

Dear Paul,

11/26/76

There is nothing your friend says Burkley told him that is not consistent with other evidence.

The key thing is the day.

The day after this assassination.

This is the day before Oswald was killed. Until it was known there would be no trial they autopsy could not be phonied. That's Burkley told your friend no more than the truth he expected to come out very soon.

I can only wonder how many others know such facts that were suppressed.

If you remember the FBI report I use in Post Mortem it reports surgery on the head before the corpse was in Bethesda. If Burkley told your friend eight stitches then there was more damage than officially reported and if it was toward the rear of the front hairline and about 2 1/2-3 inches to the right of the midline of the skull, I can only wonder why with so vast a hunk still missing. Unless the X-rays are phoney they show no proof of another hole there.

I'd be careful. If I were he I'd be saying nothing for public use now. But if he can add any details that could be helpful. Anything Burkley told me, anything he heard. He knows the official story is false, of course. And I'm sure that after the autopsy was altered they were not talking about it.

If I could ever get out there I'd like very much to talk to him.

There was no facial damage. That is true.

I wonder if your friend means that after he left Bethesda hospital Burkley thought the damage to the head had all been sutured? A piece was not even found until the next day. I'd like to understand this better. There was, supposedly, a large flaw in the head.

How do you think he'd take it if you told him the truth about what Burkley did?

Thanks on Irving Wallace. But from what he and his son wrote on this subject unless he has a troubled conscience - or none - I think the chances are slight.

If Wexler can be of any help that would be fine. Jim is to have picked up 500 more pages today. As I wrote, I'm not in an emergency situation unless and until we get to deposing FBI agents in the spectro case. He is staying much too busy for one man. I'll give him your best wishes, though.

You'll find that with the House committee it really is as I've said, perhaps worse. For some time your friend would do well to stay away from them and talk to nobody who might tell them anything. I won't. I now have nothing to do with them. If and when they straighten out there will still be too many bad people. After Downing retires it remains a fact that on this Gonzalez is a nut.

The Webermania about Bud also is nuts. If his accusation were factual his "facts" are not. Obviously this is something about which there is no certainty. He and I rarely talk, have not gotten along for many years, but I still do not believe it.

Best,



Paul Wurtzel

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Nov. 22, 1976

Dear Harold;

Sorry I missed you last week but I did have a nice chat with Lil. I hope that your symposium at Wisconsin was well attended and productive. From your letters it seems you are in the thick of the new committees floundering. I just hope they listen to you.

Yesterday I ran into an old friend of mine who I hadn't seen in many years. He had been close to JFK when he was in the Whitehouse. I spoke to him about the murder and what he knew. One thin he told me was that he was at the Whitehouse the day after the killing and talked to Admiral Burkley. He asked Burkley if they were going to have an open casket and was told no. He asked if was because of the condition and was assured that was not the reason and that the head and face were in very presentable condition as the head wound being on the rear would not be seen and that "the eight sitches that were taken in the scalp would be covered by the hair." My friend indicated on his own head that the front wound would be abouttwo inches toward the rear of the front hairline and about 2½ or 3 inches to the right of the midline of the skull. This from Burkley whom he also knew well. If you want me to question him more or if this is something you hadn't known about please let me know.



Paul Wurtzel

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11/22/76

He told me other things about Jackie and Robt. during the period immediatley after the murder but this seemed to me to be of the most importance if not known before.

I am supposed to meet with Wexler this week if we both can arrange our schedules. Also, I am going to try and get in touch with Irving Wallace and see if I can get him interesteed in your work. He has written a very interestin book "The ~~ARMED~~ R Document." This is about the FBI trying to take over the country.

Am enclosing Penn Jones latest and a thing about Fensterwald.

Hope you and Jim all the best. I almost forgot, Wexler thinks he might know someone who might be interesteed in helping fund the xeroxing of the MLK files. (I hope its not another maybe).

A .

Best Always,

