

In any murder the autopsy is essential to a solution of the crime and its punishment. No less is this true when a President is murdered. Throughout my writing I have referred to this autopsy as a dubious inquest. The dictionary definition of "dubious" is "doubtful", "uncertain", "of questionable character". No autopsy serves its intended purpose, that of a post mortem examination to determine the cause of death, if it leaves in doubt what it need not, if it does not seek the cause or causes and examines them, if it is uncertain where there need be no uncertainty.

Aside from determining the cause of death, it is expected that the autopsy report will be a definitive, medico-legal statement of what happened to the degree possible to man and science. This autopsy and the report on it are not helpful and not dependable because they lack the essential character of official, criminal, legal inquiry and are not positive. Rather than defining what really happened, as dissection of the President's body disclosed it, this autopsy and its report put questions where there should have been answers. There is nothing in it that really adds to knowledge. Instead, it raises additional doubts and creates confusion. The essence of available fact is not in the report.

Searching for clues to the questions the Report substitutes for answers, I went to the appropriate Commission files. There was no alternative. With 26 large volumes for evidence (and even this enormity was not a limitation externally imposed upon the Commission), the essential evidence of the autopsy and what relates to it are not included in the estimated 10,000,000 words in these volumes, as it also is not in the literary vastness of 900 pages, the verbal expanse of the Report.

It is not in the files, either. Had the Commission published every word in its appropriate files, there would be no essential, affirmative knowledge added to the deficient, inadequate and incomplete material it did

publish. Negative evidence is there in abundance. To that we shall return.

This statement is based upon a belief that should be warranted but is not: that the files were not gutted. They were.

Those whose writing careers have been advanced by their joyous escapes from reality, and who pretend to have told the truth about the assassination or to have (dispassionately assessed) the writings critical of the investigation of the assassination, have not sought the essence in the files or are of contemptible, unspeakable dishonesty - or both. They need only have thumbed through File J.F.K. 4-1 to learn the real truth of the assassination investigation, that it was a whitewash, a put-up job. Had they added to this less than an hour of reading a little more and examined the four categories under "Connolly, John B.", requiring less than an additional hour - and had they been looking for truth, not propaganda, they would have learned that these files are but tinselled window-dressing for the ~~xx~~ overanxious-to-believe yokels of high station.

File J.F.K. 4-1 is "Autopsy". It is on the second sheet of the "file classification" discussed in the Introduction. First is that on the Texas Governor. Typically, as though cunning gremlins with a deft touch were setting the stage for what was to ensue, each of the three spellings of the Governor's name is incorrect. His name has an "a" in it, but not in the "file classification" where ^{it is replaced by another "o".} ~~his "o" is doubled instead.~~

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It is symptomatic that when, after almost four years, I got a copy of this classification, no one had corrected the only-wrong spellings of his name. That is the way it is with the evidence, as it was with the investigation: nobody corrected the obvious, original errors.

Each of the four categories under wrong-^{spelled} ~~named~~ "Connolly" is vital in study of "J.F.K. 4-1." The doctrine under which the Commission labored, the pre-determination it imposed upon itself, that Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone and unassisted assassin, permits no alternative. That single-bullet nightmare holds us all captive, as it did the Commission. The only escape

is probing and prodding all the available evidence.

For the government there now is no repair. It has done what it ~~has~~ has done. For all its might, power and influence - unequalled in history - it has rendered itself impotent as all the king's horses and all the king's men. Its investigation and its Report are like Humpty Dumpty.

For others, for national integrity, for ^{a/}free and honorable future, there is the possible escape of truth - truth about the investigation, about the fact of the assassination.

Search for this truth in the files begins with futility of the Report, in which it is absent, and ends with the emptiness of the gutted files.

The answers to the questions that were not answered and too often were never asked are not in the autopsy file nor in the Connally files. Each of the Connally categories is pertinent because the single-bullet conclusion of the Report cannot be separated from the autopsy examination and its report. These divisions are "Shooting", "Injuries-Wounds", "Treatment at Parkland Memorial Hospital", and "Interviews".

But the incompleteness of the Connally files and the gutting of the autopsy file are not the fault of the prosecutor and his assistants. These are independent of and separate from the autopsy deficiencies. They are staff responsibilities and official actions and, I fear, had this been a competent, thorough autopsy and report, the same thing would have happened, perhaps more of it. By accident or design, there was a conspiracy against evidence. Whether or not the manifestation of the invisible but omnipresent hand of a guiding genius, something always happened to the evidence and the Commission never did anything about it.

In some cases, the Commission itself is responsible for what happened to the best of the available and conceivable evidence - did to it what was done. In other cases, it tolerated what should never have been done and never should have been tolerated. It happened, because of the nature and

function of the autopsy, that much of this is part of or related to the autopsy.

For example, there is ^{the} ~~this~~ so-called "found" bullet, whose public record is consistent with only a design for it to be "found", with its having been planted. It bears the unmistakable marks of the rifle said to have been Oswald's; that we cannot question. That these marks are as distinctive as fingerprints we also must accept. This, ~~however~~, is neither legal nor logical evidence that this particular bullet was used in the crime. That it was is an assumption without proof or even the effort at developing proof. All the pertinent evidence, such as its almost pristine condition, is that this bullet could not conceivably have had ~~the~~ history officially bestowed upon it, not if its biographers had been Grimm, Anderson, Mother Goose and Jules Verne, all collaborating and at the pinnacle of their powers.

Misused, as it was, this Bullet 399 became important, as a link to Oswald, which it could have been and was not, and from him to the assassination, which ^{if it} might have been proven, ~~but~~ was not attempted. Failure to seek proofs of this connection is fairly interpreted as indicating that those making the decision knew it would turn out otherwise, that it would prove Oswald was being framed.

When Robert A. Frazier, experienced FBI firearms expert, testified about this bullet, to some of the most competent and experienced lawyers who could be assembled, his testimony was significantly evasive, in keeping with the character of the questioning, which was designed for this type of response. Beginning on page 161 of WHITEWASH, I discuss the evidence of the "finding" of this bullet and the science applied to it.

Everything went wrong with the evidence about this bullet as it never should have and never, normally, could have. Examples are the destruction of the evidence mutely borne by Governor Connally's unwanted clothing, or

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the immediate and continuing suppression of the spectrographic analysis. These two capers would have been disasters for the government in court, where opposing counsel would have adduced the pertinent and painfully obvious evidence that the abnormalities are so suspicious they are indicative of collusion and conspiracy, to frame. Had this been a case in court, not before a one-sided Commission, neither the destruction nor the suppression of evidence would have been dared.

