

Mr. Joe Peplinski
PO Box 397
Vail, CO 81658

8/23/94

Dear Mr. Peplinski,

I can think of at least two reasons my friend Cyril Wecht did not respond to your questions. If he got it, I think he has not been cornered for some time.

One is he just does not have that kind of time, as I also do not when I'm 81, in poor health and have much work I still want to do. Another is the danger of getting involved in assassination mythologies.

I know of no reason to suspect that those that are said to be the assassination autopsy pictures are faked. If you were familiar with my writing you would know that the pictures and X-rays destroy the official assassination mythology. Can you imagine anyone taking the time and running the great risk of faking such evidence to come up with what disproves the official story rather than supporting it? Makes no sense.

I stay away from all the theories and what amounts of myths, regardless of the intentions of those who make them up and palm them off as fact.

Which, alas, is true of most of the books you can get.

In the early days there was a basis for such thinking but that has not been true for many years.

Publishing that kind of rot deceives and misleads the people and serves to protect those who did all that is so wrong.

If the books you've read were any good at all, really informative, you would not now be preoccupied with the questions you addressed to Wecht.

As you requested, I enclose our price list.

Please excuse my brevity. I really do not have time for more on this.

Best wishes,


Harold Weisberg

Thanks for your kind comments about Case Open.

P.O. Box 397
Vail, CO 81658
August 18, 1994

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I just finished reading your book, Case Open, and want to thank you for doing what I hope is something several people wanted to do after reading Case Closed. Mr. Posner's book is an insult to the intelligence of the American people and deserves to be exposed as such.

Since the assassination, when I was eleven years old, I have been interested in the developments surrounding the case. I had read Six Seconds In Dallas while in high school and attended a lecture and showing of the Zapruder Film while in college. However, I became a serious student of the crime only about five years ago when I chanced upon a book on the assassination in a book store and decided to buy it. Since then, I have visited Dallas, collected over two dozen books and several hours of video tape on the subject.

Unfortunately, most of the books provide repetitious fill in order to expand on one or two new bits of information. However, comparing the "facts" as they are presented by several different sources has become an irresistible hobby of mine. This hobby has created some questions about the autopsy pictures that perhaps you can help me with.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter that I tried to send to Dr. Wecht. When I sent it via certified mail, it was refused. I was then able to have the letter hand delivered to Dr. Wecht's office by Mr. Pelkofer, an attorney in Pittsburgh, who knows Dr. Wecht and happens to be the father of a young woman who works for my wife. To date, I have not received a response from Dr. Wecht. In hindsight, I can understand, because of Dr. Wecht's professional position and exposure, why he might be hesitant to respond to my letter, especially with no knowledge of who I might be and what my intentions are.

Please take the time to review the enclosed letter and the photographs it refers to. If there is something of substance in my questions, possibly, because of your relationship with Dr. Wecht, you could present these queries to him. If my concerns are unfounded, please let me know why.

I have several other questions about the assassination, but expect that most of them could be answered by reading your

books. Even though I have collected several books on the subject, except for Case Open, I don't have any of your works. Please send me a price list and/or an order form so that I can purchase the same.

Thank you for your time. I eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Peplinski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Peplinski

RECEIPT

of the addressee,

of this receipt, if
11.

105603-g*

100, A.

May 26, 1994

Joe Peplinski
P.O. Box 397
Vail, CO 81658
303-949-5265

Dr. Cyril Wecht
Chief Coroner
Allegheny County
542 4th Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Dr. Wecht:

Over the past five years I have read over twenty books on the assassination of President Kennedy and accumulated several hours of video tape on the subject. This, by no means, makes me an expert on the assassination. My study of the crime, however, has led to a question that I feel can best be addressed by you. Please be kind enough to consider responding to the following concern.

Would there be any reason, during the photographing of the president's body at the autopsy, that the head brace that supported the president's head would be changed for a different style of head brace?

In several of the books that I have, there are reprints of what are supposedly the official autopsy photographs. What I have noticed is that there appear to be three, and possibly four different head rests, or braces in use in four different pictures. In all of my readings, this issue is addressed only once, and then in less than 150 words.

In Robert J. Groden's new book, THE KILLING OF A PRESIDENT, The Complete Photographic Record of the JFK Assassination, The Conspiracy, and the Coverup, the pictures mentioned above seem to be of the best quality. These pictures, supposedly of the president's head, on Pages 72, 76, 82, and 83, all show a different head rest, or brace. The picture on Page 83 doesn't show the president's head on a brace, but what appears to be some type of head rest seems to be under the wrist of the person holding the president's head.

The head rest, or brace in the picture on Page 76 looks similar to the head rest or brace under the person's arm on Page 83. However, a more washed out exposure of what appears to be the same picture as that on Page 76 can be found in Harrison Edward Livingston's book, HIGH TREASON 2, labeled "The Stare-of-Death photograph (F1), in the picture section that follows Page 224 of the text. In this picture, it appears that the head rest, or brace, is connected by some type of arm to the autopsy table, whereas the picture

on Page 83 shows the head rest to be some type of block or chock. Not enough of the head rests are visible in either picture to determine if they are one in the same, but enough is shown to definitely see that they are different than those shown on Pages 72 and 76.

Another curiosity that crops up is that the wound labled "Devil's Ear" on the photograph labled "The Groden Superior Right Profile (G1), in HIGH TREASON 2, which appears to be the same photograph as that on Page 82 of THE KILLING OF A PRESIDENT, seems to be in the same location as the prongs of the head rest shown in the picture on Page 76.

I understand that my question, or concern, can be answered in several different ways:

1. The pictures published in the books are not true copies of the official autopsy photographs. Some may be copies of unofficial pictures taken of the body during or immediately after the autopsy, or possibly at Parkland. The body was moved to a different table for embalming, but no official photographs were taken after the body was moved.

2. The pictures published in the books are true copies of the official autopsy photographs, and for some reason, the head rests, or braces, were changed during the picture taking session.

3. The pictures published in the books are true copies of the official autopsy photographs, and the body was moved to a different autopsy table or tables for the different photographs.

4. The pictures published in the books are true copies of the official autopsy photographs, and the official photographs have been doctored.

You have been able to view the official autopsy pictures that are in The National Archives. Only someone that can view the official photographs in the National Archives can determine if the pictures that have been published in the above mentioned books are true copies.

Issues 2 and 3 above can be answered by the autopsy record of procedure, if such a thing exists. In reviewing my material, I have not been able to find any statement that the head rests were changed, or that the body was moved during the picture taking. I have read that the body was moved to a different table for embalming, but no official autopsy photos were taken after the body was moved to this table.

I realize I am oversimplifying a bit, but if Items 1, 2, and 3 above can be ruled out, it only leaves Item 4. Regardless

of the arguments for and against the possible doctoring of the autopsy photos, the appearance of two or three different head rests when there should only be one should mean that all of the pictures are not necessarily of the president, but have been altered to look like the president.

Your input on my questions would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Joe Peplinski', written in dark ink.

Joe Peplinski