December 15, 1969

Mr. Richard Kleindienst
Deputy Attorney General
The Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kleindienst,

Because I never did get a reply from your Department in response to a number of requests going back most of a year, and because you did respond to my attorney's letter to the Attorney General, if that required almost three months I am directing this request to you, assuming you to be the proper person and in the hope you will order compliance with the time specifications of the "Freedom of Information Act".

You are, no doubt, familiar with the two medical reports released by your department the night before the hearing in Judge Halleck's court on the action brought by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison in his successful petition to have access to the pictures and X-rays of the autopsy performed on President Kennedy made available to him. These medical reports were made to your department by the autopsy surgeons in 1967 and by a special panel convoked by your department, in 1968, and, in final form, were filed in court.

I am writing to request access to the raw materials of these reports. By this I mean notes, rough drafts, final panel drafts, individual reports by any of the panel members or advisors and relevant correspondence and memoranda, etc. If, as I have reason to believe, the report of the special panel was edited, I would like to know by whom and on whose orders. By "panel" here, I mean both groups, and by notes and memoranda, I also mean to include any minutes of their meetings, deliberations, comments, etc. In the event some of this was verbal, I also would like anything committed to paper as a result or in persuance of requests not made in writing and responses. If either panel made requests for evidence either denied or not made available and there is no written record, I hope you will enquire into this, because of the nature of the subject, and tell me what was not made available, by whose decision or order, and why.

If you will look into this, you will find that material described above was made public by your department when it suited departmental purposes or convenience.

I would like to be able to examine these files and, if they are useful in my writing and research, perhaps obtain electrostatic copies of parts.

Because it may slip your mind, I take the liberty of reminding you that the "Freedom of Information Act" does require prompt response. I hope in this instance it will be done.

Thanks for taking care of this.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg