



The Library of Congress

Congressional Research Service

Washington, D.C. 20540

November 11, 1975

TO: House Subcommittee on Government Information and
Individual Rights
Attn: Mr. Timothy H. Ingram, Staff Director

FROM: Donovan L. Gay, Analyst
Government Division
(Kenneth E. Gray, Division Chief)

SUBJECT: Chronology of the custodianship, transfer, and events related
to autopsy data and "autopsy material" of President John F.
Kennedy

This memorandum is in response to your request for a definitive chronology of the custodianship, transfer, and events related to the autopsy data and autopsy materials of President John F. Kennedy.

According to Warren Commission documents and recent interviews with Burke Marshall, Esq., the representative for the Kennedy family in these matters, and Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, President Kennedy's former secretary and others, I report the following:

NOVEMBER 22, 1963

1. Upon completion of the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy, at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Secret Service agents requested and received from Navy Corpsmen all photographs, X-rays, and all other related "autopsy material."

NOTE: In a telephone conversation with Lt. Cmdr. Reeves, Chief of Patient Affairs, Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., on 11/5/75, "...normally all autopsy information, or any other evidence, would remain in the government's custody...and would be sent to St. Louis, Missouri for future storage..."

2. This "autopsy material" was delivered to Roy H. Kellerman, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service, who in turn, delivered these "autopsy materials" to:
3. Robert I. Bouck, U.S. Secret Service, at the Executive Offices Building, Washington, D.C.

ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 27, 1963

4. On or about November 27, 1963, Bouck delivered unexposed film and undeveloped X-rays to James K. Fox, a Secret Service employee, who delivered them to the:
5. U.S. Navy Photographic Laboratory for developing by Lt. V. Madonia, U.S. Navy. Fox remained with the film during processing, and upon returning to the Executive Offices Building, returned them to:
6. Bouck, who then locked them in a safe.

NOTE: Independent investigations have yet to determine if in fact all X-rays, all film, all medical evidence, and all other related autopsy materials remained in the custody of the Secret Service from about November 27, 1963 to April 22, 1965; or if during this period, a "transfer of custody" was made from the Secret Service to Vice Admiral George G. Burkley, The White House Physician.

APRIL 22, 1965

7. In a letter from Robert F. Kennedy (attached) to Vice Admiral George G. Burkley, Physician to The White House, Burkley was authorized to transfer the "autopsy materials" to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, President Kennedy's former personal secretary, at the National Archives where Mrs. Lincoln had been working on the Presidential Papers.

NOTE: According to Mrs. Lincoln (telephone interview on 11/6/75), she was on the staff at the time of the Kennedy Presidential Library which is under the auspices of the National Archives. Assistant Archivist, Marion Johnson, insists however that "...we never had (the autopsy materials). They were only in courtesy storage." (Meeting with Johnson, Mark Eckhoff, Chief, Legislative, Fiscal, and Judicial Division within Civil Archives Division, and Subcommittee staff, 10/7/75)

In a letter to the Subcommittee dated October 17, 1975, Acting Archivist James E. O'Neill, states, "Mrs. Lincoln was not a member of the staff of the National Archives and had no authority to accession research materials for the National Archives."

APRIL 25, 1965

8. In a "letter of gift" signed by Mrs. Jacqueline B. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Edward M. Kennedy, executors, dated 4/25/65, a transfer of custody, control, and title to the Presidential historical materials of John F. Kennedy was made to the United States Government. This "letter of gift" is now in the possession of the Office of Presidential Libraries.

According to correspondence from Acting Archivist James E. O'Neill to this Subcommittee, dated October 17, 1975, "The letter of gift is a general legal instrument and, together with related correspondence, reflects a generalized transfer of property. There is no specific reference to access by Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln to any portions of these materials. We have asked the archival staff at the Kennedy Library to examine finding aids and pertinent files among their holdings, and they have reported that they are unable to identify any documentation there relating to the transfer of personal effects and autopsy materials of the late President, access by Mrs. Lincoln, or correspondence relating to the transfer of items from Mrs. Lincoln to Miss Novello, Robert Kennedy's former secretary."

APRIL 26, 1965

9. Vice Admiral Burkley in a letter to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln (attached) transferred all "...the items (on the attached list) relating to the autopsy of the late President John F. Kennedy," Pursuant to the instructions of Robert F. Kennedy (see attached).
10. Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln received a footlocker of autopsy records, data, and related materials at the National Archives in Room 409 (see attached) from Admiral Burkley and Robert Bouck.

NOTE: On August 27, 1972, in an article by Fred Graham "...Mrs. Lincoln...said that Admiral Burkley delivered a locked chest to her at the Archives and that a few days later Angie Nevelle (sic), Robert Kennedy's secretary, arrived and took it away. Mrs. Lincoln said that she had not looked inside the chest or read Admiral Burkley's inventory."

In a telephone interview with Mrs. Lincoln (11/6/75) she said that she is certain there was a "letter of transfer" mentioning Ms. Angie Novello, and that this letter should be at Archives.

OCTOBER 29, 1966

11. On October 29, 1966, a letter signed by Burke Marshall, Esq., the Kennedy's representative, addressed to the Honorable Lawson B. Knott, Jr., Administrator of General Services, the parent body of the National Archives, states: "...that the personal effects of the late President which were gathered as evidence by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, as well as certain other materials relating to the assassination, should be deposited, safeguarded and preserved in the Archives of the United States as material of historical importance."

In a telephone interview with Mr. Marshall on November 5, 1975, he said that this "letter of transfer" was not initiated by him or by the

CRS-4

Kennedy family, and neither was it drafted by him or the Kennedy family, but rather it was initiated and drafted by the General Services Administration and National Archives.

NOVEMBER 1, 1966

12. On November 1, 1966, a "Report of Inspection" by Naval Medical Staff at the National Archives of all X-rays and photographs of the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy was conducted.

"...the undersigned individuals jointly examined the items of photographic material described below which were represented to us by Dr. James B. Rhoads, Deputy Archivist of the United States, to be the material listed in Appendix B of a letter dated October 29, 1966 from Burke Marshall..." (see attached)

NOTE: The article "Rules For X-Rays of Kennedy Given: Archives Releases Text of Agreement Transferring Records of the Autopsy," appeared in the New York Times 1/6/68, and listed only (7) seven paragraphs of materials related to the autopsy, whereas, in the inventory of autopsy material signed by Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, there are (9) nine paragraphs listed. (see attached)

April 22, 1965

Dear Dr. Burkley:

This will authorize you to release to my custody all of the material of President Kennedy, of which you have personal knowledge, and now being held by the Secret Service.

I would appreciate it if you would accompany this material personally and turn it over for safekeeping to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln at the National Archives. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mrs. Lincoln with instructions that this material is not to be released to anyone without my written permission and approval.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Kennedy

Vice Adm. George G. Burkley
Physician to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

cc/Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 26, 1965

Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln
National Archives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Lincoln:

In accordance with authorization dated April 22, 1965 from Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the items on the attached list relating to the autopsy of the late President John F. Kennedy are herewith transferred to the Archives for your custody, and in accordance with the instructions contained in Senator Kennedy's letter.

Yours sincerely,

George S. Burkley

George G. Burkley
Vice Admiral, MC, USN
Physician to the President

Witnesses:

