

CONFIDENTIAL - SS mtg today
Gary, Dick, Paul, Howard only

3/4/70

When I got to Tom Kelley's office, we chatted for a while and were joined by information-men Warner and counsel Goff, who stayed for the entire meeting, which lasted well into (possibly through) the lunch period of most government employees. "Stayed" is not the right word: participated.

I believe this was quite a valuable meeting. It was friendly. I mean more than not unfriendly. I, meaning we, are getting more of what has been denied us as a result. Its ultimate value may be a question, but I think it will be of interest. I'll keep you informed.

Again, I want to emphasize the necessity for not attracting any attention to this, for if anything is used out of context or for purposes of sensation, I think this will turn off. Some of you know the value of what I have been able to get. So, I am writing you alone, and I ask each of you to keep what I'll be sending to you to yourself.

As I can, I'll be writing memos on aspects of what we covered. By and large, but not entirely, I believe Kelley was honest with me. He was untruthful on one occasion and a little later, without letting it seem as though I was aware, in a very polite way, I was able to indicate it. Whether he was untruthful on others I may have no way of knowing. It was never unpleasant, not even when it was a little pointed.

Perhaps I can characterize it best, briefly, with a restatement of the little incident with which we broke up. I had left Kelley's inner office, where we all sat around a large table. In the doorway to his secretary's office Kelley put his arm around me and said, "We know ~~xxxxxxx~~ how the President was killed. The Bureau told us". I said, "I also know how the President was killed. The Secret Service told me. I like their initial account better". There was laughing and I made it explicit: I knew they accounting, prior to the official line was established, was contradictory to it and I understood the requirements of accommodation in a bureaucracy. No objections, no protests, no ended smiles.

So, I think we understand each other. I think we have a reasonable relationship and I also think I will be able to go back for anything and everything they have given the Commission or the Archives that we cannot get. In fact, this was pretty explicit.

I had sent some of you a few cryptic notes on what I planned to take up. I gave them to Kelley, for his searches and responses. I remembered another thing and we went into that verbally. It is not entirely satisfactory to me, but I must acknowledge it is neither surprising nor unexpected. This had to do with the reports of a Secret Service man at the TSBD. He says they investigated that and it boiled down to a reporter showing credentials like Secret Service credentials. He says they also found a reporter who was there at that time and could have been the man. I asked "Allmen?" and he said he didn't recall. This and other things I decided not to push one so that, where I felt I had to be forceful and demonstrate a willingness to be, I could have credibility. On these areas I did not back down and I do expect constructive results.

We began with him showing me the stills they have from the NO TV footage. There was one enlargement of Steele and three like the Pizzo, not identical but similar. I quoted two things to him for further search: Johann Rush saying he made 17 prints and the FBI agents showing as many as six stills at one time. He will also see to it that each of these is in the Archives, if it is not. I told him

one he showed me and one at the A was from WWL footage (Gernerl). A showed me but two from WDSU. During the course of this conversation, it became clear they were aware of the second man with LHO. tried to identify him but without success. The reports do not reflect this. Here I note they did much not reflected in the reports at the A. I told them fully and frankly about the film the FBI got that was never given the Commission, is not now in the A, and told them if they wanted my copy of Martin they could have it and I'd tell them how to get the other. There was no rejoinder, which is the better situation. I also told them both films had been edited, edited copies being returned, and that in the Martin film there is a unique ~~fixxxx~~ view of LHO in which he looks different than in any other pix.

Soon we got into the receipts, and soon I had them! Three we have been told do not exist. Because I am getting them through channels, I didn't try to memorize them. They show the numbers of film as contrasted with the numbers of containers. They show 14 X-rays, 8 of the 14" size, six of the other. The six represents a correction from another number. I was quite pointed here in explaining the total absence of some of the X-rays, and the damage and the no-image, which, apparently, was new to them. They understand they got the exposed and undeveloped film. I asked them to investigate to learn what happened. We went around on this for a while, the result being we got to cover it pretty clearly, with the essential implications not lost upon them. And I went into detail on the sworn testimony that establishes the existence of X-rays not now listed. I think I can explain it but I made no effort to. That is something they should do. I cited James WC and Finck NO to them, offering them my "inck if they do not want to ask DJ.

