

N E W S      R E L E A S E

FROM : Robert J. Joling, J.D., F.A.A.F.S., A.L.A.C.L.M.  
President, American Academy of Forensic Sciences

SUBJECT: Congressional Review & Inquiry into the Assassinations  
of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Dr. Robert J. Joling, President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, an independent organization of more than 1,500 forensic scientists, was in Washington, D.C. today.

Joling, who was an active midwestern trial lawyer for 20 years, for the past four years has been Associate Professor of Medical Jurisprudence at the College of Medicine at the University of Arizona in Tucson, is presently a Director/Consultant for Med-Sci-Law Internatinal Consultants in Medicine and Science as applied to law.

Emphasizing that he was not speaking at the moment as the official voice of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Joling stated that his personal convictions have led him to support a Congressional review of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Joling stated: "Due to the ever-increasing doubts and aspersions being cast upon the various local, state, and federal agencies resulting from the investigations of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy; and

By reason of serious questions of validity being raised by persons in high repute regarding the scientific data available; and

Because pertinent scientific questions are continuously being raised relative to each of the assassinations;

It would seem most appropriate, proper, and judicious that Congressional inquiry be made regarding the scientific data available in an attempt to establish the veracity of assertions of fact made by previous investigative bodies, to elicit the areas of uncertainty, as well as ambiguous, inaccurate, or unanswered questions arising by reason of previously conducted investigations relating to such assassinations; and

It would further appear to be most appropriate for the Congress of the United States to appoint a Committee to investigate these matters, utilizing its subpoena and contempt powers wherever necessary; and

It would seem appropriately judicious for the Congress of the United States to seek such assistance in the search for truth as appears necessary and proper, and to use the world's largest independent organized group of forensic scientists existent, with the expectation of thereby avoiding further charges, whether rightly or wrongly asserted, that findings by a governmental review committee or commission are untrustworthy because of the undue influence which might possibly be asserted by superiors, while at the same time avoiding the criticism of utilization of self-appointed experts, regardless of qualifications, who are favorably inclined to support a precluded position of asserted fact.

Recognizing that there is an odd assortment of skeptics existing within the United States, some asserting doubts which are scientifically reasonable and others fantasizing, at least, where scientifically possible, appropriate re-evaluation of existant evidentiary material should be made.

By voiding the obvious criticism of "selecting" politically obligated or favorably inclined examiners, experts, or government-employed specialists, and by utilization of an independent organization of forensic science encompassing multi-disciplined experts, whose sole purpose is to study and apply science to the purposes of the law, the Congress of the United States and the American citizens could be assured of final determinations which will be scientifically conclusive and proveable wherever truth is predicated, assured of factual statements whenever present, and yet be firm in the belief that any hypothesis will not be postulated as verity, and that areas wherein it is impossible to make a properly constructed scientific conclusion will be delineated without rancor or castigation.

Joling stated "In fairness to the officials in Los Angeles (RFK), and to the Warren Commission (JFK), wherever conclusions reached or asserted can be properly and scientifically substantiated by an independent organization, not beholden to any governmental body, they should forthrightly and conclusively be stated. On the other hand, whenever ambiguous, hypothetical, and speculative assertions have been predicated, these too, should be honestly reported and elucidated.

"There are very serious doubts in the minds of very serious forensic scientists the world over as to whether or not CE 399 (The single bullet) could have penetrated both President Kennedy and Governor Connally and retained its pristine characteristics. There are other similarly appropriately stated ballistic questions relating to the findings in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Only an independent, non-governmentally-controlled body of experts can really be relied upon to let the arrows of truth come to rest wherever that may be. Otherwise there will simply be another round of the investigators re-investigating their own investigations coupled with reported assertions in ad-man-like fashion, with the result of hoping for an aura of truthfulness again surrounding that which is already suspect."

I believe the world's largest independent organization of forensic scientists is available in resources and personnel, and capable of performing an extensive, as well as intensive, review of each of the assassinations of the past decade and a half.

The Congress of the United States of America is urged to adopt the necessary legislation to properly and conclusively review, insofar as is humanly possible, ALL of the evidence existant in the matters of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

In fact, such a Congressional Committee might well be able to contemporaneously study the need for divorcing all Crime Laboratories from police jurisdiction in order to create a healthier

environment for arriving at truthful scientific conclusions without fear of recrimination, retaliation, or pressures from superiors controlling job-destiny."

I am certain that some of the past Presidents of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences share my sentiments, and will join with me within the next few weeks in calling upon Congress of the United States to appropriately review these assassinations.