1111 SW 16th Ave., Apt. 156
Gainesville, Fla. 32601

December 8, 1976

Freedom of Information Privacy Act Unit
Office of Management and Finance
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Sirs:

This letter concerns a Freedom of Information Act request that I have had pending at the Department of Justice since September 7, 1976. The request concerned records relating to the photographs and X rays taken at the autopsy of President Kennedy, and subsequent transfers of these materials.

In a letter of November 22, 1976, James P. Turner, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, informed me that my original request, dated September 7, 1976, had been referred to the Criminal Division and the FBI for appropriate action. The FBI has already contacted me concerning my request; I have yet to hear anything from the Criminal Division.

It is now clear that my request, which was as detailed and as precise as I could make it, has not received serious consideration at the Department of Justice. Although in my letter of request I included relevant names from both the office of the Attorney General and the Office of Legal Counsel, my request was forwarded to neither of those offices. Some of my requests were specific enough that they could have been easily complied with simply by going to the proper office, as, for example, with my request for a letter dated October 5, 1966 to Dr. Robert Bahmer from Harold F. Reis, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General.

These autopsy materials were of considerable interest to the Department of Justice. It is inconceivable to me that there are not extensive records relating to them, including but not limited to the transfer of them to the Kennedy family in April 1965, the subsequent transfer back to the government in October 1966, and examinations of the materials arranged by the Attorney General in 1967 and 1968. I know for a fact that some such records exist because the National Archives has provided me with copies of its own set which, on its face is incomplete.

I enclose a copy of my original request dated September 7, 1976. The three month delay in compliance with what should be a relatively simple, if broad, request has considerably obstructed my research. If I do not receive a meaningful response to my request, including response from all offices which might have relevant records and some certification that all relevant files have been checked, not merely a "central index," within 10 working days--as the law requires--then please be informed that I shall file suit in the appropriate United States District Court in Florida to compel compliance.

Sincerely,

Howard Roffman