When Frazier was on the stand he testified that this bullet had been wiped clean. Not entirely, 100% clean, for there remained residues. But clean enough so that he had no additional cleansing to perform prior to making a study of whatever it is that he studied. His testimony does not inform us. It is ~~merely that bullets~~ merely that bullets are of lead, as a child not blessed with training in the FBI's academy knows.

From his testimony, what Frazier did not on his own do, and what the Commission did not order him or the FBI to do, was the obvious requirement: make a study, at even that too-late date, to determine the nature of the residues. It is quite obvious that the FBI knew the hand-to-hand, pocket-to-pocket history of this bullet, as reported in the fantasy presented as evidence. Someone in the FBI or on the Commission, either of its staff or membership, should have ordered tests to determine whether these were human residues. This bullet is said to have gone through the President once, the Governor twice and partly a third time. Was there corroborating evidence?

Frazier certainly knew, as did others in the FBI whose job it was to know, how this bullet got to the FBI in Washington, as ~~was~~ an earlier chapter reveals. Knowing this seemingly haphazard, ~~aimless~~ journey in detail that is denied most of us, Frazier nonetheless avoided saying in his testimony that, by accident, the residues had been wiped from the bullet during transit. His words are "The bullet was clean". Asked by Assistant Counsel Melvin Eisenberg, "There was no blood or similar material on the bullet wher

you received it?" (WHITEWASH 163), Frazier avoided direct answer, saying instead, "Not that would interfere with the examination, no sir."

Those of us equipped with less science than the FBI's firearms expert might, naively, consider that the purpose of "examination" would include, ~~if it would not be for just that purpose,~~ determination of whether there was "blood or similar material" on a bullet said to have inflicted seven injuries on two different men (whose blood types were not state secrets) and to have smashed, splintered and adhered to bones in three parts of the body of one of these men.

Shortly after this testimony, Eisenberg returned to Frazier's less than fully informative remark with less than a Perry/Mason ~~zeal~~ zeal. He asked, "You also mentioned there was blood or some other substance on the bullet marked 399, Is that an offhand determination, or was there a test

~~(This is not callousness, calling a President's blood and tissue "materials; it is science. The FBI is very scientific. Its science is impersonal, particularly impersonal when ^{white} President John F. Kennedy was concerned.)~~

tireless quest for truth and justice comes from television and not the hearings of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, may be surprised that this, so far as Counsel Eisenberg is concerned, is the full discharge of his responsibilities. He is not without reason to so regard it for the attendance at that hearing on Tuesday, March 31, 1964 (3H390ff), included:

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 the Chief Justice-Chairman and Commission Members, Representative Hale Boggs and John J. McCloy, his employers on our behalf; the former Solicitor General of the United States, J. Lee Rankin, then Commission general counsel; Leon Jaworski, billed as special counsel to the attorney general of Texas;

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"No," Frazier replied, "there was no test made of the materials."
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Those whose concept of the diligence of American lawyers in their tireless quest for truth and justice comes from television and not the hearings of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, may be surprised that this, so far as Counsel Eisenberg is concerned, is the full discharge of his responsibilities. He is not without reason to so regard it for the attendance at that hearing on Tuesday, March 31, 1964 (3H390ff), included:

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other staff members, including Norman Redlich; and two gentlemen whose booking is ambiguous: "Charles Murray and Lewis Powell, observers", who, in the non-fairy tale real-life function they had, were to "represent" Oswald, to look out for his rights and those of his guiltless infant daughters (and for those of all Americans in the absence of opposing counsel), as the representatives of the American Bar Association, a function whose concept by the Commission will soon interest us.

Now, if ^{it is suspected that} all of these eminences, among the nation's leading legal luminaries, were ^{either} ~~somehow~~, if not ^{ever} dozing, with their minds on other weighty problems, one, certainly was not. That great international lawyer whose services to several administrations are of long duration and good press, whose special competence is banking, Commissioner John J. McCloy, was wide awake. He immediately asked a relevant question.

But not about these residues, "blood or similar material" in one phrasing, "substance" in another. About ~~his~~ this he, too, was silent. He heard the testimony and was undisturbed.

Oh, well, is it not enough to know that the diligent FBI, ever alert always with at least one eye open, with all that ~~science~~ science the unstinting taxpayers provide, was fully aware of the presence of "substance" or of the somewhat less comprehensible "material" that is "similar" to "blood"?

Here it is necessary to caution those whose knowledge of the skill and dedication, the unflagging and undeflected devotion to duty, the relentless, bulldog-determined FBI also comes from TV, that, in real life, when an American President was murdered while it was their job to keep him alive, the FBI is not at all like it is on TV.

And only because in real life the finest lawyers in the land and the most scientific police in our history somehow fell short of what every

script-writer, without benefit of Harvard Law or G-man school, knows to write into grade B melodramas, we do not know what was on the bullet.

We do not know because the Commission did not want to know. Because the Commission did not know, it had no difficulty concluding that this bullet had defied all the laws of physics, ballistics and mythology and had, indeed, inflicted all/seven non-fatal injuries on both men and, exultantly, emerged from this challenge ~~unscathed~~ unscarred.

Not having ordered the FBI ~~to~~ go back to its labs and scratch ^{from the bullet} a few microscopic remnants of that or those "substances" or "materials" ~~from the bullet~~ - or to take a quick check at that then-suppressed and still-suppressed spectrographic analysis, and come back with the nitty gritty - the Commission had less to interfere with its reaching ~~at~~ this determination, that center-stage in its investigation of the assassination was a veritable 20th century Puck of a bullet, Bullet 399.

More suited, perhaps, to the deliberations of the Space Committees of the Congress than the President's Commission, is the career thus officially that of Bullet 399. To meet the requirements imposed upon it by this truly august body, these are some of the things that bullet had to have done:

Penetrated the President's neck without striking a bone, and in the course of this beginning of its swift but short active life, to have thumbed its nose at forensic medicine by making a hole about twice as large ^{in being} ~~when~~ as when it entered - which nice, true-flying bullets just do not do.

