

7/5/73

Mr. Richard G. Kleinman, Deputy Atty. Gen.
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Kleinman,

In writing you June 13, I suggested I could explain something in FBI exhibit 60 that might be troublesome in the future and might be susceptible of innocent explanation. Hence to the two prints enclosed with your letter of July 6, I believe I can now do this with fair certainty.

Any examination of FBI exhibit 60, with even the limited magnification provided by the photocopying process, discloses that the upper left-hand insert of the enlarged hole in the back of the shirt does not coincide with the un-enlarged hole in the shirt itself. One of the most obvious discrepancies is that in the enlargement the George not pass the left-hand edge of the vertical stripe of the shirt pattern, whereas in the unenlarged view of the entire bag it does. That this was undetected and unreported by the examination of the technical experts, the FBI, which made the exhibit, should give you an hint of view of the investigation and the care with which evidence was prepared and examined.

By comparing the enlargement you were kind enough to send me with the unenlarged shirt picture, I am reasonably confident that the insert was printed upside down, but if it is reversed the holes seem to be identical. Furthermore, the photo you sent me shows more than the insert in FBI exhibit 60. If you have a duplicate print of what you sent me, you will see it is still labelled upside down. The legend added partly obliterates the neckband, and that is the button of the picture.

The questions I still have about this evidence are far from answered. However, I am satisfied that this is a manufactured, if inexcusable, discrepancy. I now ask you a rhetorical question, one to which it would be unfair to ask to expect any answer, for you have now in your present position of the title of this affair, but what might have been the impact of this discrepancy if floated by the defense, in open court, before a jury, without the explanation I offer you? Again, I expect no answer of you, but what does this little thing tell you of the character and dependability of such evidence and the investigation?

Let me again preface response to the remainder of your letter with the explanation I think you have no personal knowledge of that of which you write, that you have to get your information from others. Without any such assurance from you, I believe you accurately reflect what you have been told. As I tried to inform the Attorney General so soon as he took office, on this subject his access of information (misinformation) and identically the same as his predecessors had. In preparing you to respond to my questions about the spectrographic analysis they referred you to the least definitive of the only

undefinitive statements that are available in the Warren Commission evidence. When Mr. Frazier testified that the science of spectrography showed no more than that "the various items 'were found to be similar in metallic composition'" he was saying exactly what I told you, only that they were all of lead, not a bit more. Spectrography is a very precise science. It gives the finest readings of compositions, including of the added elements. If it shows only similarity it shows the samples are not of common origin. His testimony would cover most of the bullets ever made, various plumbing materials, type-lead and a wide assortment of other objects.

If you doubt my word on this, why not get someone to explain you with a definition or description of the science, from almost any standard source, and get through your usual channels, for by now you should have a position to wonder how well you are being informed.

Your paragraph dealing with the documents relating to the late David Ferrie is a rather tricky situation. Because I intend to carry this forward, as you should know, I cannot respond with the forthrightness and completeness my earlier correspondence offered. However, I will tell you it is not consistent with the reality, of which I have repeatedly written, and you should look forward to facing in court what you do not describe, what your Department does have - and what I will produce, for I do have it. These things do not meet the proffered or any other standards for withholding. Nor is the matter simply one of the Commission doing what your last sentence says - and that, too, was not done. You might want to consider what was obtained for the Commission and then withhold from it, by your Department. Believe me, I do have the proof. Not as I referring to a single case only. However, I am trying to help you to help yourself, for as I have repeatedly tried to let the government know, my purpose is the pursuit of fact and truth, not scandal. If you doubt me on this, I will prove it to you with the cases involving the possibility of any withholding under either the law or the guidelines, if not my proving both the withholding and the character I attribute to it you will provide me with copies. Again, I am trying to be open with you, so I tell you that when I am I will be filing RF-118 forms in both cases. These two instances are not of immediate priority with me, but they surely will illustrate my point, without jeopardy to the actions I plan.

I do accept your statements in your final paragraph and, as far as your Department is concerned, will let this matter rest there. However, I tell you candidly that if your penultimate paragraph, dealing with the "miscels", is correct, that is even worse than if it is not. I do believe you are telling us here exactly what you were told. I suspect you have been inadequately informed and that you will not be adequately informed because those in your Department who should know the truth dare not tell you. I hesitate to carry this further at this point. However, because I do not desire that you personally be hurt by the fact that you occupy the position you do, I will assure you that Exhibit 648 goes not account for the lead in the President's head. My proof is beyond question or refutation, so, I regret, you will learn in the form to which the government forces me.

You can read me as you will. Mr. Tolson was silent when I offered to try and be helpful in speaking to him. If this letter does not persuade you I am a fool, should it not suggest my motives might be what I represent them to be?

Sincerely,



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

July 6, 1970

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This will reply to your letter of June 19, 1970 in which you requested a photographic print of a composite picture showing President Kennedy's clothing. As you know, Exhibit 60 is a composite of several photographs showing various articles of the President's clothing. Since there is no single negative of this composite picture, there are attached prints made from three of the four photographic negatives from which the composite picture of Exhibit 60 was prepared. We have previously supplied you with a print of the fourth negative showing the tabs of the President's shirt.


Your letter makes further reference to my letter of June 12, 1970 and argues against the denial of certain requests previously made by you. In referring to the testimony regarding the spectrographic analyses of certain bullet evidence involved in the assassination, you state that the testimony was simply that all specimens were of lead, no more. This statement is not true since the testimony as set forth in Volume 7, Page 74, Line 1 of the Warren Commission Report states specifically that the various items "were found to be similar in metallic composition."

With respect to the material concerning David William Ferris you argue that "all the records of the Warren Commission are not in the National Archives." This Department has no information that any of the Ferris material which the FBI furnished to the Warren Commission was not turned over by that Commission to the National Archives. It is noted that the last sentence of the foreword to the published Report of the Commission reads: "The Commission is committing all of its reports and working papers to the National Archives, where they can be permanently preserved under the rules and regulations of the National Archives and applicable Federal law." So far as is known by this Department, this was done by the Commission before it went out of existence.

You were previously advised that Commission Exhibit 300 consists of two lead fragments removed from President John F. Kennedy at the time of the autopsy. These were the only fragments removed from the President's body and turned over to the FBI. They were described as a "missile" in the report furnished Navy authorities by Special Agents Francis W. C. and James W. Sibert.

You have also been advised that the FBI has never in its possession or custody of the autopsy photographs. The FBI has never had in its possession any negatives, prints, or copies of photographs taken at the time of the autopsy.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Kleindienst
Deputy Attorney General