

What the Commission knew about the JFK Autopsy

HW 5/17/77

That it pretended it did not know

From a Secret Service record otherwise captioned.

Tom Kelley had told me that he, personally, was part of the showing of the X-ray films to the Commission staff.

On April 16, 1964 he drafted a memo for Rowley's signature. It begins by going into the testimony the Commission planned to take from named agents.

The final graf says he personally arranged for an X-ray viewing box at the Commission's request, that they wanted two for 9 a.m. April 21, and that he, Kelley, arranged for this with Boswell at the Bethesda hospital.

Kelley designated SA Morgan Gies to pick these boxes up on April 20.

Gies was then to deliver these boxes to the 4th floor of the Commission's offices and to return them to Bethesda after they were used on 4/21.

The Bethesda doctors testified April 15 or 16, so it would appear that the Commission was shook up a bit.

It appears from the memo that Kelley expected the boxes to be used at a hearing. This is not certain but is a fair interpretation of his closing words about what Gies is to do, "returning them to the Bethesda Naval Hospital at the conclusion of the hearings on April 21."

My copy Kelley's Rowley memo filed Autopsy, Pictures, X-rays.

U. S. SECRET SERVICE
File No. CO-2-34,050
April 16, 1964

SAIC Behn - White House Detail

Chief

Appearance Before the President's Commission

Special Agent Winston Lawson is scheduled to testify before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy on Thursday, April 23, 1964.

The Commission has scheduled SAIC Bouck for 9:00 am on that date and Special Agent Lawson will testify at the conclusion of SAIC Bouck's testimony. The purpose of SA Lawson's appearance, as stated in a letter to me dated April 15, 1964, is to take the testimony of agents of the Secret Service who are familiar with the advance preparations for the trip to Dallas. The general subject of the Commission's inquiry will be the advance preparations for the Dallas trip, including the activities of the Protective Research Section, and events actually observed by SAIC Sorrels and SA Lawson in Dallas on November 22, and thereafter. You should arrange for SA Lawson's appearance before the Commission on the date indicated.

The Commission has also requested our cooperation in having available to the Commission two x-ray viewing boxes at 9:00 am, on April 21, 1964. Arrangements have been made by Inspector Kelley with Commander Boswell at the Bethesda Naval Hospital to make these viewing boxes available to a representative of this Service on Monday, April 20, 1964. Inspector Kelley has requested SA Morgan Gies to make the necessary arrangements for picking these boxes up on April 20, delivering them to the Commission at 200 Maryland Avenue, N. E., Washington, D. C. (4th floor of the VFW Building) in the afternoon of April 20, returning them to the Bethesda Naval Hospital at the conclusion of the hearings on April 21.

JJR:TJK:ew