In the span of perhaps a foot or so, having flown with undeviating fidelity to and through the President, it began to wobble a bit when it 105 plunged into the Governor's chest, under the right armpit. It then settled down to the most spectacular demonstration of self-control since John the Baptist ^{spurned} ~~spurned the advances of~~ Salome. Going at about 2,000 feet per

second and with a fineness of control not yet dreamed of at Cape Kennedy, it flipped around so that only its back end made contact with the Governor's fifth rib. Perhaps "made contact" is a slight understatement, when what 399 did to four inches of that rib is recalled, but such a career must be approached with an absolutely uncluttered mind. It is easier to try and conceive of what, until that moment ~~in~~ in all of history had never been conceived, if we bear in mind that contact with coarse cloth or leather can mark a bullet, and this #399 chap was almost entirely unscratched. The unaided eye finds no blemish.

Now, what happened inside the governor's chest, at 2,000 feet per second, is that four inches of his fifth rib got so smashed up that pieces of it, in turn, became miniature, individual projectiles.

Commissioner McCloy, possibly reluctant to concede the incredible melding of might and magic to 399, wondered aloud if perhaps "the actual bullet could not have hit the rib at all but it might have been the expanding flesh that would cause the wound, or the proper contusion, I guess you would call it on the rib itself?" His application of the elegant subtleties of international finance to the medical description is an expression of fine sensitivity. "The wound or the proper contusion" was the rib smashing; the "you" of the "I guess you would call it" was Dr. Robert R. Shaw, who, despite the delicate understating and quiet passion - should we say "desperation"? - of the Commissioner's appeal, would call it no such thing. Politely but firmly he replied, "I think we would have to postulate that the bullet hit the rib itself..." (WHITEWASH 175).

There is a way out of McCloy's dilemma, (which is, how could an unscratched bullet smash up a tough human rib?) By battering with its butt end only, of course. And to do this, all that 399 had to add to those already incredible powers was that of following the graceful, curved contour of the human rib with its rear-end radar that kept it at the

correct, undeviating backside 90-degree angle. For the approximately one-six-thousandth of a second it required for those four rib-inches to be shattered, 399 had also to be anticipating the disengagement that would leave not trace upon his smooth surfaces that bone, even more than coarse cloth or leather, could trademark. Whether it braked itself or executed a fancy dance step, with the bullet mute we cannot really know; but what we do know is that it succeeded. Whatever the maneuver, it was accomplished with a sideways fillip, for when 399, for a slight fraction of a second, saw daylight again, it was when making an inch-and-a-half hole under the Governor's right nipple, a not inconsiderable achievement for a quarter-inch thick bullet, especially because in the act it successfully evaded the adjacent rib.

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Fresh challenges lay ahead, but with the exuberance of success, 399 improvised at 2,000 feet per second - exactly what was needed to batter its way through the Governor's right wrist, again without detectably marking itself. The shattered ruin of the rib is naught to the shambles of the wrist. Here, carried away with success, 399 indulged in a side game, sneaking clues into the wound while keeping clues off itself. Traces of mohair, the doctors correctly told themselves. And they told the Commission they could not conceive of how 399 accomplished the wrecking of that wrist without leaving a trace on itself.

(Specter temporarily eased past this crisis by asking the doctors to offer opinions about ordingry, other bullets, not this spectacular one - could "a" bullet have gone through that wrist and been unmarked. / By going backward and only backward, the doctors suggested, because the back of a bullet is not encased in ^a ~~the~~ hardened jacket.)

Nowhere in the evidence is there any explanation of how this or any other bullet could have plunged through the solid wrist-bones without getting a little scratched, at least on ~~the~~ sides. In order to proceed,

possibly we can imagine that in some mysterious way 399 encased itself in a sheltering remnant of perhaps a Niebelungen past or invoked a fitting necromancy and thus accomplished what was required to fulfill its obligations to the as-yet-unappointed Commission.

Here, with the bullet unmarked and the wrist in shattered ruin, still new and undisclosed magical powers went into play - and how fast! - for in the course of the two inches (what split-split of a split second is two inches when flight is at 2,000 feet in a single second?) of wrist smashing, computer-fast it also planned ahead.

The greatest cunning was still to be summoned, for in whatever short space remained between that right wrist and left thigh, this flip-flopping bullet that had stopped wobbling only to dance, *stopped dancing to again* wobble, ceased wobbling to guide right and fly backward, *curved sideways briefly then* suddenly flew no way but backward and in this fashion latched itself so firmly to the Governor's tibia that months later a fragment was still glued to it, side by side, *so attached by a last-minute, right-angle turn while the thigh.*

With all of this, the most spectacular demonstrations were still to be demanded of this little bullet, whose brief life had, without doubt, already exhausted it. While travelling through Dallas at a mere mile-a-minute clip from the Texas School Book Depository building to Parkland Hospital, it had to ~~lay~~ lie in wait and store up a sort of reverse kinetic energy, then it had to be patient while the Governor in whose thigh it was hidden was rushed to the operating room. After he was undressed - in total silence and when no one was looking - it discharged that reverse kinetic energy with what bowlers call "inside English" - in just the right arc that would enable it to speed invisibly from the Governor's leg to under the mattress on which he and it had been, not too far under, for it had to ~~ride~~ drop out when that stretcher was given a jar; not too little *Hospital Engineer* under, for it had to ride up and down the elevator until Darrell Tomlinson

too many "it's"

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Jerred

came along to put it off and then, when he prodded it a bit, to fall out and go public.

When it is understood that bullets have no fathers to teach them, no seeing eyes to guide them, knowing precisely the arc and exactly the speed is quite an accomplishment for a bullet like this, only a quarter of an inch thick. More so when we consider that it had been officially ruled over-age and declared surplus. Too small an arc and it would have hit the mat and made a hole in it; too large and it would have missed entirely or, horrors, have struck the steel frame which would, at the very least, have marked it. Too little energy would not have put it under the mat far enough to await Tomlinson's jarring; too much would have put it so far under he could not have jogged it out. It calculated perfectly!

Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy - and how much more official can you get?

It seems ~~xxxxxx~~ it was easier for this Commission to satisfy itself that Päckish, magical 399 did all these wondrous things without complicating and confusing matters with prosaic considerations like residues.

Is it possible that the FBI's science could add to this story, improve on this science? Not likely.

But all of the magnificent performance would have been in vain had it been presented in a court of law. In fact, had it been adduced before a Marine Corps court martial (Oswald, too, had been a Marine), Oswald would have been acquitted. Something remarkably similar - in charge, not victim and conclusion - actually happened in Viet Nam.

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It seems that a Vietnamese civilian was shot to death, that a Marine was seen to have fired a rifle from a truck in which he and others were riding, seemingly drunk and in high spirits. He acknowledged firing a shot but recalled it as having been into the air.

