FWL

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

November 9, 1976

Freedom of Information Officer
Public Information Office
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In a letter to this office dated September 7, 1976, I made a lengthy and detailed Freedom of Information Act request concerning the pictures and X-rays taken at the autopsy on President Kennedy. This office forwarded a copy of my letter to the FBI, although it was apparent on the face of my letter that many of the documents I sought would not be found in the filesoof the FBI. Clarence Kelley informed me by letter dated September 30, 1976, that it would be quite some time before the FBI could get to my request because of a large backlog. In a letter dated October 5, 1976, I informed Mr. Kelley that although I was willing to wait a reasonable amount of time for the FBI to check its files, I expected my request to be forwarded to other offices within the Justice Department to comply with my request for documents not in the FBI's files. Mr. Kelley responded by letter dated November 5, 1976, that it is "incumbant upon" me to file my request with the Government agency I desire.

Thus, I am back to this office after two months with no substantive response to a request under a law that requires a response within 10 working days. Under the Act, I am free at any time in the future to file a suit in federal district court to compel compliance. I would prefer to avoid litigation and hope that the Department of Justice likewise does not wish to put me and the government to what ought to be a needless expense.

Thus, I have enclosed a copy of my original request of September 7, 1976. I expect a substantive response to it from the Department of Justice within 10 working days plus mailing time. I also expect that no copy will be forwarded to the FBI, which already has a copy.

Sincerely,

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

enclosure