

1/6/70

Dr. John Nichols
Univ. Kansas Medical Center
Rainbow Blvd at 39th St.,
Kansas City, Kansas 64103

Dear John,

Your letter of January 3 disturbs me much. I do not think you are conscious of what you are doing, therefore I take the time to explain.

You begin, "I have recently obtained another autopsy sketch which is different from the one published in the Warren Report in that it has 'Verified by G.G. Barkley' on it...Is this identical with the aberrant one you have?"

There is only one such. When Behmer wrote you he didn't have it he did not lie. I forced it out, as part of a longrange program of work I outlined to you in Silver Spring in the Spring of 1966. I have made a copy of your letter of April 6, 1968 and marked on it your identification of this as what I then showed you. As you know, I was open and forthright with you on your promise that you would not make any use of anything I made available to you. I had quite a batch of documents with me, aside from the one of ROBT MORTON, which I loaned you--and you were the first to see it.

When you earlier asked me for unpublished material and I wrote and told you I wanted to preserve my work for my own use, you replied under date of 8/21/67: "Reading copy of my letter to you of July 29 reveals that I did, in fact, ask you for material you have collected in relation to the Kennedy autopsy. I am aghast at this". You go on to say you would not use any of my material until after my work is printed.

Because you had given me your word, I continued to do what I could to help you, for the more each of us understands, the better he can perform, and we all want but to develop and achieve acceptance of the truth. For example, you wrote me July 1, 1968, "I am embarrassed by the confidence you show in me by sending me copies of the unpublished FBI correspondence, etc., relating to the Connally X-rays. They will stay locked in my files."

Now it is a simple matter to follow along behind me and pick up what I show you, as it is to pick up what I generate, I depended upon your word that you would not. You seem to have forgotten it. This is also true of the autopsy authorization. If you reread the letter you wrote me about that and put yourself in my position, I think you might feel there was a blackjack. You had tried to get this and failed. It was not where you could possibly have gotten it. Because I had your word, I showed it to you so you could understand it. Then you write me and tell me that if I do not give it to you, you will write to the Archives and get it. I had told you about this. Under date of 10/5/67 you wrote, "I am happy that you have found the autopsy authorization permission but, of course, I would have preferred to have found it myself."

When we met in Washington, I told you I would file a suit against the government as soon as I could get a lawyer. You said you also would. I suggested we combine forces and you never responded. When you wrote me I asked you this in writing and again you didn't respond. You had the lawyer, I didn't. I had the material, you didn't. It seemed to me to be a fair offer. Now you are gradually pre-empting my material. Now, as you know, we are preparing our own suit, based entirely on my own work. I really think you have enough of your own without taking what you know to be mine and more, there is no need to if your purpose is to establish truth and end this evil thing government is doing.

So, I am asking you not to use this Burkley thing, not to use the autopsy authorization, not to use any of the other things you picked up from POST MORTEM (where both, incidentally, are). This is not simply a matter of wanting the rights to my own work, which is not unreasonable. It is not expecting you to keep your word only, either. There is much more to these things than you know, and your using them will arouse up something that will make you ashamed of yourself later. I have done an extensive work here and I now do not have time to lay it all out to you but, under the circumstances, think it is better for you if I do not. I also encourage you, most strongly, not to make any reference of any sort, no matter how indirect, including in your brief, for you can end something that right now I can assure you has been very productive.

Bud and I have both been disturbed at what we, for different reasons, believe to be weaknesses in your suit. Your new lawyers, in our belief, are correct. You may recall I told you I am familiar with the language, "may", you cited and suggested to you it would be wiser not to interpret it that way. We are not. We have definitive rejections on some material that Bud says, as a matter of law, are all we need, but we are not stopping there. We are trying to close every possible loophole. Which takes time. And patience.

As you know, I want to help you. You should realize that I laid aside my own work, which is important to me, to spend quite a bit of time helping you. I do not suggest this is a personal thing. I did it because I felt it was my responsibility to do it. I am prepared to help you in every way I can. But at the same time, I do not want to be in the position of having you forget your promises to me and using in either writing or court what you would not have had but for my work and what you gave me your word you would not, under any circumstances use until my books were out. There have been occasions when I made an exception, as in New Orleans. But this is not a comparable case and besides, as you knew from the time we met, I plan to use this material in my own suit. There is a special context, John, believe me, in addition to everything else.