The Associated Press reported this, and the Los Angeles Times of June 29, 1967, prepared its own story from that of the Associated Press.

Here begins a startling parallel to Bullet 399, which, recall, bore the rifling marks of the rifle said to have been bought by Oswald:

"The prosecution presented an expended bullet that matched the rifle allegedly held by Collard (the accused) at the time. The bullet was found on the floor inside the dead man's house. The prosecution contended that this was the bullet that killed the man".

This trial, too, had technical experts:

"Leland ~~Jones~~ Jones, retired head of the Los Angeles Police Department's crime laboratory, testified that the bullet could not possibly have entered a human body. (Although) fired from the rifle...blood or tissue would have remained on the bullet for years if it had hit the man and he could find no trace of either..."

The verdict: acquittal!

"Blood or tissue would have remained on the bullet for years!"

Consider this impartial evidence, accepted by a military court and unrefuted by a military prosecution, which could call on the FBI in addition to its own experts: although proved to have been fired from the rifle connected with the accused, because of the absence of blood and or tissue, which would have been detectable and identifiable for years, "the bullet could not possibly have entered a human body"!

Is it possible to find a more exact parallel? The case against Oswald was weaker, for that rifle was not shown to have been in his possession at the time of the assassination. Bullet 399 is claimed to have passed through two human bodies, not one, and three and a half times, not just once.

The bullet may have been magical, but Presidents and Governors are not. They are men, humans, as are poor Vietnamese; their blood is mortal blood, their tissue mortal tissue.

Here we find explanation for the FBI experts, expert evasiveness ~~and~~ ^{and as we find explanation} when asked about the residues, ~~as~~ ^{for} the contentment of the Commission of legal and political eminences and their legal staff at the ~~his~~ absence of answers about the residues on Bullet 399, as we find explanation for the lack of questions about these residues, about the absence of tests to identify them!

Perhaps with this account of the willingness of the United States Government to guarantee a free trial and an adequate defense for an ordinary man accused of killing another very ordinary man, not a President, and a half a world away, we have reached an appropriate point to consider the staff document earlier referred to on the nature of Oswald's legal representation and of the real function of the leaders of the American Bar Association before the Commission.

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From my first appraisal of the Commission's record, from close examination of what the President, ~~former President~~ and other top-echelon executives of the American Bar Association did and did not do in seeking his rights ~~for~~ for Oswald, I concluded that they had acted as a prosecution adjunct, not defense counsel. I showed that, when the legal and factual situations before the Commission fairly screamed for the asking of shockingly obvious questions, these legal lights were silent and, more, recorded the agreement not to ask questions, ^{not} to cross-examine these travesties on witnesses who could not otherwise have been used by the Commission.

"If at any point", I wrote (WHITEWASH 79-80), after careful ^{consideration} ~~examina-~~ tion of the "testimony" of an incredible parade of the most incompetent, incongruous and entirely dubious "witnesses", in the presence of whom Oswald's "defense counsel" had been mute (save for an occasional suggestion calculated to aid the prosecution), "a single question was directed to any of the many questionable witnesses...that met the purposes served by the

"adversary system of our kind of justice, I have not seen it. Nor have I seen any record of their participation in the taking of depositions, the source of by far the most of the testimony."

Not one of the American Bar Association leaders involved has made a single protest or complaint about this language I addressed to them a long time ago. They have not because they dare not, because it is an understatement of their prostitution of their profession and its honorable traditions, a debasement of their function, and because, when how genuinely subversive of justice what they did is considered, this language is a kindness to them. They will not and they dare not call attention to their shocking treachery to their profession, to law, to justice, and to the country. Their acceptance of the assignment to safeguard Oswald's rights before the Commission was more than that, great as that responsibility is. They were, in addition, there to preserve the rights of all, for the rights of all are dependent upon the preservation and enjoyment of the rights of the least. And they bore, with their assumption of this responsibility, the defense of the national honor and integrity.

Lee Harvey Oswald was dead, and the Commission decided that not Mark Lane, selected by his mother, but the American Bar Association, selected by it, would protect the rights of the murdered accused and with him of all free Americans. *alvie. Oswald had allowed representation by the ABA in fact of almost anyone else.*

On February 29, 1964, at the very outset of the Commission's life, Howard P. Willens, of whom we have earlier read as staff director and who was the Commission's liaison with the Department of Justice, addressed a memo to General Counsel Rankin. The subject: "Interrogation of Mark Lane."

Willens saw no contradiction in what he seriously addressed to his boss. The Commission had decided that Oswald was guilty, Lane was saying maybe Oswald wasn't. It was wrong for Lane to want to defend the accused, right for the Commission to pre-judge him. So, with the powers the Com-

mission had that Lane didn't, they'd give him a working over (his exact and untouched, usually more polite words are in the appendix, pp.000-007). To "undercut" Lane is one explicit purpose of the hearing. (Those of us who thought the purpose of the hearings was to collect evidence are "squares".)

Prior to the writing of this memo, somebody seems actually to have proposed that the American Bar Association, through its top officials (already, if secretly, selected to "work as defense counsel for Lee Harvey Oswald"), clobber Lane. The "undercutting" of Lane, Willens said, "should be taken ^(sic) directly by the Commission rather than by Mr. Craig of the American Bar Association...Mr. Craig agrees that this would be preferable to any contact by him with Mr. Lane on behalf of the Commission."

The one doubt that does not exist here is whether Lane ever did anything "on behalf of the Commission". That reference is Craig and the ABA end, like the rest of the document, makes much of this relationship clear. But no clearer than the record, really, which is without guile.

Of course, Craig and the ABA were not alone in diligent defense of Oswald's rights - read "those of all Americans, etc." Willens was very busy. When he wasn't directing the staff, liaisons with the Department of Justice and performing other legal chores, he was also looking out for these cherished rights:

"I think that Mr. Craig should use the appearance of Mr. Lane before the Commission and the resulting testimony and documents as a way of beginning his work as defense counsel for Lee Harvey Oswald."

This is exactly what happened four days later when, on March 4, 1964 (2H32ff), Mark Lane was summoned before the Commission. The transcript shows that the members present were the chief justice, Senator Cooper and Congressman Ford. Also, "Charles Murray and Charles Rhyne, /assistants to Walter E. Craig." These are future, former and incumbent presidents of the

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American Bar Association. Rhyne is famous, I believe, for his sponsorship of what is known as "Law Day", a noble concept.

At one point (2H59), Rhyne took up the "defense" of Oswald with vigor.

