

Exhibit 39

foolish - enough to say so on coast-to-coast TV.

Following earlier verbal efforts, on May 23, 1966, when only WHITEWASH and a little-known other book (Sylvan Fox's Unanswered Questions) had been published, I began a systematic written effort to gain access to all the "autopsy or medical papers of any kind or description." The file of subsequent correspondence is thicker by far than the manuscript of a large book.

And this is exclusive of court papers. In one suit, Civil Action No. 2569-70, the lower-court papers alone also are much longer than a long book.

Even letters do make a kind of record for history, as some officials came to realize. Court records can and do document, and in this case it is of government falsification of the most incredible kind.

At first I believed the policy of the National Archives was to be helpful, genuinely helpful, and that what its staff could not provide just did not exist. It was a short honeymoon.

There is no longer room for doubt about the intended dishonesty of the Commission's Report as well as of its record. The Report is internally inconsistent. It is in violent disagreement with the testimony upon which it is based. That testimony also contradicts itself, as it does its alleged documentary substantiation. And the most vital documentation, as I soon learned, was missing.

This may seem strong talk to the reader, even at this point, so I refresh his mind on the glaring and irreconcilable conflicts that hit me immediately, as set forth in considerable detail in "The Doctors and The Autopsy", the last chapter of WHITEWASH:

The Report promises to pinpoint and describe the fatal headwound at various places but at no point does.

The Report says that all the doctors swore that its alleged single-bullet basis is possible, but in fact, all swore it was impossible - every single doctor questioned did. Caged, ambitious Arlen Specter, about to make a new career for himself by abandoning Americans for Democratic Action and the Democrats to run (successfully) for Philadelphia District Attorney as a Republican, after adducing this monolithic refutation of his contrived "solution", pulled a pair of quick switches;

- a) he asked each doctor to ignore the reality - "not this bullet, any bullet" - and then asked no more than could one bullet wound two men;
- b) he substituted this hypothesis and the meaningless testimony about it for the reality and then had the Report quote all the doctors as agreeing to his theory which all denied and refuted.

The chief prosecutor, Doctor Humes, swore in identifying the papers constituting Exhibit 397 that it included two pages of his own notes, some made during the examination of the President's body in the autopsy room itself, and they are not in that exhibit. In its printed version or any of the numerous others, each, later, with some care and effort, recaptured from the official oblivion so Orwellian in character. Here (2H272-3) are the exact words:

Mr. Specter. Now, Doctor Humes, I hand you a group of documents which have been marked as Commission Exhibit No. 397 and ask you if you can identify what they are?

Commander Humes. Yes, sir; these are various notes in long-hand, or copies rather, of various notes in long-hand made by myself, in part, during the performance of the examination of the late President, and in part after the examination when I was preparing to have a typewritten report made.

Mr. Specter. May the record show that the Exhibit No. 397 is the identical document which has been previously identified as Commission No. 371 for our internal purposes.

There was no legal authorization for the autopsy, the initial