Robert J. Bourch
Chester J. Wilkie
Edith E. Duncan

TRANSFERRED TO NRS. LINCOLN, NATIONAL ARCHIVES, APRIL 26, 1965

1. One broken casket handle
 2. Envelopes numbered 1 to 18 containing black and white negatives of photographs taken at time of autopsy
 3. 7 envelopes containing 4 x 5 negatives of autopsy material
 4. 5 envelopes containing 4 x 5 exposed film containing no image
 5. 1 roll of exposed film from a color camera entirely black with no image apparent
 6. Envelope containing 8 X-ray negatives 14" x 17"; 6 X-ray negatives 10" x 12"; 12 black and white prints 11" x 14"; 17 black and white prints 14" x 17"; all negatives and prints pertaining to X-rays that were taken at the autopsy
 7. 36 8" x 10" black and white prints - autopsy photos
37 3 1/2" x 4 1/2" black and white prints - autopsy photos
27 color positive transparencies 4" x 5"
1 unexposed piece of color film
 8. 27 4" x 5" color negatives of autopsy photographs
55 8" x 10" color prints of autopsy photographs
 9. 1 plastic box 9 x 6 1/2" x 1" containing paraffin blocks of tissue sections
1 plastic box containing paraffin blocks of tissue sections plus 35 slides
A third box containing 84 slides
1 stainless steel container 7" in diameter x 2" containing gross material
3 wooden boxes, each 7" x 5 1/2" x 1 1/4", containing 58 slides--
blood smears taken at various times during life
Complete autopsy protocol of President Kennedy (orig. & 7 cc's) -
Original signed by Dr. Humes, pathologist
Letter of transmittal of autopsy report (orig. & 1 cc)
- Office Memorandum from James K. Fox to SAIC Bouck Nov. 29, 1963, concerning the processing of film in the presence of Lt. (jg) V. Madonia, USN (orig. & 2 ccs)
- Orig. memo from Lt. Madonia to J. K. Fox, U. S. Secret Service, White House, Special Officer, dated Nov. 29, 1963, concerning receipt of certain films and prints and the processing thereof (Orig. & 1 cc)

E.L.

Abb
RAB
C/M

1965

Certificate of destruction of preliminary draft notes on protocol of autopsy (1 cc signed by Dr. J. J. Hayes)

Orig. & 1 cc and one xerox reproduction of memo from Comdr. John H. Ebersole, M.C., U.S.N., Acting Chief of Radiology, to Roy H. Kellerman, ASAIC, U. S. Secret Service, regarding X-ray films dated 11-22-63.

Therofax reproduction of memo from Francis X. O'Neill Jr., Agent FBI, and James W. Sibert, to Capt. J. H. Stover, Commanding Officer, USN Medical School, regarding receipt of missile, dated 11-22-63.

1cc of letter dated Dec. 5, 1963 from SAIC Bouck to Capt. J. H. Stover, Jr., MC, USN, concerning graphic film holders.

2 page memo from Captain Stover, MC, USN, Nov. 22, 1963 to Roy H. Kellerman concerning receipt of photographic material.

George G. Burkley
George G. Burkley
Vice Admiral, MC, USN
Physician to the President

Witnesses:

Robert J. Bouck
Charles J. Miller
Edith E. Duncan

Received April 26, 1965 in Room 409, National Archives, Washington, D.C. from Dr. Burkley and Robert Bouck.

Phylis Russell

1965

The Letter on Kennedy Autopsy Photos

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—Following is the text of a letter on the personal effects of President Kennedy, returned as evidence after an examination and reported by the Kennedy family to the Archivist of the United States Oct. 29, 1968.

Honorable Lawson B. Knott Jr., Administrator of General Services

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Knott:

The family of the late President John F. Kennedy shares the concern of the Government that the personal effects of the late President which were returned as evidence to the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy, as well as other items, should be deposited, safeguarded and preserved in the Archives of the United States as materials of historical importance.

The family desires to prevent the undignified or sensational use of these materials (such as public display) or any other use which would tend in any way to diminish the memory of the late President or cause unnecessary grief or suffering to the members of his family and those closely associated with him. We speak these desires:

Accordingly, pursuant to 502 (1) of the Code of Federal Regulations, the executors of the estate of the late President John F. Kennedy hereby transfer to the Administrator of General Services, acting for and on behalf of the United States of America, for deposit in the National Archives of the United States, all of their right, title, and interest in all of the personal effects of the late President now in the possession of the United States Government and identified in Appendix A, and in certain X-rays and photographs connected with the autopsy of the late President referred to in Appendix B, and the same, for deposit in the National Archives of the United States, for deposit in the following restrictions, which shall continue in effect during the term of the late President's widow, daughter, son, parents, brothers and sisters, or any of them:

of the materials transferred hereunder, and take such further actions as he deems necessary and appropriate (including referral to the Department of Justice for appropriate legal action), to fulfill the objectives of this agreement and his statutory responsibility under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, to provide for the preservation, arrangement and use of materials transferred to his custody for archival administration.

Lawson B. Knott Jr.,
United States of America
By Lawson B. Knott Jr.,
Administrator of General Services

Appendix A

Clothing and personal effects of the late President, identified by the following exhibit numbers relating to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy: Exhibit Nos. 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436.

