

Dear Hal,

11/20/96

and others interested in the JFK shooting

It came to me this morning that in the rush in which I did Case Open I forgot what could have made it even more powerful on the patching of the curbstone. It would have gone well with the report on the scientific ^{examination} ~~testing~~ done privately and years later, in the Archives.

In CA # 75-226, the first case filed under the amended FOIA, amended in 1974, I sued for all the records on the FBI's scientific testing in the JFK case. In time I got copies of the spectrographic plates, which are pictures of the flame that is the basis of that test.

Except for one. That one was of the curbstone.

The FBI was careful not to provide any affidavit on that and the judge let them do what he should not have accepted. They filed a fourth- Or fifth-hand opinion that the plate had been destroyed to save space. In the FBI! The space a piece of film takes up? That would be like changing the level of the ocean by dipping a pail of the water out.

Of course that destruction also was strictly prohibited. Supposedly.

The law is that in historical cases no record can be destroyed without first offering ~~them~~ to the National Archives.

Which was not done.

In the FBI when any record is destroyed, not in historical cases, where the ~~same~~ same information can be found is to be added to those files.

This was inside the lab. Which means it was where the laws are known. Which means that the explanation is a lie—that the plate was destroyed deliberately because it proved the patch was ~~Not~~ the original impact.

Ha5old