

Mr. Lewis E. Kinard
P.O. Box 1047
Marnville, S.C. 29944

9/23/91

Dear Mr. Kinard,

I appreciate your concern over my health problems and I take time for a few indications. I had ~~My~~ first venous thrombosis in 1975, a left femoral bypass in 1980, followed by two emergency operations there, and aside from what in most people is minor surgery, cataract removal, TURP on the prostate and the removal of a couple of skin cancers I've also had open-heart surgery, three bypasses, and I'm 78. So you can see why I ~~can't~~ ^{can't} take time just for chitchat letters.

With regard to the person present at JFK's autopsy, I'll not even check the list of those there for identification. If that person wants confidentiality, he or she is entitled to it. However, it should be born in mind that the asking of questions sometimes can distort recollection, particularly after many years have passed, and if the questions are not absolutely correct then this danger is increased and the interviewee may thereafter "remember" incorrectly. There are relevant instances. And only too often, particularly after reading the books theorizing "solutions," those who've read them, lacking detailed factual knowledge, believe what is not the case is actually accurate when it isn't.

This is reflected in your belief that Sibert and O'Neill left earlier than they did. They remained throughout the entire autopsy, until the body was given to the undertakers. Who, I believe, did more than embalm the body. I'm pretty sure there was extensive reconstruction, plus some cosmetic efforts, and these added materially to the embalming time.

There is nothing wrong or sinister in Kellerman's going for Clint Hill to be a witness to the wound location and it was, I think, the right thing to do. Hill was a member of the detail and a witness. If you recall what I wrote about this, what Kellerman did, aside from being good ~~police~~ police procedure, made an important evidentiary and historical record.

I do look forward to getting a transcript of the interview of the person present at the autopsy. May I suggest that the interviewer begin by asking this person first to say whatever comes to mind about it, without any questioning, and, assuming that the interview will be taped, as it should be, just restrict to encouraging undirected recollection. While this person is talking, notes of questions can be made, and after all the uninspired recollection is recorded, then ask questions.

There is a question I'd like asked, going back to the Sibert-O'Neill report and its reference to alleged surgery of the head: did Dr. Humes or anyone else ask the gallery if there had been surgery of the head. (And by this I do not mean where the skull was opened.) I believe there was another reason for the prosecutors to wonder about this.

Sincerely,


Arnold Weisberg

9-17-91

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I received your books and the thoughtful letter you sent, today. I'm touched that you took the time to assure that I follow the correct procedure in evaluating the various reports, I'm truly glad you took interest.

I was aware that the Report in which I inquired, was in alot of ways consistent with normalcy RE. the coffin, wrappings etc. A little of what concerns me is the typographical alterations in the report, especially when spaces are left and words appearing off of the center line of the rest of the sentence RE. (AIR FORCE ONE) this type thing.

I have ordered several of rolls of microfilm from the National Archives recently, and the Hill report should be included. If there are any of these reports which I obtain from the microfilm which are of interest to you, they will certainly be made available to you.

As of the person present at the autopsy; under advise of my doctor, (whom introduced us) I cannot divulge any

information about this person, but as soon as the interviews are transcribed, they will also be made available to you. I am aware that some of the personnel present that night are coming up with some wild stories, but I have been assured this person is genuine and present, so I've been told, throughout the entire autopsy. I will be sure to provide you with a transcript.

I was first intensely interested in Hill's report because SSSA Roy Kelleman went up to the 17th floor of the tower to get Hill to view the President's wounds. This doesn't sound too peculiar until one realizes this was approx. 2:45 am and Sibert + O'Neil had already left under the impression that the undertakers were beginning preparation for embalming. This however can't be so, because both Hill + Kelleman reported the embalming had not yet started. Sibert + O'Neil had left an hour or two before. Why this delay? The body got to the White House a little after 4:00 AM (Life Reports). I don't know how long the embalming

takes, but it must not take too long, or the reports of Hill + Kellerman are misleading, maybe incorrect. Please shed some light here, if possible.

The microfilm published by the NA are things (ones) of the Warren Commission that, some of, have been published in the 20 vol. and some were suppressed. When I go through this material, Jim Dine I'll come across things of interest to you, these materials will be sent to you.

I'm truly concerned of your health since your "THE MAN" who made all research into the assassination possible. You told me on the phone that you didn't expect to get better, and that is awful, I just hope you can be comfortable the rest of your life. I have worked with patients in their home administering oxygen, taking BP, and delivering things to make the patient more comfortable in the latter stages of life. So, I have first hand knowledge of the

terrible things that occur when
our bodies simply wear out.

Give my best to Mrs.
Weisberg and I look forward
to continued correspondence -
Thanks for all your help + guidance
to the matters we've discussed -

Sincerely,

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