

It may be idle to think in terms of legalities, for what was legal, what the law required, was everywhere ignored. If this is strange where the corpse of a murdered President is concerned, it is less strange where his family is, particularly when that family is closely-knit and politically powerful. Why his family did as they did, why his former advisers and their friends ignored the law, beginning with the forcible removal of the body from Dallas, where the only law applicable to the murder and to the autopsy could be - and was - invoked (WHITEWASH X 168), can be speculated about, as can their motives and those indulging them.

Of the result there is and there need be no speculation. Many of the nagging questions derive from this trampling of the law and the dubious inquest, the autopsy lacking all the attributes of a medico-legal determination, come from that alone. As I said in WHITEWASH II, the President's autopsy was unworthy of a Bowery bum, whereas that of his accused assassin was befitting a President of the United States.

Recognition of this, I think is the reason Oswald's is not printed in the Report or the 1,000,000 words of evidence - there certainly was ample space for it, and space and cost were no factors when the Commission decided to print a staggering accumulation of ordinary junk - where it certainly belonged. With the Tippit autopsy, its suppression is explained by the questions officially uncomfortable that it and its delay ~~xxxxxxx~~ raise. Compared with that of the murdered policeman, the President's autopsy is a bum job. Compared with Oswald's, it is an incredible farce. All those things missing in the President's are present in his accused assassin's, for Oswald's autopsy was a model of scientific precision.

If the family initially stipulated or demanded any special rights, the available documentation and the autopsy file itself do not so record. Attached to a single ^{copy} of the half-dozen copies of this autopsy I have is a form authorizing the autopsy.