I think this may be significant, and, intending emphasis, not offense, impress on you the need for silence. There was reason to believe, from a release Paul got in 1966, that some of the film had been showed the Commission. I got a story I believe on that. I invited suggested interpretations or analysis. Before the autopsy doctors testified, he does not know the exact date, the SS took all the X-rays and none of the pictures up to the WC where a number of members of the staff went over them. They also took a viewer. The purpose was to prepare for the questioning of the doctors. I think a more conspiratorial interpretation is not extreme, given some of the self-serving lies by staff members. For some reason Kelley seems to have the idea that Specter was not in on this. I suggest one possible interpretation, assuming his recollection is accurate, that the viewing of the X-rays is all Adams needed. In any event, I believe Kelley at least intends to be honest, for he did confirm to me that he showed Specter one picture. It is as I knew, in Dallas, the purpose being to locate the non-fatal. He was a bit slippery in identifying it, save that it was to show the rear wound. At first he said head, and I asked him if he was certain. He apparently wasn't and this ended with his saying, after we went over it, that all he knows is that it was a picture showing the neck. Which could be either, huh? In this connection, he confirmed what I have in the Specter memo (PM) on "obby's attitude. He was never consulted until after the autopsy testimony and then did not refuse the Com. I also note he couldn't have, as I noted to them because he didn't have them. I now know he never did, as I will explain. Thus far, I think at least for the most part this is reasonable and in essence I believe it. He may or may not have shown Specter only a single picture and he may or may not have recollection of what it showed. But we do know certain valuable things we didn't know earlier.

Now, he was indefinite in response to a specific question about the reason for the transfer of the pix, X-rays and other materials. I wanted to know whose idea it was. A long time later, when we came back to this in a different context, there was a broad hint it was in "obby's name. But the person to whom they were delivered is Mrs. Lincoln, then working in the Archives for the Ken. Lib. It is she who signed this receipt. I do not now have the promise of it, but I think I'll get either the receipt itself or the contents. The understand completely

why I want it, for I spelled it out. They know I'll sue if I do not get it, and that my lawyer has already told me we cannot safely file against the Archives alone for fear of getting tossed out on a technicality. They do not want me to sue them, and they made no effort to hide it. They went further and said they'd prefer a relationship in which I do not have to even invoke the law, for they have nothing to hide, etc. Now it is by no means certain that there is no SS copy (signed by "Lincoln") at the Archives. Knowing that the original is there, they may not have sent another copy. However, they have also been in touch with the Archives about this, in some detail. There is no point in going over all of it. They will consult Rhoads again and be in touch with me. I waited until the end and then, looking at the lawyer, said, "You know, if there ever was any ground on which you could have withheld this, had you wanted to, you lost all of that when the Clark Panel used it". He nodded assent. Only slightly, but I could see it. I here thought it might be a good idea to offer what should not be necessary. I said if, in their opinion, there was something that could be put to scandalous use, I'd accept a masked copy as long as it reflected what was transferred in a meaningful way or, if they'd let me examine it, a retyped copy with such material, if any, skinned. I also told them that having put up with abuse for more than a year on this to avoid an action that, in history, might unfairly reflect on some of those innocently involved or their families, I was prepared to be patient as long as I remained unconvinced I was being dealt with honorably, that I was not just being put off, as I regarded what the Archives had done. I told them if they had not been provided copies of my letters, or didn't want to ask for them, they were welcome to consult my files, that they would find I made the first request 1/69, the reply requiring 82 days (with verbal promises of action in between), that on getting the line about private papers I had said okay, not that one. Give me the government copy, and that to this day I have, when I got anything, gotten only a restatement of the original position. I think they understood this is no way and I got the idea it is not the way they want it. However, Goff also made it clear that he believes there is a law requiring all government records on this to be at the Archives, so they regard the Archives as the agency of paramount interest. I cited the Clark memo. Kelley then acknowledged he had given that page, when I sent it, to Goff.

I went over all the medical things in Bishop. They will check them. I went into detail on the notes, what is missing, what I can prove is missing, and what I can prove they had in their files. I distinguished between this and what I reasonably believed they should be able to account for. They will check. They read this the way I do but presume they just turned it all over. I could believe that in some cases they may not have made copies. There was a sort of half-hearted effort to suggest that all the notes were the body chart. This was abandoned immediately when I said two things: It did not contain all the data in the protocol and it contained none of "Jones' handwriting. I then added Finck N.O. and that did it. We'll see. But they know.

At one point, where they misunderstood me, Kelley said they have none of the tissue slides. I told him I was interested in the records of all of this, all samples made, whether or not used, all memos, covering letters, etc., none of which are in the Archives. They'll check, and they'll check to see if there are any letters, memos, etc., on 1221 and the two others noted on 3D498. I told them nothing in A Specter file. Kelley said he had no copy of 1221 with him, and later alluded to having seen a paper with a very large, blue 1221 at the bottom in that sheaf....I went into the fact that a sample had to have been removed from the anterior neck in any kind of decent autopsy and there was no record of it. He asked why had I told him. (I deliberately stayed away from any details of any wounds, except for explicitness on the fragmentation in the torso, citing sources). They will look for any notes their boys made. Kellerman has retired and is in Florida. They are not in touch. I think K retired young.

^obdy made any effort to rush me. No reference to lunch time, etc. At a couple of points Kelley made comments I could have taken as cracks, so I took them both up, politely and, it seems, effectively. One was about the character of some of the things I'd said. I hot air hard, quietly, asking what he'd do and think if in my position, getting a letter signed by Rowley saying they had turned everything over to the Archives pursuant to the ex order, and one from the Archives saying nothing had been turned over. He freely acknowledged writing the letter for Rowley. I think what happened is that he told people to do it and there was then a change in personnel, the new people assuming it had all been given to begin with. I do not believe there was a deliberate suppression by the SS but I also admit if you were to argue I could offer no proof. It is opinion. The other remark was about selling books. I told him his pr expert was there, and he would tell him if this was what dominated me, he knew perfectly well that doing what I was going to so much trouble to avoid, filing a suit, would be the way to sell books. Warner agreed. So, no more of this and we understood each other better.

I do believe it is new to Kelley that two batches of the autopsy pictures show no image, as receipted by Marshall. He didn't understand and I had to go over it several times before he did. In the course of it he got the idea that at some point the SS might be held responsible for a) the happening and b) the total suppression of it. I think he will look into it and, if he can at this late date, find out and possibly tell me.

The negative film was printed. They made no copies of the X-rays and they know of none being made.

At one point toward the end he said, in more or less these words, "I'm told" or "I hear" that "if I want to know what is in the Archives I ask you". I laughed and told him he must have been talking to a friend who exaggerated and asked who. He went on to something else. Of course, this is not at all the case and it is not often said, and the only place I've heard anything like it is in N.O.

I'm sure there was more on the medical-autopsy but I was not able to make notes, it went too fast, so I didn't try. Yes, they will check to see if Kellerman made an inventory of who was there. They will check the 6.5 mm fragment, they will see if they can learn about the "unidentified structure". They got the point that the missile receipt was not likely for two pieces of metal dust when it said one missile

The car was washed in Dallas. As says under their supervision. I asked if anything turned up and he said no. On the closeness of their supervision, I asked him if he wanted to see pictures with no agents conspicuously near it and he got that point very clearly. When they asked why I said because this provided an opportunity to remove and an opportunity to add, supervised or not. So, my hunch in WV was correct, as was Wicker's recollection of seeing a bucket of bloody water near the car.

I saw the original of the authorization and the copy is faithful, if poor. The original is clear. The identifying errors are on it. They know of no related papers.

As I think of other things I'll try and make notes and let you know. There undoubtedly was more on this aspect alone.

Best,

Harold