

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: September 12, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Wick

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION
CONCERNING

PURPOSE:

To advise a letter dated 9/1/66, was received in the General Investigative Division 9/7/66, from Mr. William Crehan, who made inquiries concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. Bureau files are negative concerning Crehan.

BACKGROUND:

Crehan has inquired about recently published material on President Kennedy's autopsy and specifically referred to the first bullet that hit the President. He refers to the book "Inquest," by Edward J. Epstein and a review of this book, which appeared in the 7/8/66, issue of "Time" magazine. Crehan stated Epstein's book points out a vast divergency between the Warren Report's account of this bullet's course and the description revealed in our reports on 12/9/63, and a supplemental report of 1/13/64. Crehan mentioned "Time" magazine apparently resolved the puzzle, as on page E3 of the 7/8/66, issue of "Time" he quoted the comment "the FBI has long since acknowledged that it was in error on that point." He said he was unaware of this development and wanted to know: "1) Have you indeed disavowed your findings in the aforementioned reports?" and "2) If so, when was this retraction made public? The name and date of an appropriate publication would suffice here."

FACTS:

Our Agents attended the autopsy performed on the President at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda. They were orally advised by the examining physicians that an exit hole for the bullet entering the President's body could not be located. This information orally obtained from the physicians performing the autopsy was furnished to the Bureau and, thereafter, set forth in our 12/9/63 report. Following the examination of the President's clothing in our Laboratory,

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Enclosure - Sent 9-13-66
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Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

It was determined that a slit having the characteristics of an exit hole for a projectile was located in the front of the shirt worn by the President. This information was contained in our supplemental report of 1/13/64. In addition, the autopsy report orally furnished to our Agents was repeated in our 1/13/64, report in order to emphasize the apparent discrepancies between the oral autopsy report and our examination of the clothing, without making such a conclusion. Subsequently, and according to the Commission's report on pages 88 and 89, Commander Humes who conducted the autopsy concluded the bullet exited from the front portion of the President's neck that had been cut away by the tracheotomy. He confirmed this by consulting with Dr. Perry at Parkland Hospital in Dallas who said he had used the missile wound in the President's neck as the point of incision when the tracheotomy was performed.

The article in "Time" magazine was critical of Epstein. The article mentioned Epstein referred to two unpublished FBI reports dated 12/9/63, and 1/13/64, "which cast doubt on the single bullet theory." The article then revealed "Epstein ignores the fact that the FBI has long since acknowledged that it was in error on this point." The Crime Records Division has stated that such a statement has never been made at any time. It is also noted that no need has arisen to make any retraction as we accurately furnished all information received to the Commission.

ACTION:

The Commission's report clarifies the sequence of events surrounding the autopsy reports and is located in chapter three, pages 88 and 89. Information received by the Bureau was accurately reported to the President's Commission and we never made any retractions regarding investigative reports. Crehan is being so advised in a letter which is attached for approval.

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Frank
AV