

Dear Dave,

3/15/89

Until someone who is late gets here I'll make a few general observations about the one chapter you sent me from Baden's book. There was much too much to address on the blank space on the xeroxed pages. I made a few marks to get my attention when I go over it again and will write at some length. (He came so I'll be brief for now. I'll resume when I have more time.)

It is impossible to exaggerate how absolutely terrible that chapter is. I'm assuming that Baden followed the usual procedure with a ghosted book, told the writer what the writer then wrote. Usually taped. So he is more ignorant about unquestioned fact that I would have thought possible. He makes it up as he goes very often. (I'm also assuming that he read and checked the manuscript before it was given to the publisher and made correction, also what is usually done.) He lies, he distorts, misrepresents and all in the area of his own expertise and the work for which he was selected.

It is perhaps the most irresponsible writing on the subject I can recall, given the fact that he is a qualified medical examiner and for a while was New York's top one.

He thus is an excellent example of the fact that expert witnesses testify to what they are paid to testify to and can't be trusted. This chapter represents the worst kind of literary and professional prostitution.

When I resume I'll take it from the top.

9/16/89, a month later. It is "Confessions of a Medical Examiner," by Dr. Michael Baden, "with," which means ghosted by, Judith Adler Hennessee; Random House.

It is more of a confession that Baden intended! I thought about this while walking this morning because I planned to get to this when I was home. I wondered if after a month I'd recall what I had in mind when I made margin marks on reading this atrocity and I decided that if I did not recall in 90% of the instances it would still be apparent that what Baden did is so wretchedly bad it would still be more than enough for as total a self-indictment, personally and professional as can be imagined.

In the xerox it was not clear that the title is "Unnatural Death," the subtitle being what I quote above. This chapter is "Heroes and Conspiracies." It apparently is either some kind of foreword or is the first chapter. It begins on page 3. That begins by representing that there is always doubt when the prominent die and never any reason for this doubt. He apparently never heard of Manson.

5. "Ray was carrying too much money when he was finally caught." Why he says this I can't imagine because he knows he knew nothing about the King assassination but the fact is that if Ray had not been close to broke he'd have gotten away to a country without any extradition treaty with the United States. He was almost broke after his share of a joint bank robbery when he was caught.

"The bullet went through King's jawbone and into his neck." The bullet exploded on impact, part of the explosion exiting through the neck, and a remnant continued well down through his body was visible just under the skin on King's back.

Baden says there was black material in the wound and that the coroner made no effort to identify it and it "became the source of much speculation." 100% false. Because, Baden says, this could have been gunpowder it could have meant that King was shot from closeby, also 100% false because there was no possibility of a shot close enough to leave powder traces. Of this he says, "it was like a rerun of the John F. Kennedy assassination," also 100% false because not even the nuttiest of the nuts even suggested that JFK was shot from close enough to leave powder traces. He also says it suggests "the possibility that there was a second shooter," again 100% false not because there was no basis for alleging a second JFK assassin but because the conditions are entirely impossible with regard to both King and JFK. This fabrication is the sole basis for his saying that it meant

"the possibility that there was a second shooter and Ray was the patsy." Moreover, "do not recall any suggestion that there was a "second shooter" and it was well known and widely reported that only one shot was heard. "Ray shot and missed," he says, "and someone standing next to King shot him at close range." With dozens of people looking at King and not seeing it?

What I am saying is that he made all of this up and all of it, with any knowledge at all, is obviously 100% impossible.

He brags about sending some of this "black stuff" to a lab for HSCA and says the report back was only "lead." This is false. It was a lead alloy, with perhaps 7-8 other chemical elements. "Lead," he then says, "is exactly what it should have been if it came from Ray's gun." Also, exactly what it should have been if fired from any other gun every manufactured. No special ammo was used, either. It was regular, commercial hunting ammo, with a soft and this nose, designed to explode on impact. But of even this our truly great expert is entirely ignorant, after that fantastic career as the great medical examiner:

6 "The tip of a soft-nosed bullet is lead..." The tip is jacketed, with the lead <sup>which also means hardwood</sup> protected by the jacket. Or, the tip is NOT lead. It is a copper alloy. He makes no mention of any copper-alloy traces in his lab report, I add.

He refers to a number of autopsies, including that of JFK, and says of them, "they were acceptable according to the standards of the day." Had the JFK autopsy been that of a Bowery bum it would not have been acceptable as of that day or any long before it. Yet at the bottom of this page he refers to JFK's as "bungled": "(w)here bungled autopsies are concerned, Kennedy's is the exemplar." Didn't "andom House do any editing?

How great a medical examiner he is, how well he knows that business, is in between but closer to the bottom of this page: "(c)onspiracies don't show up in autopsy reports." This is precisely where they do show up, as with wounds coming from two different directions or with wounds that cannot all be from any one weapon.