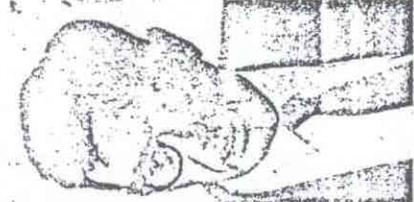
Appendix B

1. Envelopes numbered 1 to 15, containing black and white negatives of photographs taken at time of autopsy.
2. 45 negatives of autopsy film.
3. 5 envelopes containing 4x5 exposed film containing no image.
4. 1 roll of exposed film from a color camera entirely black with no image apparent.
5. Envelopes containing 3 X-ray negatives 14" x 17", 6 X-ray negatives 10" x 12", 12 black and white prints 11" x 14", 17 black and white prints 14" x 17", all negatives and prints pertaining to X-rays that were taken at the autopsy.
6. 36 8" x 10" black and white prints, autopsy photographs 3 1/2" x 5 1/2" black and white or positive transparencies 4" x 5", 1 unexposed piece of color film.
7. 27 4" x 5" color negatives of autopsy photographs, 55 8" x 10" color prints of autopsy photographs.

Please indicate your acceptance on behalf of the United States of America by executing the acceptance clause below.

Sincerely,
Burke Marshall, on behalf of the executors of the estate of John F. Kennedy.

Accepted:



The New York Times
Burke Marshall, who sent letter for executors of estate of President Kennedy.

materials pursuant to this Paragraph 1 (2) (b) shall be authorized until five years after the date of this agreement except with the consent of the Kennedy family representative designated pursuant to Paragraph 1 (2). For the purposes of this Paragraph, the determination of which family member has suitable qualifications and serious purposes shall be made by the Kennedy family representative. No access shall be authorized pursuant to this Paragraph 1 (2) (b) during the lives of the individuals referred to in the second paragraph of this agreement for any purpose involving reproduction or publication of the personal effects of the Kennedy family representative who shall file all requests for access, or to impose conditions he deems appropriate on access. In order to prevent such use of the Appendix B materials,

III.

(1) In order to preserve the Appendix A materials and the Appendix B materials against possible loss, the Administrator is authorized to photograph or otherwise reproduce any of such materials for purposes of examination in lieu of the originals by persons authorized to have access pursuant to Paragraph 1 (2) or Paragraph 11 (2).

(2) The Administrator may condition access under Paragraph 1 (2) (b) or Paragraph 11 (2) (b) to any of the materials transferred hereunder, upon application to comply with applicable restrictions specified in this agreement.

IV.

(1) The Administrator shall be entitled to consult with the Kennedy family representative designated pursuant to Paragraph 1 (2), and to rely upon such representative's statements in writing as representing the views of the Kennedy family, in connection with the construction or application of this agreement in a particular case.

(2) The Kennedy family representative for the purposes of this agreement shall be Burke Marshall. A successor representative of the Kennedy family may be designated in writing to the Administrator from time to time by Mrs. John F. Kennedy. In the event of the death or disability of Mrs. John F. Kennedy, any successor shall be designated by Robert F. Kennedy. In the event of the death or disability of both Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, any such designation shall be made by Edward M. Kennedy in the event of his death, or by any such designator thereafter.

(3) Access to the Appendix B materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

V.

(1) In order to preserve the Appendix A materials and the Appendix B materials against possible loss, the Administrator is authorized to photograph or otherwise reproduce any of such materials for purposes of examination in lieu of the originals by persons authorized to have access pursuant to Paragraph 1 (2) or Paragraph 11 (2).

(2) The Administrator may condition access under Paragraph 1 (2) (b) or Paragraph 11 (2) (b) to any of the materials transferred hereunder, upon application to comply with applicable restrictions specified in this agreement.

(3) Access to the Appendix B materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

materials shall be permitted only to:

(a) Any person authorized to act for a committee of the Congress, for a Presidential committee or commission, or for any other official agency of the United States Government, having authority to investigate matters relating to the death of the late President, for purposes within the investigative jurisdiction of such committee, commission or agency.