"I wanted to ask Mr. Lane," he told the chief justice, "on his inquiry about what happened to Oswald during the 48 hours he was under detention- you suggested that the Commission make an inquiry into whether his civil rights were denied. Do you have any information on that subject?"

(WHITEWASH has a lengthy chapter on "Oswald's Legal Rights," p. 64-68)
 "Yes," Lane responded, as any American not a lawyer and glued to his TV set could have, "I saw what happened - I read in the newspapers and hear on the radio."

Rhyne objected that the information on the blatant denial of Oswald's rights "was really in the newspapers. You are merely repeating what someone else has said." Lane replied that, in addition, he had reported what witnesses had told him. Unless he had been in jail with Oswald, there was no other information he could call to the Commission's attention. This is what lawyers do. Rhyne, however, repeated his "defense of Oswald and "protection" of Oswald's rights by charging that "with respect to the denial of ~~any~~ any civil rights or protection of civil rights during this 48-hour period, you say that is all in the newspaper stories." To Rhyne, speaking for Craig, it was as though the abundant and very public proof that Oswald had been flagrantly and quite systematically denied these rights, as the American Civil Liberties Union was soon to affirm, because they were in the papers and on TV, somehow made them unworthy of official recognition, of Commission inquiry. Rhyne then emphasized that Lane had said his "investigation was incomplete".

And thus, in the ringing words of Howard Willens, did the President of the American Bar Association and the exponent of "Law Day" "use the appearance of Mr. Lane" before the Commission "as a way of beginning his

Mark Lane

February 27, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. LEE RANKIN, General Counsel

From: Howard P. Willens

Re: Interrogation of Mark Lane

Attached is a proposed letter requesting Mark Lane to appear before the Commission next week. I believe that Mr. Lane's testimony should be obtained at this time for the following reasons:

1. We are aware that Mr. Lane is making numerous speeches to the effect that he has information indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald is not the assassin of President Kennedy and that the Commission has not requested this information. Although I think our earlier letter amounts to a request for this information, I think we should make an explicit request for all documents possessed by Mr. Lane regarding the assassination of President Kennedy and ask from him a full and complete statement regarding the results of his investigation into this matter. To some extent, at least, this will undercut Mr. Lane's future presentations although I grant that he will still be free to maintain that the Commission is not giving due weight to the information he has brought to our attention.

2. As I have indicated to you previously, I believe that this action should be taken directly by the Commission rather than by Mr. Craig of the ABA. I understand from you that the Commission is willing to hear Mr. Lane and that Mr. Craig agrees that this would be preferable to any contact by him with Mr. Lane on behalf of the Commission.

3. I think that we should obtain these materials from Mr. Lane at this time so that appropriate investigation of any new leads can be conducted by the appropriate agency or the Commission. If we were to delay until the end of our investigation it would give Mr. Lane additional reason

to question the bona fides of our effort.

4. I think that this material should be collected now and testimony of Mr. Lane elicited regarding these materials so that they can be made available to Mr. Craig and to Messrs. Ball and Dolin. I think that Mr. Craig should use the appearance of Mr. Lane before the Commission and the resulting testimony and documents as a way of beginning his work as defense counsel for Lee Harvey Oswald. I think this may serve to focus his efforts more than might otherwise be the case. I also think that these materials should be made available to Messrs. Ball and Dolin, since we have all agreed that the appointment of Mr. Craig in no way diminishes the responsibilities of the Commission staff to protect Lee Harvey Oswald's reputation and rights to the fullest extent possible. I think that Messrs. Ball and Dolin, after they receive these materials, should be directed by you to investigate them most fully through every available means.

As an administrative matter, if our proposed schedule of testimony is approved by the Commission then next week is perhaps the best time to handle Mr. Lane since no extensive preparation by members of the staff is necessary.

work as defense counsel for Lee Harvey Oswald"!

Echoes of law-school commencement addresses welled up in that emotion-caught Willens breast, and those who have studied the record of the Commission know just how to interpret these fine words:

"...we have all agreed that the appointment of Mr. Craig in no way diminishes the responsibilities of the Commission staff to protect Lee Harvey Oswald's reputation and rights to the fullest extent possible."

This was written a month before the hearing at which none of the Commission members or representatives of the bar association or others fell asleep; the hearing which began with the "reputation and rights" of Lee Harvey Oswald - and remember, these are the rights of all - "protected", as Willens had put it, "to the fullest extent possible".

How?

By total silence about the suppression of the spectrographic analysis and the complete absence of any questions (including by Oswald's Commission-appointed "defense counsel") about that "material" or "substance" that was "blood" or "similar" to it that was on Bullet 399!

That was not in the way of the FBI, so they didn't bother it, didn't test or analyze it. The Commission and Oswald's "defenders" were satisfied, even though "blood or tissue would have remained on the bullet for years" - had it ever been there!

It all ties together. This has not been ^{an} extraneous excursion. The fiction of the defense of Oswald's rights (and it is well not to lose sight of the purpose of the hearing, to find out who killed the President and perhaps why); the real function of the American Bar Association and its honored, honorable representatives (Oswald's counsel, that is); the kinds of hearings held; how evidence was gathered and presented, accepted and evaluated; how the truth was sought and certified; how the autopsy is part

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of all of it, together with the single-bullet theory, "The Ballad of Bullet 399," "JBC 1,2,3,4" and "J.F.K. 4-1" - all are of the same whole: threads and fibers woven through the woof and warp of the assassination and its investigation.

Extra space

If it does not surprise the reader, it did surprise me to find that there was nothing of any consequence in the "J.F.K. 4-1" file. If anywhere, I did believe, certainly here there would be some information of significance, some knowledge about the murder, how it was accomplished, what was learned at the autopsy, some of the missing evidence and records.

The staff of the archive was going over this tremendous accumulation and preparing more of it to be released! I delayed requesting copies of every paper in the autopsy file until the last minute. Just stop and think of the situation at the end of 1967, ~~four~~ four years after the murder, three after its "solution". The world was rampant with dissatisfaction ~~about~~ about the inadequate and insufficient Report on the assassination (and this is certainly an understatement of the reality), but the federal government was still keeping vast stores of files secret!

In this case, apparently, ^{Security was maintained} by assigning less than ^a corporal's guard to do the actual work of making it available. With all the millions of federal employees, ^(of the two assigned to the archive) a single man to go over these files and prepare them for "release"! This was not his only responsibility - it is one added to an already full schedule of work. In between the other, full-time duties, he did this. The wonder is not that it took so long but that he was able to accomplish anything. In practice, this amounts to a different kind of suppression.