On the other hand, let me assure you that I have no plans for using anything you sent me. The one thing that comes close to fitting is, first of all, something Dick and I were working on independently, and second of all, as of now it does not fit in my continuing work on the autopsy. In this case you did what I had asked Dick to do and he didn't. It comes from my own work, which is dated and goes back to well before you sent this to me. In addition, I have everything you sent me identified as coming from you so I cannot make a mistake by accident. This relates to your pictures of the casings. Dick can show you my letters on this, which are dated in advance of your work. However, as I say, I have no present plans for it. At the same time, some of the things you have sent me have helped my understanding and that is good for me. I appreciate it. But there is a vast difference between helping understanding and helping yourself to the work of others for which they have plans.

All the offers of help I made you still stand. I will do what I can. But I also expect you to keep the word you gave which is the basis of all.

Sincerely,

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All the offers of help I made you still stand. I will do what I can. But I also expect you to keep the word you gave which is the basis of all.

Sincerely,

1/7/70

Gary and Dick,

Enclosed are an exchange of letters with John. I haven't kept Dick posted, not to bother him, but as Gary knows, the signs increase that John is off either on an ego trip and with a messianic complex where he alone is the salvation of the world.

Gradually he has been pre-empting material I told him about on his promise to leave it alone, so I could use it. I believe it is wrong, I don't like it and, regrettably, there is too much chance of his fucking up what he doesn't really understand. He takes a piece of this and a piece of that and each is a thing unto himself to him.

While he has been busily helping himself to my stuff, he is also obsessed with a fear that I am stealing his.

We are a strange lot.

But I must stop this. It is not only a question of my self-respect, where I've just got to stop people from screwing me. Nor is it alone that this thing, endless as it is, is rough on my nerves, which are not as good as they were. Nor is it that when there is no end, how can a reasonable man keep on trying to help others. Above all it is because he just doesn't know enough and his suits is rather poorly done so far. I think it was not alone what I showed him that persuaded Bud, after declining for more than a year, to file suits for me. It is his lawyer's deep concern for the obvious flaws in Johns. That is all that required that very extensive job I did for him during the summer. Neither he nor his lawyers are competent to do it, nor are they sharp enough to have spotted what to me was obvious.

This is a disappointment to me, for not only did John give me his spoken word, he put it in writing. I have not given him back all his own words, just what I consider should be enough. I find it hard to believe he simply forgot, even if I phrased it this way. That also troubles me.

As Dick knows, when we wanted to help him and he said he was doing an article for LOOK, he'd have none of it. He is a plain hog. Unhappy as this makes me, I will still help him if I can - but only if he starts acting honorably. I was sick when I did that work during the summer, and it has palced an added burden of unfinished work on me. He has plenty where he did his own work, plenty where he'll be using the work of others where I did not care, without the open, blackmailing theft of what I worked so hard to get - and without this work it still would not exist.

I am sending these to you only. I hope you are in accord with what I told him. As Gary knows, I've been on the verge of it for some time. When you are here again, Dick, you'll see what he is about to ruin. I think it is the best thing we've gotten to date, and that is also the legal opinion.

Dick, Howard has made three enlargements for me of the end of 399 from his picture. I'm enclosing one. By the way, the Archives has written Howard that John has duplicated this on me, too. I showed him the pictures. It blew his mind. Howard may have sent Dick a carbon....It makes me feel rotten....When you get the print of 399, please xerox a copy for me so I can compare it and see if it is identical with mine. I think my letter ordering a new one may have facilitated their "finding" of the missing picture, but this may not be the case. They've had plenty of time to be in touch with me and weren't. Hurriedly.

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UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER

RAINBOW BOULEVARD AT 39TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66103 AREA CODE 913 236-5252

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

PATHOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY
UNIV. KANSAS MED. CENTER

JAN 3 3 57 PM '70

FURNISHED

Harold Weisberg, Esq.,
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Harold:

I have recently obtained another autopsy sketch which is different from the one published in the Warren Report in that it has "Verified by G. G. Burkley" on it as you can see from the enclosed Thermofax. Is this identical with the aberrant one you have?

Earlier today we had some changes in my legal advisors. The one who has been dragging his feet will now have only a minor position. My other two counsel think it too risky to go to court without having exhausted the "administrative remedies". We will now do this. How long will it take?

