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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST No. 27, 441

November 9, 1976

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Kelley:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 5, 1976, concerning my Freedom of Information Act Request relating to records involving the photographs and X-rays taken at the autopsy on President Kennedy.

You will recall that my original request dated September 7, 1976, was sent to the Freedom of Information Officer of the Department of Justice. For some reason which I do not understand, my request was forwarded to the FBI alone, although the FBI's files surely do not contain many of the records that I had requested. I pointed this out to you in a letter dated October 5, 1976, and asked you to get my request back into channels so that I could get the quick compliance that the law demands. I expressed my desire that the FBI search its own records for relevant documents.

Your letter of November 5 tells me that "it will be incumbant upon" me to "designate (my) requests directly" to the agencies whose files I want searched. That is precisely that I did in initiating my request. Furthermore, if it is my responsibility to reroute my request after the agency to which I directed it improperly routed it, then the law certainly puts a responsibility on you to so inform me within 10 working days and not the month that you took.

I have already been delayed over two months in my pursuit for these documents of great historical as well as current importance. The delay that I have experienced certainly thwarts the spirit and letter of the law mandating prompt disclosure. I have re-directed my request to the Department of Justice and, in the meantime, hope that the FBI can do something about its alleged backlog so that it can search its files for records relevant to my request.

Sincerely,

Howard Roffman
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Gainesville, Fla. 32601