In reality, what it actually means is that, aside from what has been denied under the "guidelines" - which gives each agency that was the source of the defunct Commission's documents the right to suppress what it wants suppressed - great ~~gobs~~ gobs of files were suppressed by the designed malfunction of bureaucracy - by simply not putting the manpower on it. On a subject like this, with the national honor and integrity involved, with Macbethian scandals openly bruted, the government quietly and effectively gave validity to these hasty beliefs by delaying what it dared not forcibly suppress.

It hoped, with each passing day, that somehow that awful pile of dirt swept under the too-small rug, would just go away, just be forgotten. Its clear wish was that, with the popular President securely buried, with the passing of time, people would forget how he got buried, lose interest in his murder and the phony, official explanation of it in that contrived Report.

Simply slowing down what was accessible to the steadily decreasing number of researchers, distressingly small at the peak of interest, was an effective mechanism of suppression, as effective as total suppression, as long as the files could be denied by simple bureaucratic delay. Bungling, crude force, were unnecessary. The government just sat tight and let nothing happen, guaranteeing that nothing would or could happen by not assigning a single special employee to the task of arranging the Commission files for access. The maximum assigned staff was two men who had other continuing assignments!

Meanwhile, naturally, the closing of ranks behind the official fiction, whether or not of official inspiration, was effectuated by all the mass agencies of news and opinion. CBS and NBC coordinated their total of five hours of international telecasting of blatant apologies for the fake Report and then openly violated the requirement of law, regulation and decency by the false pretense of claiming this propaganda was a fair presentation of both sides. Sue them! The Associated Press manufactured its syndicated whitewash by cleverly, and with equally pious pretense of dispassion and impartiality, corrupting and misquoting criticism of the Report and slandering the critics - and just by another accident managed to cue this in to the videowhitewashes.

So, delay was as effective as it was simple, and it gave the time required for the greatest campaign of public indoctrination since the Report itself to befuddle the popular mind into confusion and complacency.

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First I was promised this ^{autopsy} file, then I was denied it, then I was promised all but two documents. This was a total of four pages, or a minute of Xeroxing. Of course, I was assured there was no suppression, no violation of regulations. The entire correspondence is in the appendix, where the reader can go over it, word for word. Finally, I got what I was told was all but those special four pages that had to be denied so there could be "orderly processing". These were ^{then} promised ^{by September 15} for a certain date and were not then available.

I completed the writing of this ~~entire~~ book while I waited for two withheld documents from the "J.F.K 4-1" file, for four sheets of paper from the file on the Presidential autopsy of four years earlier.

Save for a single sheet, the few pages of what is filed under "J.F.K. 4-1" add nothing to what was already available and known to me and in my own files. There are the same mistakes I found in other files, What was missing, what should be there and isn't - what is required to be there - has been gutted. Here is everything in that file:

The brief covering letter of December 20, 1963, with which James J. Rowley, chief of the Secret Service sent Rankin a copy of the autopsy protocol. This is not an original copy, of which there were eight. An original copy was too good for the archive, too good for the Commission. This, at the very best, is a third generation copy. Some of it is completely illegible. In addition, it has, at some step in the repeated photocopying of photocopies, been reduced in size. But it is supposed to be one of the original eight copies and it should be marked as the 77th file, ^{from "Official Records of Autopsy"} as it is not. Every copy made from what Rowley sent the Commission on December 20 should also show this number ^{properly} if they come from this source.

An even more remote copy of allegedly the same document, the Presidential autopsy protocol, contains notations not on any of the more than half-dozen copies of this allegedly single version, and an attachment I had

not seen elsewhere. It has a source indicated, and that source cannot possibly be the right one, else the list of files is wrong. It is marked as coming from 'CR362a', or part "a" of File 362. Now, on page 28 of the list of these files there appears this description of File 362, which is identified as "three envelopes" coming from "AG Texas":

"Travis Kirk's letter 437". In its infinite wisdom, the Report spares us the identification of "Travis Kirk's letter 437", in quotation marks in the listing, and the blessing of revelation is denied us. However it is not likely that, with whatever significance can be read into the mystery we must here abandon, "Travis Kirk's letter 437" could ~~not~~ have included a copy of the autopsy, nor could "AG Texas" have originated it, estimable as the services of the Hon. Waggoner Carr were.

This set of the autopsy report is the only one of the many I have seen that has a copy of what, ^{is} ~~is~~ the original or an original copy, ~~which~~ should be in this file and, in photocopy, attached to every copy. It is a generation so remote, so illegible, ⁱⁿ so/distinct where it is not illegible - that I cannot make out the identification of the government form or be certain of some of the printing on it.

The heading is "AUTHORIZATION FOR POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION". Whether or not ~~it~~ is even a copy of an original document is uncertain, for two of the three lines specifically calling for "signature" are typed in. These are the names of the Commanding Officer, Captain R. O. Canada; and "authority to consent", where the word "wife" is typed in, ^{and} the name of "Mrs. JOHN F. Kennedy" (with the error "JOHN" in the typing), the address, "White House". The one signature appears to be that of Robert Kennedy.

Two other entries on this form dispel any basis for suppression of the autopsy or any parts thereof, such as the pictures and X-rays, and end forever the question of ownership of the documents of the autopsy, which never, legally, really existed, anyway.

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 Above the "signatures", with generous blank space separating them from the printed words, is this agreement: "Authority is also granted for the preservation and study of all tissue which may be removed. This authority shall be limited only by the conditions expressly stated below". "Below" is blank paper, not "conditions" or any other reservations. Thereby any conditions or reservations are waived.

If there ever had been any doubt of whose property the ~~xxx~~ autopsy and everything related ^{to} with it is (and in my mind, as the correspondence appendix shows, there never was), the last words of the first printed sentence ~~xxx~~ ^{end} that. They refer to the form and any other papers, to be "attached to this form for permanent file". Permanent file! Exactly what I had reported to the government in protest against the illegal handling of the pictures and X-rays - and let us not forget what is more important - the gutted files, those quintessential autopsy notes!

^{-INSERT}
 Handwritten numbers added to the third page of this set of the autopsy report seem to translate 7x4 mm into 7/25 by 4/25 inch, 14 cm into 5.6 inch. (Here I note that another copy of ~~allegedly~~ the allegedly identical document, also from File J.F.K. 1, has two notations handwritten on page six, adjacent to the descriptions of the fatal and non-fatal wounds. These are "#3 Shot" and "#1 Shot".

