

7/17/71

Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist  
The National Archives  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

As perhaps has suggested itself to you, to the degree I can I like to leave a tidy record. Therefore, I note that your letter of July 15, which reached me today, while saying it is in (belated, as usual) response to mine of a month ago is, in reality, because of my letter to Judge Gesell, of which I sent you a copy.

From this letter, the picture should have been made by Monday. Therefore, not to press you, I will not appear to see them before Tuesday.

Although your letter does not say so, there are two things about enclosure (2) that are new. In response to my previous requests, you never provided it, knowing I intended litigation and had asked for everything. Can you now tell me why? Also, it was revised after my letter of June 16, 1971, or less than three weeks ago. Would you please tell me the need for revising regulations titled "Regulations for Reference Service on Warren Commission Items of Evidence" when you inherited the Warren Commission files more than six years ago? I note the inclusion of language, "in order to avoid any possible violation of the provisions of the letter agreement between the General Services Administration and the legal representative of the Kennedy family..." If there is any uncertainty, and especially in view of my correspondence with this representative, of which I have supplied you with copies, have you ever sought his opinion on this? His correspondence with me does not suggest any opposition to providing me with copies, especially with consideration of the controlling phrase, "to prevent undignified or sensational reproduction of the clothing". As you know, you do provide undignified and bloody pictures of this clothing for reproduction, and the government itself has reproduced such undignified photographs. It must be apparent to you that this is not a frivolous inquiry.

Your concluding sentence, while perhaps not so intended, may be interpreted as evasive. It limits what you have now provided to "the relevant information regarding regulations concerning the Warren Commission materials." This may later limit me to your interpretation. My request, if you did not understand it, was for any and all rules, regulations, interpretations or any other things, such as definitions of records, required by me to properly and fully pursue my interests in obtaining what I regard as public information. "has, special regulations concerning the Warren Commission materials" may, conceivably, not be all applicable regulations. As you know, I am merely repeating a request years old and to now never fully responded to. I hope I am wrong, but I believe that as of today all of this has not been provided me. Therefore, I ask for anything else there may be or the assurance that I will not in the future be confronted with such regulations or other rules you will hold to be controlling and have not provided. And, is it a safe assumption that the printed regulations do not contract, abbreviate or in any way omit language not therein included?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, D.C. 20408



July 15, 1971

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Cag d'Or Press  
Route 8  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of June 16, 1971.

The photographs of President Kennedy's clothing which we prepared were for the specific purpose of showing them to researchers in accordance with the terms of the letter agreement between the General Services Administration and the Kennedy family under which title to the clothing was transferred to the United States. We do not furnish copies of these photographs to anyone but will be pleased to show you these photographs in the National Archives. We will also prepare the four additional photographs listed in your letter and show them to you in the National Archives, also without furnishing you copies. The photographs will be ready for your examination in two or three days.

We have previously furnished you an electrostatic copy of the regulations published by the General Services Administration concerning procedures under the Public Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as you requested. Enclosed are copies of (1) a pamphlet of regulations for the public use of records in the custody of the National Archives and Records Service and (2) regulations for reference service on the items of evidence of the Warren Commission. You have copies of the guidelines for review of Warren Commission records and the letter agreement between the General Services Administration and the legal representative of the Kennedy family concerning the materials relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy and the clothing of President Kennedy. We believe that this is all the relevant information regarding regulations concerning the Warren Commission materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Rhoads".

JAMES B. RHOADS  
Archivist of the United States

Enclosures

CC: Mr. Robert Werdig  
Assistant United States Attorney