(b) Any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President, provided, however, that no access to the Appendix B

RULES FOR X-RAYS OF KENNEDY GIVEN

Archives Releases Text of Agreement Transferring Records of the Autopsy

The text of Kennedy letter will be found on Page 15.

Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—The National Archives made public today the text of the agreement under which autopsy photographs and X-rays of President Kennedy's body will be held secret until Oct. 29, 1971.

Robert H. Bahmer, director of the Archives, released the text of the agreement under which the Kennedy family turned the autopsy material over to the Archives.

Persons who have seen the 65 X-rays, black-and-white photographs and color transparencies that were taken during the autopsy say they have strong support to the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing President Kennedy.

Given to Family

They were given to the Kennedy family by the Secret Service immediately after the autopsy and for reasons of taste were not included among the Warren Commission's evidence.

The agreement, dated Oct. 29, 1966, provides that only official Government investigative bodies and private experts approved by the Kennedy family can see the material for the first five years.

After that period, "any recognized expert in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology, for serious purposes relevant to the investigation of matters relating to the death of the late President," may see the 65 photographs and X-rays.

The agreement specifies that a representative of the Kennedy family will determine which researchers have "suitable qualifications and serious purposes."

Dr. Bahmer said in an interview that it was understood between the Archives and the Kennedy family that the decision as to who shall see the

Continued on Page 15, Column 1

KENNEDY X-RAYS SECRET TILL 1971

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

material would be made without discrimination. Unless there are special circumstances, he said, any qualified pathologist who is studying the assassination will be allowed to see the items.

Burke Marshall, who is acting as the Kennedy family's representative, confirmed this interpretation in a telephone interview.

Mr. Marshall, who is general counsel for the International Business Machines Corporation in New York, said, however, that after the material had been available to experts for some time and their findings had been made public, the Kennedy family could possibly reject some requests on the ground that it believed the applicants' motive was not a "serious purpose" but just morbid curiosity.

Jibes with Description

The text of the agreement and the interpretations given today jibe with the description of the document that was given by Justice Department spokesmen when they announced the arrangement on Nov. 1, 1966.

However, the exact wording of the agreement was not made public until today, and some critics of the Warren Commission's findings had implied that the autopsy material would be kept from scholars for many years.

The agreement was drawn by Mr. Marshall in a letter to Landon B. Hunt Jr., administrator of the General Services Administration, the Government agency responsible for the maintenance of records and property.

It provides that a successor representative of President Kennedy's family may be named by Mrs. John F. Kennedy. In the event of the death or disability of Mrs. Kennedy, a successor may be designated by the President's brother, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Democrat of New York.

The succession continues through another brother, Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Should all three die or be disabled, the designation of a representative shall be made by any adult child of the late President or by any of his sisters with the advice of other members of the family.

Book Scores Report

In a recently published book that criticizes the Warren report, "Accessories After the Fact," Sylvia Meagher, the author, charged that the bulk of the transfer of this evidence to the Archives were such that the photographs and X-rays will not be made available to any individual or organization except a new government organization that, if one is appointed to further investigate the assassination.

The X-rays and photographs were delivered to the Archives on Oct. 30, 1966, together with articles of the President's clothing that he was wearing when he was killed.

Under the terms of the agreement, none of the items will be placed on public display during the lives of the President's widow, children, parents, brothers and sisters.

Although Government investigators and persons approved by the Kennedy family could have been permitted to see the autopsy during the first five years, Dr. Bahmer said no one had in fact seen them. No Government agencies have asked, he said, and Mr. Marshall said he would not authorize any private persons to see them until Oct. 29, 1971.

Even after that time, scholars will not be permitted to reproduce the items. They will be allowed only to examine them and take notes.

New York Times 8/27/72

Mystery Cloaks Fate Of Brain of Kennedy

By FRED P. GRAHAM

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 — Justice Department had been placed in the Archives and that Dr. Wecht had turned to "offensive" probing because the evidence in the Archives did not support his doubts about the official finding that the assassination was the deed of Lee Harvey Oswald alone.

The expert, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, was the first critic of the Warren Commission's report on the assassination to be allowed to see items from the autopsy on the President.

