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May 23, 1966

Mr. James J. Rowley, Chief
U.S. Secret Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rowley,

Enclosed is a copy of my book, WHITEWASH - THE REPORT ON THE WARREN REPORT. In it you will find numerous references to the Secret Service that I believe require your immediate, forthright and unequivocal explanation. You will also find that there are apparently irreconcilable and vital disagreements between the official account of the President's wounds and what would appear to be unassailable evidence, such as the autopsy chart, one of the early autopsy papers not burned, the holes in the President's garments, the sworn testimony of the Secret Service's official observer, etc. Especially with the assassination of a President of the United States, no question can ever remain unanswered.

As you know and as the autopsy doctors testified, they took dozens of photographs and Xrays of the President's body. The undeveloped photographs, they say, they immediately turned over to the Secret Service, to which they also handed the Xrays upon completion of their examination. None of these are in the Commission's record, none were used by the doctors in either their preparations for testimony or during their testimony. Today I was informed by the National Archives that these photographs and Xrays are in the possession of the Secret Service.

If there is any question of the propriety of publication of the photographs, this certainly cannot relate to their examination by the press and qualified analysts. Nor, would it seem, would this apply to the Xrays. Certainly no question of national security would seem to be involved. I therefore ask that I be permitted to examine this evidence immediately. I also inform you that my primary interests are in learning whether the President's non-fatal injury in the posterior was in the neck or the back and whther Dr. Robert N. McClelland's insistence that the President had a "gunshot wound of the left temple" is correct.

Furthur, on page 187 of my book you will find the certification of Dr. James J. Humes that he "destroyed by burning" some of the autopsy papers that were in his possession. There is nothing that I have found in a rather exhaustive examination of the record to reveal any Secret Service interest in or apprehension of the destruction of any such vital and historic records. I am now asking for your explanation of how the Secret Service could have permitted such a thing to happen.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg