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COMMISSION EXHIBIT 397—Continued

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DATE/HOUR EXPIRED: WARD DIAGNOSIS	
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: RACE: Obtain following on babies only:	30
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LUNG, LT. 450 290 KIDNEY, LT. 140 ADRENALS, LT.	
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W Cub	Printed here for the first of the "Descriptive Sheet.
	verification. A comparison appears at p. 262. The lo
Pathologist	by Burkley corresponds alu

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## U. S. NAVAL MEDICAL SCHOOL NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

In reply refer to

24 November 1963

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, James J. Humes, certify that I have destroyed by burning certain preliminary draft notes relating to Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272 and have officially transmitted all other papers related to this report to higher authority.

J. J. HUMES CDR, MC, USN

George J. Brikle.,
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Thysician to the Tricidia.

This is the original of Humes' certificate that he burned a draft of the autopsy report. It is <u>not</u> the same as the copy printed by the Commission, 17H48, which does not include the handwritten approved of Dr. Burkley. Indeed, what can be said when the President's physician certifies that he accepts and approves the burning of evidence in the crime! See p. 261.

This certificate has led to the myth, propagated by Arlen Specter, that Humes burned his autopsy notes. "The record is plain," Specter told <u>U.S. News and world Report</u>, 10/10/66, "that there had been a series of notes taken by Dr. Humes at the time of the actual performance of the autopsy which had been destroyed." Specter knew better, since he put this certificate (absent the Burkley endorsement) into evidence and had it confirmed by Humes (2H373). As the certificate on the next page makes clear, the "autopsy notes" were preserved. What Humes burned he alternately described as "preliminary draft notes" (above) and "that draft" of the autopsy report later revised, (2H373).

Having been assured by Humes that the first draft of the autopsy report had been destroyed forever by burning, Specter asked not a single question, not even the simple, indispensable question: Why? On this the Commission's record is barren. Specter, however, would like the public to believe otherwise. He now claims Humes "explained his reasons (for burning) fully before the Commission"——in his testimony.

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C-E-R

I, James J. Humes associated with Naval Me have remained in my pers notes and the holograph to Commanding Officer, 1 24 November 1963. No party possession.

Received above working

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This, an original copy, also bee published by the Commission. He made during the autopsy. "Autoputer preserved and given to Captall autopsy notes because Humes in his possession until the tracase remain in my possession." ing autopsy notes begins. See

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U. S. NAVAL MEDICAL SCHOOL NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

In reply refer to

24 November 1963

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, James J. Humes, certify that all working papers associated with Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272 have remained in my personal custody at all times. Autopsy notes and the holograph draft of the final report were handed to Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School, at 1700,. 24 November 1963. No papers relating to this case remain in my possession.

J. J. HUMES CDR, MC, USN

Received above working papers this date.

J. H. STOVER, JR.

Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Medical School National Naval Medical Center

George G. Buskle.
Rear adm med 51511.

Physician to the Printer

This, an original copy, also bears the endorsement of Dr. Burkley absent from the copy published by the Commission. Here Humes makes explicit that he never burned any notes made during the autopsy. "Autopsy notes and the holograph draft of the final report" were preserved and given to Capt. Stover on November 24. Stover must have received all autopsy notes because Humes specifies that "all working papers" of the autopsy were in his possession until the transfer to Stover, after which "no papers relating to this case remain in my possession." With this transmittal, the mysterious story of the missing autopsy notes begins. See pp. 145, 261.