. I DON'T SEE PEOPLE
AFRAID OF HIM...CERTAINLY I'M NOT. I DON'T SEE WHY OTHERS WOULD BE. HE
HAS A LOT OF INFORMATION...HE HAS TO HAVE A LOT OF INFORMATION DOESN'T
HE? THAT'S HIS BUSINESS...HE'S AN INVESTIGATOR. A LOT OF THE INFORMATION
IS STORED...PERHAPS THERE'S SOME THAT NEEDN'T BE STORED AND WE PROBABLY
NEED SOME PUBLIC METHOD OF PURGING FILES AND REPOSITORIES LIKE THAT.
A SOCIETY THAT WANTS TO BE FREE CAN NOT PERMIT THE ACCUMULATION NEED-
LESSLY OF INFORMATION THAT DOESN'T RELATE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR CRIMINAL
CONDUCT...AND WE HAVE TO CONSTANTLY BE AWARE OF THE PERILS OF LETTING THAT
HAPPEN. I HAVEN'T SEEN WITHIN MY EXPERIENCE ANY WRONGFUL USE OF SUCH
INFORMATION BY THE FBI...THERE HAVE BEEN QUESTIONS IN MY MIND, VERY
SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN SUCH USE, BUT I HAVEN'T
EVIDENCE OF IT. AS A LAWYER WITH SOME SENSE OF DISCIPLINE ABOUT THOSE
THINGS, I HAVE TO GO ON THE EVIDENCE...NOT ON SUSPICION.

KEVIN

WOULD YOU SAY THE SAME THING WOULD HOLD TRUE, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE IN-
FORMATION THAT IS NOW IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES REGARDING THE DEATH OF
PRESIDENT KENNEDY? I RECALL DURING THE GARRISON-SHAW INVESTIGATION THAT
THERE WAS CERTAIN INFORMATION THAT I BELIEVE YOU DID NOT WANT TO SEND
TO NEW ORLEANS?

CLARK

2
3
4) MR. GARRISON ENDEAVORED TO SUBPOENA THE AUTOPSY PHOTOS AND X-RAYS OF
PRESIDENT KENNEDY FOR USE IN HIS TRIAL. THEY COULD HAVE HAD NO POSSIBLE
RELEVANCE IN THE TRIAL. HE NEVER CLAIMED THAT BUT DEPENDANT CLARK SHOW
WAS EVEN IN DENIAL AND WHEN...
I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD HAVE...
REASONABLE THAT WAY. BUT MY'S HADN'T THE SAME KIND OF ACCESS...

REMEMBER PRESIDENT KENNEDY AID TO LET THEM BE USED CHEAPLY WOULD BE AN ACT OF COURAGE AND I WASN'T ABOUT TO DO IT. I THINK THE FAMILIES ENTITLED TO MORE THAN THAT AND THE BUREAU'S RECORDS IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT. THEY'VE BEEN EXAMINED BY SOME TOPNOTCH RADIOLOGISTS AND NEUROLOGISTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN SWORN STATEMENTS THAT THEY SUPPORT THE FINDINGS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION. I THINK THAT'S ADEQUATE.

KEVIN

WOULD YOU FAVOR ANY OF THAT INFORMATION IN THE ARCHIVES TROUGH BEING RELEASED BEFORE 2039, AS THE ORDER DECIDES?

CLARK

WELL, THE X-RAYS AND AUTOPSY PHOTOS WILL BE AVAILABLE...LET'S SEE...

IN ABOUT 2 YEARS I GUESS...I'VE FORGOTTEN THE PERIOD OF TIME REALLY...

IT'S FIVE YEARS FROM 1966. IT'D BE IN SEPTEMBER OF 1971...FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY BUT NOT FOR PUFFIN' ON PAGES OF A MAGAZINE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

IF WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY THAN THAT, WHY GOD HELP US. THE OTHER TWO TYPES OF INFORMATION THAT ARE IN THE ARCHIVES...

I HAVEN'T PERSONALLY REVIEWED...BUT THEY RELATE TO TWO SITUATIONS.

ONE: PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES MIGHT BE JEOPARDIZED BECAUSE THEY LIVE IN FOREIGN

COUNTRIES AND THEY SAID THINGS ABOUT CONDUCT THERE THAT THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THEY LIVE WOULDN'T FAVOR. IT HAS NO RELEVANCE HOWEVER TO WHAT HAPPENED IN DALLAS ON NOVEMBER 22ND, 1963. I THINK THAT'S WHAT THE PEOPLE

WHO REVIEWED THE MATERIAL SAY. YOU DON'T GO AROUND NEEDLESSLY JEOPARDIZING HUMAN LIFE LIKE THAT. THE OTHER IS INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WHO

LIVED IN NEW ORLEANS AND OTHER PLACES THAT MAY BE DEREGATORY OF THEIR CHARACTER, THEIR PERSONAL MORAL STANDARDS AND CONDUCT. AND IT'S ALWAYS

BEEN A PRINCIPLE OF OUR COUNTRY THAT INVESTIGATORS DON'T RELEASE INFORMATION THAT'S HARMFUL TO INDIVIDUALS THAT ISN'T ANY EVIDENCE OF A

CRIME. I THINK WE'VE GOT AN OBLIGATION TO STAY BY OUR PRINCIPLES. IT HAS NO RELEVANCE TO THE ASSASSINATION.

KEVIN

YOU ARE ASKING IF AS A SCIENTIFIC RECORD THAT WOULD BE HELD

OTHER THAN WHAT THE COMMISSION REQUIRED TO BE THE CASE?

RAMSEY CLARK page 3

CLARK

WELL, I'M NEVER CERTAIN...I'M A SKEPTIC. I THINK WE HAVE TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND ON ALL OF THESE THINGS. AND I THINK WE HAVE TO EXHAUST EVERY LEAD...RUN DOWN EVERY LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION. BUT I ALSO HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO BE REALISTIC AND IN MY JUDGEMENT THE WARREN COMMISSION MADE THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND EXHAUSTIVE STUDY OF A SET OF FACTS THAT'S EVER BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY MAN. AND THE EVIDENCE THAT THEY HAVE THAT SHOWS THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND HE ALONE ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT KENNEDY EXCEEDS THAT OF NEARLY ANY MURDER TRIAL CONDUCTED IN THE UNITED STATES.