

David W. Mantik
72-595 Jamie Way
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

July 12, 2001

Harold Weisberg
Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Harold:

Over the past several days I have had the great pleasure of re-reading *Post Mortem*. This rather short time span has permitted me, more than ever before, to be appropriately astounded at the depth and breadth of your efforts, as chronicled therein. We all owe so much to you. Many of the most basic documents that we all now blithely reference (and even take for granted) owe their public existence to you, as I was again reminded so forcefully.

The seed of this letter began to germinate in my mind as a response to your letter of inquiry earlier this year, the one that was addressed to both Aguilar and me. First off, I am flattered that you included me. Secondly, there is indeed NEWS! Before your letter arrived I had planned a visit to the Archives. I had several specific questions in mind—issues on which I had not clearly focused before. One of them, in particular—about the skull X-rays—was answered in spades. I have been highly critical of Humes's use of the word "irrefutable" in his *JAMA* interviews, and I don't believe I've used that word before (in this JFK case), but this new discovery on the left lateral skull X-ray may warrant it.

I have enclosed a summary of the most important of my conclusions for your review. A new observation in the autopsy photographs of the back is also quite startling, but must take second place to the X-ray discovery. Please praise or condemn as you see fit—before this goes to publication.

See #19 &
20
in
particular.

My re-reading of *Post-Mortem* has given rise to several questions that I hope you can now answer. When you wrote it about 26 years ago, you rightly felt that privacy concerns prevented full disclosure. My hope is that enough time has now passed so that you can ethically say more than you could then. Here are the issues (I have cited the pertinent page numbers for your reference).

1. (Pp. 10 - 11). You cite a second threat (the first was made in Miami) to JFK, made in Dallas, for which a tape recording exists, but which the Commission did not investigate. You imply that you know those who have the proof. Can you now provide these details?
2. (Pp. 90 - 91). You cite proof (in your possession) of the disappearance of two frames from the original Zapruder film—at precisely the point that the Eisenberg memo reports that JFK was hit. You describe this as a professional job of editing, more so than that seen near frame 207. Can you now share that proof with us? Or perhaps you have already done so and I have missed it?

3. (P. 370, last paragraph). Who is the younger man of wealth, or is this quite irrelevant to our present efforts?
4. (P. 374, last paragraph). You cite a first person account by a Navy doctor present at the autopsy, but hidden in all the accounts. Can you now name this individual? Has he had anything useful to say in the past—or might he now have something useful to contribute (assuming that he is still living)?
4. (P. 549). This is actually not a query but rather a request for a clean copy of the April 30, 1964 memo from Specter to Rankin regarding the autopsy photos and X-rays.
5. (P. 554). This is likewise a request for a clean copy of a similar memo from Specter, but dated May 12, 1964.
6. Whatever happened to Howard Roffman?

