

OFFICE OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



November 1, 1966

TO: Mr. James B. Rhoads
Deputy Archivist of the United States

FROM: Harold F. Reis
Executive Assistant to the Attorney
General

Transmitted herewith is a re-draft
containing my suggestions, which I have
underscored.

*Bert: I think that, if possible,
you should get everyone's
comments today and we should
all sign it today.*

HFR

DRAFT
HFR

Inspection of Materials Relating to the
Autopsy of President John F. Kennedy
The National Archives
October 31, 1966

At approximately 2:05 P.M., October 31, 1966, in Room 6W-3 of the National Archives Building, Mr. Burke Marshall, the representative of the executors of the estate of President John F. Kennedy, delivered to the custody of the Government of the United States certain materials pertaining to the autopsy of the late President. This action was pursuant to a letter from Mr. Marshall to Honorable Lawson B. Knott, Jr., Administrator of General Services, dated October 29, 1966, which constituted a deed of gift, subject to restrictions, of these and other materials from the estate of John F. Kennedy to the Government of the United States.

The materials were in a footlocker that had previously been delivered to the National Archives by representatives of Senator Robert F. Kennedy for purposes of secure storage and pursuant to an arrangement with Senator Kennedy under which material may not be opened without his consent. At the time of its delivery the footlocker was locked, no key was delivered with it,

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and its contents were not divulged to officials of the National Archives and Records Service. Nor, at any time previous to the opening of the footlocker, were its contents known to the undersigned or, to the best of their knowledge, to any other officer or employee of the National Archives and Records Service, the General Services Administration or the Department of Justice.

The footlocker was opened in the presence of Burke Marshall; Miss Angela Novello, secretary to Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who produced the key with which it was opened; ^{by W. Brewster} Harold F. Reis, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General; Robert H. Bahmer, Archivist of the United States; James B. Rhoads, Deputy Archivist of the United States; Herman Kahn, Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries; and William H. Brewster, Assistant to the General Counsel, General Services Administration. Shortly, thereafter, Frank M. Wozencraft, Assistant Attorney General, joined the group. Immediately after the

opening of the footlocker, Miss Novello and Messrs. Marshall and Wozencraft departed ^{at approximately 2:15 p.m. Immediately thereafter} ~~and those remaining inspected its contents~~ ^{removed all of the materials from the footlocker and inspected them.}

Included in the material in the footlocker was a carbon copy of a letter from Senator Robert F. Kennedy to Vice Admiral George G. Burkley, dated April 22, 1965, authorizing the release to the Senator's custody of all the material relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy. ⁶

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then being held by the Secret Service, and of which Admiral Burkley had personal knowledge, and delivery of the same to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln at the National Archives (a copy of this letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A). The footlocker also contained the original of a letter from Admiral Burkley to Mrs. Lincoln, dated April 26, 1965, transmitting materials relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy. These materials were itemized in a list attached to the letter. (This letter and its attachment are appended hereto as Exhibit B.)

Inspection of the footlocker disclosed that it contained items 1 through 8, inclusive, referred to in the attachment to Admiral Burkley's letter of April 26, 1965. It did not contain any of the material referred to in item 9 of that attachment. However, the footlocker did contain three large manila envelopes of material which appeared to be copies of military service records of the late President ^{Robert F. Kennedy and Joseph} and which had no apparent relationship to the autopsy, ^{and which were not included in Exhibit A.} Since these materials and item 1 are not part of the subject matter of the letter of October 29, 1966, they were removed by Dr. Kahn to be held by the National Archives pursuant to the arrangement with Senator Kennedy referred to in the second paragraph of this memorandum.

Messrs. Bahmer, Reis, Rhoads, Kahn and Brewster examined the

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material enumerated in items 2 through 8, inclusive, of the attachment to Admiral Burkley's letter ^(Exhibit B) and concluded as a result of this examination that all of the material referred to under those items was present. That material was removed from the footlocker at approximately ~~2:15~~ ^{at approximately 3:15 p.m. was} p.m. and placed in a security cabinet previously approved by Mr. Marshall.

At approximately 3:00 p.m. the materials enumerated in items 2 through 8 were placed in a security cabinet previously approved by Mr. Marshall.

(Bahmer)

(Reis)

(Rhoads)

(Kahn)

(Brewster)

November 2, 1966