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Positive Finding

Coroner Chetta's final report, following completion of toxicological tests, represents practically the only positive finding or fact developed since disclosure of Dist. Atty. Garrison's reopening of the Kennedy assassination investigation. The report removes the last possibility as to suicidal or sinister factors in the death of a man cryptically described by Mr. Garrison as "one of the most important individuals in history" — David W. Ferrie.

The cause of death—bursting of a blood vessel in the brain—is thus left alone and apart, uncoupled for example with ingestion of some subtle substance that—however unlikely the prospect—might have induced also, simultaneously, this equally fatal effect. As was previously noted, there was no evidence of violence.

The sifting of possibility, or the entertainment of suspicion, does not always lead to the production of evidence, whether positive, negative, or a combination of the two. It is unusual for a responsible law officer to anticipate the findings of examinations in process, offering the answer to possibly significant questions, with a statement of opinion or a flat declaration, one way or the other, as to what happened.

In a sense this particular sequence of events and sayings is typical of the larger pattern of the past 10 days or so. Apparent contradictions, posing of riddles, refusal to seek powerful outside aid, astonishing assertions, do not help evolve a conviction that here is a bona fide, "air-tight" case, and one also that could be a landmark in history. One is left only with the aphorism that anything is possible. Significant new evidence supporting alternative theories as to the assassination, or some theory not yet advanced, certainly should be vigorously acted on, however the chips may fall, and with all means that Mr. Garrison or anybody can command.

We can't agree with some people who have demanded or entreated new investigations just for the sake of investigation, or on the basis of suspicion alone, or to accommodate fixed ideas.