

One of the apprehensions Judge Halleck expressed is that improper use might be made of the pictures and X-rays of the autopsy and the other objects he ordered sent to the New Orleans trial. Judge Edward A. Haggerty, Jr., who presided over the New Orleans trial, sent this telegram to Judge Halleck on a Sunday to be certain it reached him prior to the set time the next day. "Oser" is Alvin Oser, "Alford" is William Alford, Jr. Both are assistants on Garrison's staff. They handled the Dealey-Plaza and medical sections of the case.

save for the autopsy film,  
This material, no more lent itself to sensational abuse in New Orleans than it did in Washington where it was readily accessible to the press. Pictures had appeared in newspapers and magazine and on TV. CBS used some of this identical evidence in its four-hour spectacular that had been designed to criticize Garrison and those writing critically of the Report.

This was not and could not have been a serious government objection. It was but another in the series of pretenses. It is now clear why the government will do anything to prevent impartial analysis of the pictures and X-rays: they prove the "solution" to the crime erroneous.

As a last resort, the government had, all along, planned to appeal the decision. This would and did have the effect of denying Garrison access to that evidence. The appeals could not be exhausted until well after the close of this case. Although the government lawyers pretended they did not know whether the government would appeal, they did and had alerted the clerk of the District of Columbia appeals court three weeks earlier, as he told me Tuesday, February 18, 1969. This kind of stalling is legal, whether or not right and proper. But to present a better face, the government also improvised all sorts of dodges, of which this telegram is an answer to but one.

Next page: This telegram announcing the end of the presentation of Garrison's case is the normal courtesy between opposing counsel. However, had Garrison not extended it, the government also knew immediately, for it sometimes had more federal lawyers in that New Orleans courtroom than Garrison did. Some permitted their federal association to be known, others disguised it - in friend to. It was pretty obvious.