He asserted that questions about President Kennedy's wounds would remain unanswered so long as these objects were not available for examination. A spokesman for the Kennedy family replied that all evidence requested by the Jus-

Dr. Wecht spent two days in the Archives last week examining the material. He made his assertions afterward in an interview at the Archives.

Interviews with Government officials and President Kennedy's former personal secretary, Evelyn Lincoln, disclosed that the slides and probably the brain, which was removed from the body in the autopsy in 1963 and was preserved in a container of formalin, were

Continued on Page 57, Column 1

New York Times 8/27/72

...a locked chest in the...
...Kennedy family...
...the National...
...in 1955 by Burke...
...representative of the...
...family, the slides, the...
...and possibly some other...
...were not included.

...Marshall, who is a law...
...at Yale University...
...in an interview last night...
...he never had possession...
...of the chest of drawers and that...
...he had no knowledge of the...
...nature or any other objects not...
...in the Archives.

...He said that Nicholas deB...
...Kornbach as Attorney Gen...
...had ruled that certain...
...X-rays, color transparencies...
...and photographs taken at the...
...autopsy were evidence relevant...
...to the assassination and that...
...he, Mr. Marshall, obtained these...
...from the Kennedy family and...
...forward them with the Archives...
...in 1955.

...Mr. Marshall said that other...
...items had apparently not been...
...requested by the Justice Depart...
...ment because "they have no...
...bearing on who killed the...
...President." He explored Dr...
...Wecht's "chasing after parts...
...of the President's body because...
...he hasn't found any evidence...
...that anything else was wrong."

Foreign Object Shown
...Dr. Wecht, who is coroner of...
...Pittsburgh and Allegheny...
...County, Pa., and a past presi...
...dent of the American Academy...
...of Forensic Sciences, said that...
...the slides should show defini...
...tely if all of President Ken...
...nedy's gunshot wounds were...
...from the rear, as was concluded...
...by the commission of inquiry...
...under the then Chief Justice...
...Earl Warren.

...Entering bullets burn and...
...soil tissues around the wound...
...of entry but not at the point...
...of exit, he said. Thus, the micro...
...scopic slides could settle the...
...question whether the bullets...
...that passed through the Presi...
...dent's head and body had been...
...fired from the rear.

...Examination of the brain is...
...necessary, Dr. Wecht said, be...
...cause photographs of the top...
...of the removed brain, which...
...were shown to him, disclose a...
...sizeable foreign object that...
...could have been a flattened...
...bullet fragment or a brain...
...tumor.

...In either event, he said, it is...
..."unacceptable" that the public...
...has never been told what it...
...was. He described the object as...
...a parallelogram at least one...
...half by three-quarters of an...
...inch in size.

Will Ask Inspection
...The official report of the...
...autopsy performed by three...
...military physicians on Nov. 22...
...1963, the day of the assassina...
...tion in Dallas, did not mention...
...the object. A subsequent panel...
...of four physicians appointed by...
...Attorney General— they also were...
...not shown the actual brain—...
...indicated the presence of the...
...object in the photographs.

...Dr. Wecht, who is both a...
...pathologist and a lawyer, said...
...he felt certain that the brain...
...was still "around somewhere"...
...and that he intended to ask Mr...
...Marshall to let a panel of ex...
...perts inspect it. "Who would...
...have taken the responsibility...
...to destroy the brain?" he asked.

...After the Kennedy autopsy...
...the Secret Service and other...
...agencies delivered the various...
...medical items to President Ken...
...nedy's personal physician, Vice...
...Adm. George G. Burley.

...Marion Johnson, director of...
...the National Archives' legisla...
...tive, judicial and fiscal branch...
...said yesterday that in 1955 Dr...
...Burley delivered the items to...
...Mrs. Lincoln, who was working...
...with President Kennedy's ef...
...fects at the Archives.

Inventory Kept Secret
...Dr. Burley signed a two...
...page "memorandum of trans...
...fer," dated April 26, 1955, but...
...he did not disclose to whom...
...the transfer had been made.

...Mr. Johnson characterized it as...
...in essence an "inventory" of...
...the items. He said that Mrs...
...Lincoln had turned all the...
...material over to Robert F. Ken...
...nedy, the President's brother...
...but that when the material was...
...returned by Mr. Marshall in...
...1956, some of the items on Ad...
...miral Burley's inventories...
...were not included.