The Sibert-O'Neill so-called FBI "autopsy" report, is in this file, in a version photographically reduced in size from the original and Xeroxed from File 7, where it is folios 280-8 of the first part. File 7 is one of the larger collections of individual reports into book-size documents. It requires about ^{ff} ~~5~~ four inches of thickness when bound into two separate volumes. There is special interest: File 7 warrants a short digression. The last very large hunk of it was entirely suppressed. Although most of the individual reports are but a page or two in length, by "request" - read order - of the FBI, pages 494 through 777 are "withheld" - read suppress:

The Navy's "permanent files": On November 26, as I have already reported, Admiral Galloway sent the White House the last of the eight original copies of the autopsy and the other records of it not then already turned over. Legally, rightly, these should be a permanent Navy file. According to the available evidence, which must be ~~mined~~ ^{part} for the Commission suppressed it, there is no Navy file on the autopsy.

Admiral Galloway also, separately, sent ~~transmittal~~ examination signed by Attorney General and dated Nov. 22, 1963." This is the last of 12 items in a receipt to Admiral George C. Purkley, executed November 26, 1963, by Robert I. Bouck, head of the Secret Service "Protective Research Service" at the White House (p. 080).

Among the other interesting and important items in this receipt that the Commission ^{also} suppressed ~~from its record~~ are: "One letter- Certificate of Death of John F. Kennedy - State of Texas - dated Nov. 22, 1963"; "One carbon copy of letter dated November 26 from Commanding Officer, U.S. Medical School, concerning law and regulations regarding confidential nature of the events"; "One receipt dated Nov. 22, 1963, regarding a carton of photographic film, undeveloped except for X-rays, delivered to PRS for safekeeping"; "An original and six pink copies of Certificate of Death (Nav, Med. H)"; "One copy of autopsy report and notes of the examining doctor which is described in letter of transmittal Nov. 25, 1963 by Dr. Galloway".

In this case the suppression is much worse, for this PRS receipt was officially entered into evidence as Exhibit 397 (WHITEWASH 183). In offering the file of which it is part into evidence, Specter said (2E373), "May the record show that Exhibit No. 397 is identical with the document which has been previously identified as Commission No. 371 for our internal purposes".

Exhibit 397 ~~is~~ allegedly is printed (17H29-48). Part of it, ~~including~~ ^{ia. But only part.} ~~But~~ ^{But} ~~Not one of the item listed above!~~

Nor is this PRS receipt, which I got from File 371 and which in the upper right-hand has the identification of ~~Commission No. 371~~ "Commission No. 371".

Does the reader believe that in the investigation of the murder of a President such items of evidence as the certificate of death, a letter on the applicable law and regulations, what appears to be an additional Navy certificate of death (it is nowhere described, not mentioned in "umes' testimony), and the heart of the autopsy report, the "notes of the examining doctor", should be included in the evidence? His Commission to investigate this murder deemed otherwise and suppressed each and every one of these most elemental items of evidence that would have been required had the investigation been not that of a President but of an unwanted, friendless derelict. It then went further and ~~even~~ suppressed the receipt that itemized them.

Once the decision was made to suppress, everything indicating what had been suppressed also had to be expunged. So the innocent receipt, too, was kept out of Exhibit 397. I have made repeated searches of duplicate File 371s, and none of this, except the receipt and the letter of transmittal, is in any of them. I asked that an

Admiral Galloway also, separately, sent ^{the} "Authorization for post mortem examination signed by Attorney General and dated Nov. 22, 1963." This is the last of ~~12~~ items in a receipt to Admiral George C. Burkley, executed November 26, 1963, by Robert I. Bouck, head of the Secret Service "Protective Research Service" at the White House. (p. 080).

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Exhibit 397 ~~is~~ allegedly is printed (17H29-48). Part of it, ^{ia. But only part.} ~~including~~

~~Admiral Galloway's November 22 letter transmitted~~ ^{But} Not one of the item listed above!

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Now, with File 7 we are a bit better situated than with most cases of suppression. Here there is a name index. I have made a listing of the names on the almost 300 ^{consecutive} suppressed pages. There is one ^{detectable} consistent pattern to these names: radical right. Here there is a prima facie case of the FBI ordering suppression for the protection of those whose political bed is warm to Hoover, those from whom he derives his political support, those with whose ideas he is most comfortable and whose ideas he expresses, ^{in some times} with moderate language.

Without something that Hoover has made impossible, close examination of what he has suppressed, it is not possible to tell the whole ¹¹⁴ story of File 7 and its contents. On one score, however, there is no doubt whatsoever: the recurrent, identifiable names are radical right names. But is it conceivable that in a file of almost 800 pages, ^{more than} a third - in one big, unbroken mouthful - can by pure accident be suppressed by the FBI? Is it also accidental that these have the strain of radical right woven through them?

In File 7, the Sibert-O'Neill report has a cover page added. It reads, "A. AUTOPSY OF BODY OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY". Aside from those copies made by other means or other varieties of ^{copying} ~~Xerox~~ machines, this bears the printed identification of two different ^{Xerox} machines. Attached are an additional Sibert-O'Neill report of November 27. Its four paragraphs cover their interview with Gerald A. Behn, Secret Service Special Agent in Charge of the White House detail. It describes the ^{chaotic} haphazard manner in which Bullet 399 showed up in Washington, how haphazardly and belatedly a piece of the President's skull and bullet fragments also were found in the car. Its concluding paragraph repeats Kellerman's promise, that "the undeveloped photographs and ~~XXXXXX~~ x-rays (Lil-fol lit) made during the course of the autopsy...could be made available to the Federal

Bureau of Investigation on request", further establishing that there is no reason for the FBI to have been uninformed about the autopsy report, if, indeed, it was.

Next are the receipts to the Navy Hospital for what the Secret Service took or got, including these undeveloped pictures and X-rays and "notes of the examining doctor which is described in letter of transmittal of Nov. 25, 1963 by Dr. Galloway". (fol lit). These notes are part of File 371, which also includes much less legible copies than exist of the handwritten autopsy, etc. Missing are what is required to be in this file (WHITEWASH 183), those identical autopsy notes covered by Admiral Galloway's epistle of November 25. Oddly, however, File 371 was not received until February 7, 1964.

Also in "J.F.K. 4-1" is a Xerox of a "certified copy" of what is politely called the "inquest" held in Dallas. In it ~~the~~ Justice of the Peace, Theran Ward, "certified" that particular proceeding was consummated almost two weeks prior to the assassination! It contains this language:

"Witness my hand, officially, this 10th day of November A.D. 1963".

