

W
March 14, 1978

NNFJ - Grover

Remarks made by House Select Committee on Assassinations staff member

NNFJ - Clarence F. Lyons, Jr.

During the meeting of March 11, 1978, attended by House Select Committee staff members, consultants, and Archives staff members, while discussing why the Committee would not be able to do a complete job, Ronald Francis of Rochester Institute of Technology complained that the Archives would give researchers only what they specifically asked for. Researchers had to guess what the Archives had. He added there were probably many things in the National Archives that would be very useful to the consultant, but they would never see them for the reason stated above. He was specifically speaking of the black and white autopsy prints. Why had not they been shown to the consultants?

Michael Goldsmith, the committee staff member in charge of the photographic panel, replied that he did not know why the black and white photos had not been sent to Rochester. He had specifically asked that all autopsy material be brought up there, and the fact that they had not caused a great waste of time, money and effort. Francis and Goldsmith added that the black and white photos contained a great deal more detail and would prove to be very useful.

Approximately 45 minutes later Goldsmith brought up the subject again, calling it a "tremendous f - - - up," a major problem, and a major cause of embarrassment. He said he was furious because the black and white photos had not been sent to Rochester.

During the lunch break I reported these remarks to Marion Johnson, who came up to LLW, called Goldsmith out, and spoke to him. Goldsmith said that there had been no complaint, that he was going to report the incident to Blakey and he hoped "it would go no further." He hoped that we would let the subject lie. He would recommend that no further action be taken. Mr. Johnson reminded him that the Archives had furnished copies of finding aids to the House Select Committee on Assassinations and that by now the Committee should know the autopsy material as well as we do. Goldsmith acknowledged that he might not have specifically requested the items. Mr. Johnson pointed out that this is why Government agencies usually required that requests be made in writing.

2

Less than a hour later Goldsmith brought up the subject again, citing that \$10,000, time and effort had been wasted, and that he was furious and embarrassed. Francis pointed out that both black and white and color enhancement were necessary, and therefore, the color work had been necessary.

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