Looking forward to your responses, I am

Most respectfully yours,

David W. Mantik

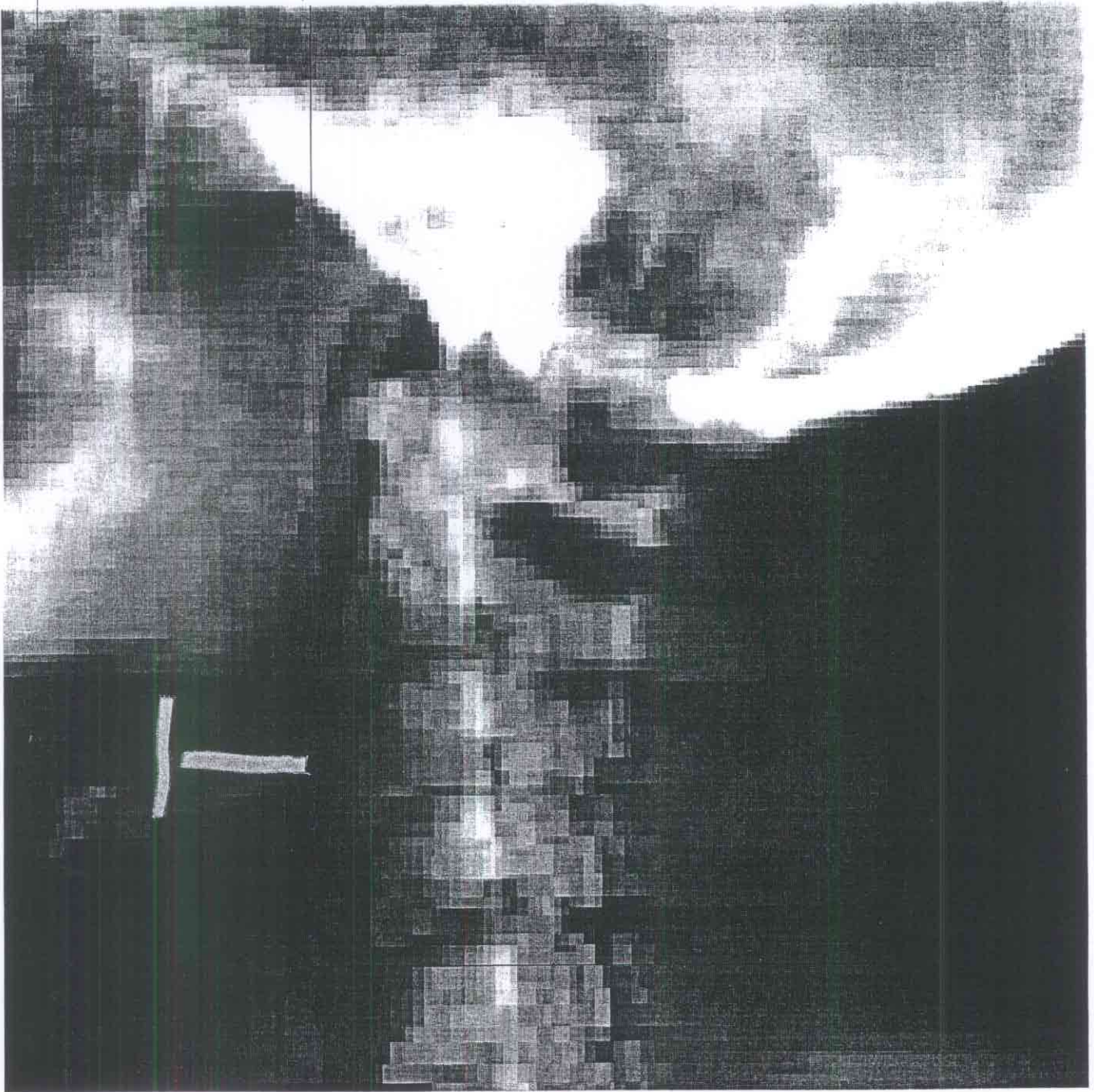
David W. Mantik

Prepared by:

Date:

Please especially note
conclusions # 19 and 20.

Inside the white business envelope
you will find 2 small pieces of X-ray
film. One is an original; one is
a copy. If you can distinguish
between them, then you understand
the argument for conclusion # 20.





National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

May 7, 2001

David W. Mantik
72-595 Jamie Way
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Dear Dr. Mantik:

This is in response to your letter of April 16, 2001, requesting information concerning access to the autopsy materials of President John F. Kennedy.

I will answer your questions in the order they were presented in your letter.

1. Senator Arlen Specter viewed the autopsy materials on April 8, 1999, here at the National Archives at College Park. Mr. Charles Robbins, a staff assistant to Senator Specter, was also allowed to view the materials. Both Senator Specter and Mr. Robbins had been authorized to view the materials by Burke Marshall, the Kennedy Family representative.
2. During this visit, Senator Specter placed a call to Dr. J. Thornton Boswell and asked him to come to the National Archives at College Park. Dr. Boswell arrived a short time later. Senator Specter and Dr. Boswell examined the materials for a short time. Burke Marshall gave permission for Dr. Boswell to view the autopsy materials prior to being deposed by the Assassination Records Review Board.
3. The National Archives and Records Administration has no reason to believe that the autopsy materials of President John F. Kennedy in our custody pursuant to the deed of gift of October 19, 2001, are incomplete. The materials in our custody match the items listed on the inventory provided with the materials on October 31, 1966, with the exception of the color transparency mentioned in your letter.
4. The National Archives and Records Administration has no reason to believe that the autopsy materials in our custody are not the originals or have been altered in any way.

Sincerely,

STEVEN D. TILLEY
Chief
Special Access/FOIA Branch