7 Carried away with his own ignorance he says the country could accept the myth of "the Lone Ranger," which it ~~never~~ did, "but not its underside, the lone assassin." Quite aside from labelling as a myth what was well established in the autopsy he is commenting on, his own committee concluded that JFK was shot from two different directions and not even the Lee Harvey Oswald created by officialdom could have done that. (I should have quoted above the statement he has just above the middle of the page about the autopsy he says was up to the standards of the day on page 6, ~~that~~ "... the clumsy way ~~the~~ Kennedy autopsy was handled." That was up to those standards, "clumsiness?"

8 "The force of the bullet would as likely have caused Kennedy's head to move forward/as backward. It is not predictable." Consummate science, this, and he says nothing more about it, nothing to explain or justify this scientific impossibility.

He says he assembled the panel, not Blakey, which I think is the case, "Blakey did it.

"There are television clips of Earl <sup>Rose</sup> (the Dallas medical examiner, a doctor) standing at the door of the hospital like Horatio at the bridge, saying no to the Secret Service men, no, they couldn't removed the body...." There are no such TV clips, no film of any kind at all, and it wasn't at the hospital door. However, this is pretty good for Baden, because Dr. Rose did oppose moving the body out of the one jurisdiction in which there had been a crime and in which he had the responsibility for the autopsy.

9 He says "the Kennedy entourage physically pushed Rose out of the way." Whether or not Rose was pushed, and do not recall that he had been, it was not "the Kennedy entourage," it was the Secret Service alone that removed the body. He then says that the "entourage" was "worried ~~xxx~~ that the Dallas police might chase them." In fact the Dallas police provided the escort to the airport.

Baden says he and ~~in~~ his panel examined, among other things, photographs, X-rays



4

through the years innumerable autopsies of Catholics and what this Baden silliness also ignores is that fact that there had been an autopsy of JFK. Don't "random" House editors read their manuscripts? Moreover, Humes could merely have declined with any professional compromise even suggested, as none was.

12. Baden has the autopsy room overflowing with people who were not there. (The FBI made a list of those present that I did publish.) He even has "cabinet members milling around" there. *There was none.*

He says that Humes "felt it was beyond his powers to describe the wounds and decided to rely on the photographs." *False, whatever his uncited source, probably his own ignorance, because Humes knew the very night of the autopsy that he'd not have the photographs and X-rays to use. They were taken from him by the Secret Service.*

Baden then launches a new mythology, that the FBI agents took the camera and film of the Navy medical photographer, exposed it and threw him out. All 100% false. He then makes up another complete lie, quoting an unidentified FBI man (only two were present, both well and often identified) as saying, "(w)ve got our own man taking the pictures." Again, 100% false. There was no FBI photographer present and the Navy's pictures are receipted and accounted for. Of this nonexistent FBI photographer Humes elaborates his fable, saying he had never taken autopsy pictures before and was untrained in photographing gunshot wounds. *Quite aside from the fiction, doesn't he or his publisher, what in the world the FBI trained its photographers to do? I'm not taking time for the rest of the nonsense in the paragraphs.*

"Before the President was buried, <sup>was</sup> one, either in Dallas or in Washington, looked at both sides of the body, front and back...." What saves this from being false is the fact that the autopsy was not in Washington but in Bethesda, Maryland and if Baden had even looked at the photographs he is supposed to have studied for HSCA he'd have known that the body was photographed from both front and back. He even mentions some of these pictures. How could they have photographed both front and back and not see both? Moreover, this <sup>is</sup> all gone into in the autopsy report and the Warren Commission testimony. Or, once again, Baden was just making it up as he went and that very amateurishly. Has he even forgotten the probing of the back wound at Bethesda? *This alone proves the truth was "looked at."*

13 Of all of this that didn't exist he says that "Humes didn't figure things out until the President was lying in state in the Rotunda."

I see no point in going any further. I'll have the annotated xeroxes but I doubt anybody will be interested enough in Baden's "science" to examine them after what I say to this point. The last page of this chapter is 22.

However, I do take time for what by itself, entirely without any of the foregoing, is Baden's remarkable personal and professional self-indictment because in his HSCA work and in his book he makes no reference to this and says the exact opposite.

I was at the HSCA's last hearing. I had the commentary on the alleged evidence against John Ray to deliver and I did. Baden was sitting a little to my right and I spoke to him. I asked him if the President's tie was knotted when he examined it. It was, he told me. I then told him that when I got a court order for the knot to be photographed for me the Archives could not do this because it was then unknotted and it could not explain how that had happened. What this meant, of course, is that that evidence had been tampered with. I asked Baden if he'd known the tie had been unknotted and then reknotted for him. He said only that he'd believed it had been done. In fact it was done more than once, as I told him. No, he didn't want a copy of the Archives letter to me on this, yet first having believed the evidence he examined and on which he based conclusions had been altered and then being offered proof of it, he ignored it all and, like a whore, as I said at the outset, did what he was paid to do.