How careful everyone was to be precise, to assure accuracy and completeness when this President was murdered!

There is a copy of Secret Service Elmer Moore's report of December ¹² ~~13~~ in which that Service found other than the Commission, that from the autopsy report, the Zapruder movie and other evidence later misinterpreted by the Commission, all that could be concluded about the trajectories ^y ~~ies~~ ^{were} that it was "to the rear and above the level of the President", hardly indicating a trajectory to the 66-foot high sixth-floor window. This report contains a number of other things not supporting the official account.

A single page - the fifth - of the FBI supplemental Report of January 9, is Xeroxed and filed here (as it is in "JBC-2"). It is originally File 107.

Illegible, remote-generation copies of Specter's two March 12, 196⁴~~3~~, reports of his interviews with the autopsy doctors and Sibert and O'Neill are included. They are so pale and close to illegible that their purpose cannot be serious. Because the remainder of the document is so much paler, the correction of the single word previously referred to, that says the President's rear non-fatal wound was in the "back", is more visible here.

An equally illegible, equally pale copy of an uninformative press release dated March 16, says only that four members of the Commission, listed, heard the three autopsy doctors testify.

Finally, there is a letter from J. Edgar Hoover to Rankin, dated March 18, answering negatively an inquiry by Melvin Eisenberg about several possible scientific tests.

(I have for the four with held pages)
 And that is the entire contents of the entire "autopsy file" of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy!

It is not a file, it is a frivolity.

It does not contain what is essential. It contains not a single reference to any effort to obtain what was not spoon-fed the Commission by the federal police. More, it contains no single clue that the Commission of eminences, on their own or under prodding, ever, in any way, did anything to get the missing data that it should have had - could not have discharged its responsibilities without having. One example is the autopsy notes, which were not burned and are official in its evidence, from which they have been ~~guttled~~ *secretly removed*.

This, too, is one way to "investigate" the murder of a President!

note
~~Note~~ space here for "four pages" to come.

The Connally files are, similarly, ~~repetitions~~ *replicas* of pieces of other files. They contain repetitive reporting of federal police conclusions, that a separate shot hit Connally. Because these are destructive of the

Report, their suppression from that Report and the appended volumes is comprehensible. They contain FBI interviews with close witnesses of the assassination who were not called as witnesses. Several documents reflect poorly on the Dallas police. These include an "arrest report on investigative prisoner" that, with fine judicial impartiality, says Oswald was arrested because, "This man shot and killed President John F. Kennedy and Police Officer J. D. Tippit. He also shot and wounded Governor John Connally". No ifs or buts. The police wrapped it up to begin with. No foaling with investigations for them!

The second file (on the "wounds") is carefully gutted to remove the documents I analyze earlier that show the size of the fragment remaining in the Governor's thigh. No reason to spread the disproof of the Report too widely, was there? It also has the proof that the Secret Service phonied its "charts" on the Governor's wounds (WHITEWASH 177, 199). The Commission was discreet: it suppressed this from its Report. No need to embarrass the Secret Service, either. After all, they were only "investigating" the murder of a President. Need they have bothered doctors when they could draw lines and hen-scratches on blank charts themselves, and very neatly, ^{uh,} The fact is, the Secret Service markings were closer to what the Commission wanted than the reality. That was thoughtful, wasn't it! That this proof of fakery is not in the Report is no accident. The boss, personally, knew about it. The handwritten acknowledgment of J. Lee Rankin, dated February 19, is included. When the Secret Service tried so hard to make the evidence fit the crime, like shots from the sixth-floor window, "moving" the Governor around - in charts - so his wounds would seem to line up, etc., the Commission owed it a slight consideration for its "assistance"!

In short, there is nothing I had not already located elsewhere in these Connally files. There is no need to delay the reader with what would

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

September 14, 1967

IN REPLY REFER TO: N

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Hyattstown, Maryland 20734

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of August 29 concerning records of the Warren Commission.

The relevant files of the Commission do not contain copies of the following documents in which you are interested:

1. The original Ferris statement which is transcribed in Commission Document 205. The Commission's record copy of this statement is the transcription, of which a copy was furnished to you.
2. Covering letters or memoranda relating to parts of the autopsy protocol, other than the memoranda of C. B. Galloway dated November 25, 1963, and James J. Rowley dated December 20, 1963. Copies of these have been furnished to you.
3. A document showing the distribution of the eight original copies of the autopsy protocol.
4. The receipt for the autopsy photographs and x-rays signed by Roy Kellerman.

The page in CD 87, folder 1, that bears Control No. 146, does not contain a statement by J. Lee Rankin concerning the bullets in Officer Tippit, nor do the next few pages contain this statement. The note on this page (No. 146) concerning the shells found in Lee Harvey Oswald's pistol was apparently written by James J. Rowley. Enclosed are copies of this page and of the FBI report of an interview with Robert MacNeil. We also enclose copies of two memoranda concerning Governor Connolly's wounds that have previously been made available for research as part of the files relating to films, photographs, tape recordings, and press clippings (the "MP" files).

by now be but redundant exposition of their flimsiness and lack of support to the official version of the assassination. They reflect well on no officials and do not help the Report.

There is nothing in them that fosters confidence in the integrity of any persons or agencies involved in the investigation or in the Report itself.

During the course of my protracted efforts to shake ^{some} of the "withheld" autopsy evidence loose, I sought information from the Archivist. His entire letter of September 14, from which I quote, appears in the correspondence appendix. Here I think that it is appropriate to note that, relative to the autopsy, what is not in the autopsy file is also not elsewhere in the "relevant files" - and should exist. These include:

(116) - "Marked, attached 2-4

(The first item is appropriate to my book, OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. It discloses that the Commission's files do not include the original statement David W. Ferrie provided the FBI. When ^{one considers} the alterations known to have been made in some of these statements is considered, this is significant intelligence. No jerkwater court in the most blighted part of the country would accept anything less than the available original document.)

In short, what this part of my investigation proves is that the essential original evidence of the murder and the investigation of it is lacking. The files do not show who got what of the evidence, what any of them did or did not do with it. In fact, it is not possible to in any way account for any of the original copies of the autopsy report, which is as novel a concept of evidence as it is an original method of "investigating" the murder of a President!

To those who may wonder if it is, indeed, the way the murder of a President should be officially inquired into, I can say only that this is the way the murder of John F. Kennedy was "investigated" and "solved"!