...Mrs. Lincoln, who is now in...
...a staff job at the House of...
...Representatives, said that Ad...
...miral Burley delivered a...
...locked chest to her at the Ar...
...chives and that a few days later...
...Angie Neville, Robert Ken...
...nedy's secretary, arrived and...
...took it away. Mrs. Lincoln said...
...that she had not looked inside...
...the chest or read Admiral Bur...
...ley's inventory.

...The full extent of the items...
...that have been withheld may...
...never be known. Mr. Johnson...
...said that Admiral Burley's in...
...ventory was being kept secret...
...at the behest of the Kennedy...
...family, on the ground that...
...mention of some of the items...
...would be "objectionable."

...Sources close to the Kennedy...
...family suggested that among...
...these might be medical reports...
...that predated the assassina...
...tion.

...When Mr. Marshall turned...
...the material over to the Ar...
...chives in 1956, it was under an...
...agreement that only official...
...Government agencies could see...
...it for five years. When that...
...period expired last year, sev...
...eral physicians wrote to Mr...
...Marshall asking to see the...
...items.

...Until last week Mr. Marshall...
...had permitted only one expert...
...Dr. John K. Lattimer of New...
...York, to see them. This had...
...drawn criticism from critics of...
...the Warren report because Dr...
...Lattimer is a urologist, and not...
...a specialist in forensic pathol...
...ogy, and had published articles...
...supporting the commission's...
...conclusion that Lee Harvey...
...Oswald had acted alone in...
...killing the President.



Associated Press
Dr. Cyril H. Wecht has charged that material was withheld from the National Archives.

...tion of the bullet that is be...
...lieved to have passed through...
...President Kennedy's body, and...
...of photographs and films taken...
...at the scene—material never in...
...the Kennedy family's posses...
...sion that has been in the Ar...
...chives for years—"destroy" the...
...Warren Commission's theory...
...that the same bullet caused...
...the severe wounds to John B...
...Connally, then Governor of...
...Texas, riding in the President's...
...car.

...He said that the bullet's "al...
...most perfect" condition made...
...it virtually impossible that it...
...could have caused such dam...
...age, and that the angle of its...
...path through President Ken...
...nedy made it unlikely that it...
...could have struck Governor...
...Connally in the car's "jump...
...seat in front.

...He concluded that Oswald...
...could not have fired the three...
...bullets so fast on his bolt-ac...
...tion rifle, adding, "That proves...
...a conspiracy right there."
...Dr. Wecht said that the au...
...topsy pictures and X-rays...
...turned over by the Kennedy...
...family raised two additional...
...questions.

Positions of Wound
...One is why the wound in the...
...back of President Kennedy's...
...head was stated in the Warren...
...report to have been four inches...
...lower than the pictures show...
...and why the Warren report's...
...drawing shows the bullet...
...wound in the back to be sev...
...eral inches lower than the...
...photographs.

...The other is a "little flap"...
...of loose scalp that is visible...
...just above the hairline on the...
...back left side of the President's...
...head. This might have been an...
...entrance or exit wound, he...
...said, but it has not been re...
...ported before.

...Dr. Wecht said that he would...
...write to Mr. Marshall, asking...
...to lay all these questions to...
...rest by again inspecting the...
...materials, plus the brain and...
...microscopic slides of the...
...wounds, with a team of ex...
...perts, including a radiologist...
...a neurosurgeon, a firearms ex...
...pert, a criminologist and an...
...examiner of questioned docu...
...ments.

...Mr. Marshall said, "If we...
...were trying to hide something...
...we wouldn't have let Wecht...
...see the materials." But he said...
...it was "offensive" for there...
...to be all this probing—it is a...
...terrible thing to do to that...
...family."

...Dr. Wecht, 41 years old, is a...
...director of the Pittsburgh Insti...
...tute of Legal Medicine and the...
...Institute of Forensic Sciences...
...at Duquesne University. He...
...also is a research professor of...
...law at Duquesne and a pathol...
...ogy instructor at the University...
...of Pittsburgh School of Medi...
...cine, from which he obtained...
...his doctorate in 1955.