Sincerely,

ATOPSY DESCRIPTIVE SHEET

NAS PATH-8 (1-53)

AUTOPSY

NMS / A 63121 DATE 11-22-63 HR. STARTED _____ HR. COMPLETED _____

NAME: _____ RANK/RATE _____

DATE/HOUR EXPIRED: _____ WARD _____ DIAGNOSIS _____

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: RACE: _____ Obtain following on babies only:

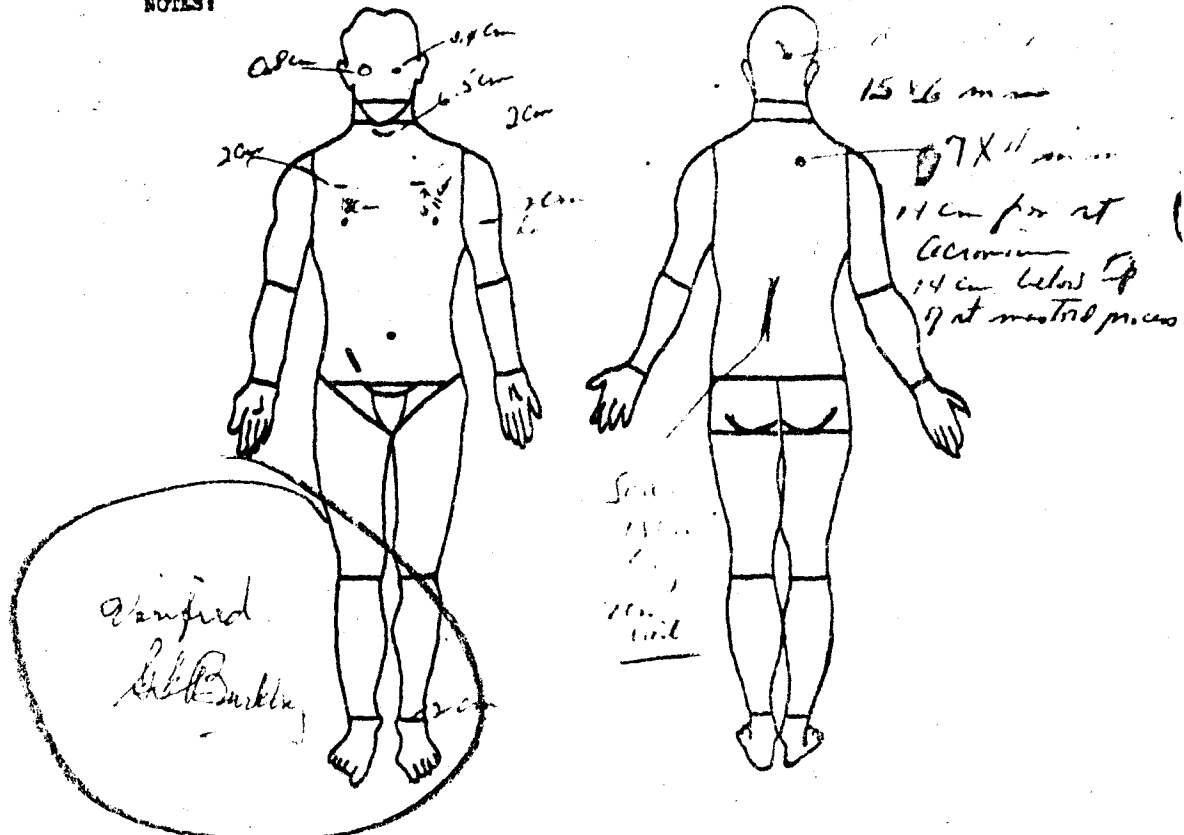
Height _____ in. Weight _____ lb. Hair _____ Color _____
 Color eyes _____ Pupil (R) _____ mm, (L) _____ mm Crown-rump _____ in.
 Crown-heel _____ in. Circumference: Head _____ in. Chest _____ in.
 Abdomen _____ in.

WEIGHTS: (Grams, unless otherwise specified)

LUNG, RT. 300 <u>330</u>	KIDNEY, RT. <u>1305</u>	ADRENALS, RT. _____
LUNG, LT. 300 <u>290</u>	KIDNEY, LT. <u>140</u>	ADRENALS, LT. _____
BRAIN _____	LIVER <u>150</u>	PANCREAS _____
SPLEEN <u>90</u>	HEART <u>50</u>	THYROID _____
THYMUS _____	TESTIS _____	OVARY _____

HEART MEASUREMENTS: A 7.5 cm. P 7 cm. T 12 cm. X 10 cm.
 LVM 1.5 cm. RVM .4 cm.

NOTES:



Pathologist _____