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 Haden'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 ' go over it again and will write at some length. (Fre came so E'll be brief for now. I'll resume when + 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 uniter what the writer then wrote. Usually taped. So he is nor ignorant about unquestioned fact that

I would have though possible. As 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.

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 "edical Examiner," by Dr. Micahel 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 subttitle 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 beins 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 Fanson.

5. "Ray was carrying too.much honey 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 Aing'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 "ing's back.

Baden says there was black material in the wound and that the cornoner 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 Aing was shot from closeby, also 100% false because there was no possibility of a shot close enpugh to leave powder taces. Of this he says,"it was like a rerun of the "ohn F. Kennedy assassination," also 100%firm false because not even the nuttlest iof 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 bases for alleging 8_0 Spectric JFK assass in but because the conditions are entirely impossible with regard to $8_0 \text{ Feering and JFK}$. 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 domens 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 <u>alloy</u>, with perhaps 7-8 other chemical elements. "lead," he then says, "if exactly what it should have been if it came from fay's gun." Also exactly what it should have been if fired from any other gun every manufactured. To 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 a/hz for protected by the jacket. Or, the tip is NOT lead. It is a copper alloy. "e makes no mention of any copper-alloy traces in his lab report, I add.

"e refers to a number mo 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, "resident "ennedy's is the exemplar." widn'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 Hanger," which it enver did, "but not its underside, the Lone assassin." wite 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 "swald 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 shoe the Kenndy autopsy was handled." That was up to those standards, "clumsiness?"

8 "The force of the bullet would as likely have caused Kennedy'd head to more forwar 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, ^Dalkey did it.

"There are television clips of Warl Key (the Dallas medical examiner, a doctor) standing at the door of the hospital like Horatio at the bridge, daying 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 h ich he had the responsibility for the autopsy.

9 He says "the Kennedy entoruage 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 "ennedy entoruage," it was the Secret Service alone that removed the body. He then says that the "entourage" was "worried for that the Dallas police might chase them. " In fact the Dallas police provided the escort to the airport.

Baden says he and an his panel examin d, among other things, photographs, S-rays

and JFK's clothing. They also had other things, Ancluding Post Nortem, with its picture of the shirt-collar and tie and its irrefutable proof that the damage to the collar could not have been caused by an exiting bullet and its irreutable roof that it had not been. The then says that the eminent lawyers who were the Warren Commission members were not aware of the fact that there was any such things as a "forensic" autopsy. Mobody gets out of law school without knowing that, Warren had for years been a prosecutor and their staff, which included experienced prosecutors, was well aware of it. Or, 100% false again.

In apparent reference to the Lifton mythology, he says,"during the plane ride from Dallas to Washington the entrances woulds (wannakallegedly) were althered to look like exit wounds." There is no such theory. The theory is that the body, in a plastic body bag, was hidden on the plane and the alleged alterations with made at Walter feed army Hospital.

He has an unrecognizable reference to another theory, "the original autopay meants report," photographs and A rays had all been stolen from the National Archives and replaced with fakes." There is a theory that some of the pictures were doctored but the rest is duite false and there was no such theory about all the rest of what he mentioned, including the "driginal" autopsy report, which in fact had been published in facesimile long before it reached the National Archives. Or, if he were not so totally and abysmill by ignorant, he have known he was postulating the 100^{re} impossible.

Of the arcives, he says "we realised that everything genat there." He says this was "(a) s the archives gave up its secrets." Well, "we" didn't. I got that under BOIA and it was widely reported, including as the result of a press conference bud Fensterwald arranged and in which he undertook to steal my work, not his or of those he used in that press conference. Also, long before there was an HSCA or any "we" I published those records in facsimile in Post/Fortem. "We" also found that the brain had been "placed in the archives but was missing." "o record identifies the brain or any container holding it. Nobody knows whether a container included in the inventory contained anything at all by the time it reached the archives, where it was not in the Archives itself but in what was being stored for the JFK Library, which is under the archives but is separate for it.

He says that "we" "thought perhaps the missing material /(which included the brain matter, the brain not being intact -and where he refes to the brain above he probably was referring to its left hemisphere only) had been buried with the President. "I/e sure is one hell of a medical examiner! As is usual and as is established by the autopsy report and testimony, the brain was set in farmaldehyde for the sectioning to which he does refer above and that takes time, more time than the funeral permitted. The body could not have been buried with the material still at the Mavy Hospital, fixed in formaldehyde." I think the time required was two weeks.

10-1 "The location of the missing items is still a mystery but their disappearance is not particularly sinister. "emorabilia of the famous have a way of vanishing into doctors' private collections." This is an outrageous slander and it also ignores the fact that there was complete military control of everything until after the funeral, except for the few receipted things there taken by the Secret Dervice.

He says that Humes told him they were not really supposed to do a full autopsy, just supposed to find the (emphasis added) bullet." And a from there being no way for Humew to have known there was only one bullet so short a time after the crime, this is on the face an impossible lie because the autopsists made the usual "Y" cut of the front of the body, from the aimpits to or below the navel, and that was not just looking for the bullet. How did Humes know that there had been only one budget and that it was till in the body? Somehow he absorbed it from the FBI and the Secret Service." Absolutely false, even impossible. How call had and communicate his under a August.

He says it was "apparent" that the body had been kidnapped to accomodate the wishes of the family, which is not at all true. The Secret Service did it on its own authority.

12 ... In trying to explain the away daden says that atholics are apposed to autopsies and he was not in a position to press the issue. Well, first of all, there have been

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

212 Saden has the autopsy room overflowing with epople who were not there. (The FBI made a list of those present that I did publish.) He even has "cabinet members mill(ing) around" there. That were have a fully a fully around there.

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-r ys to use. When filler hown hum by the Activit Activity.

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 nonexisting FBI photographer "umes elaborates his fable, saying he had never taken autophy pictures before and was untrained in photographing unshot wounds." white 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 paragraps.

"Before the President was buried, pone, 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 seed both? Moreover, this st all gone into in the sutopsy 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 forgoten the probing of the back wound at bethesda? The upwerfullys in the upwerfully in the upwerfully is in the upwerfully.

13 Of all of this that didnet exist he says that "Humes didnet 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 dought anybody will be interested enough in ^Baden's'science" to examine them after what \bot say to this point. The last page of this chapter #s 22.

However, I do take time for what by itself, entirely without any of the foregoing, is Baden's remarkable personal and professional self-indcitment 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 eganist Joh Ray to deliver and I did. Baden was sitting a little to myx 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 photogWaphed for me the Archibuses 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 Eqden 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 concludions 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.