

his ltr: Aut, p. 14, 15

11/15/70

Mr. James Gochenaur
135 Harvard
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Mr. Gochenaur,

Your letter of 11/4 was delayed reaching me because we left Hyattstown three years ago and my mother-in-law, who has been forwarding the mail, was hospitalized. It is a fascinating thing you report, and credible. It makes sense, despite the contrary misrepresentations that are evasive enough to lend more credibility to this.

Coore was in such a capacity as he represented to you. He was one of the Commission-Secret Service liaison. In one case, he produced for the Commission what the FBI was holding back.

I would appreciate it very much if you would try to recall, in finest detail, what he told you about their examination of the pictures of the President's head. Especially, who was in on it. Was it just Secret Service? When? Where? What purpose, if any special (it should have been done, of course). My hunch is that it was in either Tom Kelley's office or in White House PRS, depending on when it was done. Please include everything, for you are not in a position to know what that may seem inconsequential may be of greatest significance. Did he say, for example, what kind of pictures, of what size? Prints? Transparencies? Black and white, color, both? FBI there? Commission staff? Just Secret Service? And experts?

I do not suggest anything conspiratorial involving the Secret Service, not more than a coverup. However, without the knowledge later developed, they had no way of knowing whether or not these pictures had evidentiary value. Example, location of injuries with respect to fixed points (my work on this has advanced far beyond my initial writings, where my suspicions were accurate.

I'll gladly comment on your question. I do not think Coore lied to you, and I do believe the error is in the Report. All reporting on the "status" of the autopsy pictures is false.

That you knew so much about Coore could have surprised him, accounting for delay in responding (and perhaps wondering if he should speak to you further).

This is potentially a very important thing. I strongly encourage you to keep it entirely to yourself and there is no other critic specializing in the medical evidence (I've done two of three parts of a large book on the autopsy alone, have filed two law suits relevant to it and plan more). Perhaps we may yet carry this further. I hope it is possible. Did he say anything about the X-rays or clothing? Did they have the autopsy doctors or the President's with them? Did he quote those with the President as saying anything? Were they among those examining?

Impatiently,