

10/3/36

Dear Mr. Lewis,

Although as you fear it is now too late for me to immediately do anything more on the autopsy, what you sent me is of considerable value. I do not believe my interest and activity is about to stop at this point.

I believe interest is about to escalate. I ~~have~~^{hope} what I have ~~not~~ opened is not made into a Pandora's Box by those who have both the capability and the interest. This possibility troubles me deeply, for there is the potential of a Reichstag Fire in all of this.

Your local reference is especially valuable.

It is not now and will not in the future be too late to use any material on this subject. It is only too late for my present writing. I believe this aspect may be more important than you believe, for there is now cooking a big diversion: produce the pictures, show the doctors were right, and the Report is kosher. No pictures today can be ~~xxx~~ credited, and even if they showed the wounds exactly as the autopsy doctors said, that would not in any sense validate the Report. I see evidences of this approach, and coming from some of the most suspect people.

Thank you very much for your help. It is helpful, as will anything similar you come across.

Sincerely,

Dear Mr. Weinberg

Thanks for the letter. Through an amazing oversight it was forwarded to me only a few days ago. Thus, by now it is probably too late to use any information on autopsies that I might have gotten. Still, I figured it would be better to make some effort. My results are meager. In the statute for Arizona, Colorado and New Jersey, provisions are made for a coroner (a possibly medical examiner), and his powers and duties outlined. No details are given as to autopsy procedures, beyond "taking all necessary measures to discover cause of death", and similar generalities. The only real detail appears in a list of information to be put on the death certificate. The Oakland coroner's office said that there are no specific medical requirements for the autopsy, & that the quality of work done varies from place to place. (Obviously!) They recommended Dr. Scott Carr, a pathologist, also recently wrote a good book. He would probably be a good man to see. I found it impossible to summarize all the details in Stumpsey, et al, as to autopsy procedure. It occupies a whole chapter (5), & is very explicit. Another doctor told me that in the state of Utah, still recently, "coroner conditions" were deplorable. Often a dead body would be found, abnormally murdered, and would be buried without an autopsy, & death listed as due to "natural but unknown causes".

①
 Sept 30, 1966

After a long fight, nearly a medical examiner system was introduced. The funeral director fought this. In one thing, autopsies are not compatible with "neurology". Also, the laws provided that the body remain at the scene of death until the Royal Commission arrived. In most cases, this might take an entire day, and the decomposition + preparation, also bad for the medicans.

I'm enclosing an article by Sir Carr, which will probably be of use whatever. Finally, in the July 1966 (vol. 11, no. 3) Journal of Forensic Science, there are several articles dealing with the Wilson Commission. If the address of the journal is

2/c Collyer + Co, 165 N. Archer Ave, Mundelein Illinois 60060]

In particular, one ~~part~~ article explained that of the three ^{of} autopsy programs, only Fink was qualified. The article was amended that the forensic pathologists were not consulted.

Well, this isn't very good a work. Fortunately, I am confident that the whole question is just a minor detail in your work. I hope everything turns out well.

Yours truly, Gene Lewis.