

The attached Rosen to DeLoach memo of 11/16/66 from the FBI main JFK assassination file was in a stack on my desk, copied quite some time ago for purposes I do not recall.

I think it may be useful to students to give them an understanding of the to me extraordinary attention simple questions even suggesting a flaw in the FBI's investigation got.

Alex Rosen was then assistant director in charge of the General Investigative Division. DeLoach, immediately above him in the hierarchy, was the route to Hoover, who was ~~never~~ never, ever, to my knowledge, ever addressed by name.

Obviously, it answered nothing for the FBI to refer Lifton to the Warren Commission's records because the Commission took no testimony from Sibert or O'Neill and because it never asked the FBI to explain this part of that report and the FBI never volunteered to do that. This meaningless referral was then and later FBI SOP.

Of the initials I can identify on the second page Supervisor Kenneth M. Raupach is of lowest rank. J.R. Malley was Rosen's first assistant and had been liaison with the Commission. The check mark is Clyde Tolson's initial. He then was second to Hoover. The capital D with the long diagonal flourish was DeLoach's mark. I do not place the other D. The "OK H" is Hoover's approval.

Raupach wrote this memo.

This indicates the extraordinary amount of top-echelon FBI time that was taken up by simple, ordinary inquiries, of which there were a great number.

I think it also reflects the FBI's concern for its public image as a result of the deficiencies in its JFK investigation.

HW 9/18/89

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
Mohr	_____
Wick	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. DeLoach *[Handwritten initials]*

DATE: November 16, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen *[Handwritten initials]*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Wick

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS
NOVEMBER 22, 1963.

PURPOSE:

To advise a citizen's letter has been received asking questions relating to observations of our Agents who attended the autopsy of President Kennedy. Acknowledgment letter attached.

BACKGROUND:

11818 1/2 Dorothy Street

A letter has been received from David S. Lifton of Los Angeles, California, who indicated he telephonically contacted Special Agent James W. Sibert, Jr., while SA Sibert was on vacation. He indicated he wanted to ask Mr. Sibert some questions concerning an FBI report written by SAs Sibert and O'Neill concerning the autopsy performed on President Kennedy on 11/22/63. Mr. Lifton referred to an FBI report indicating that the report said the President's body was removed from the casket and was placed on the autopsy table. He then quoted the following information contained in the report:

"Following the removal of the wrapping, it was ascertained that the President's clothing had been removed and it was also apparent that a tracheotomy had been performed, as well as surgery of the head area, namely, in the top of the skull." (emphasis added)

Mr. Lifton is referring to the FD-302 submitted by Sibert and O'Neill dated 11/26/63, which sets forth information orally furnished to them by the autopsy physician.

Briefly, Mr. Lifton wants to know what our Agents witnessed which formed the basis for their comments regarding the head surgery performed on the President, and in substance, requested an elaboration regarding the autopsy.

Enclosure *sent 11-17-66*

KMR:pah

CT DEC 21 1966
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CONTINUED - OVER

REC 32 62-109060-716
NOV 28 1966

[Handwritten notes and signatures]
11/16/66
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

When these questions were asked of SA Sibert, he advised that he could not comment on this matter and referred Mr. Lifton to Bureau Headquarters. The Baltimore Division submitted an airtel to the Bureau which revealed that SA Sibert had been contacted by Mr. Lifton. Lifton, a graduate student of the University of California, is doing a research paper and had read an account of President Kennedy's autopsy report by SAs Sibert and O'Neill which appeared in the book, "The Second Oswald," written by Richard H. Popkin. Lifton also indicated he had read an account in another book entitled, "Inquest," written by Edward J. Epstein.

Mr. Lifton's letter is one of several letters that have been received asking for information, and although his letter is being acknowledged, he will be referred to information which was furnished to the President's Commission and subsequently made available to the National Archives.

Based on information furnished, Mr. Lifton was not identified in Bureau files.

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to Mr. David S. Lifton.

OK
✓
RHS
JRM
D
TRP