

memo file

2/7/70

Mr. W. L. Johnson, Jr.
Assistant Administrator for Administration
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Your letter of December 5, which addresses only one of my two appeals of November 10, is a kind of semantics not new to me. In it you redefine "raw materials" to mean "working papers" only. I do not believe it is necessary for me to send a dictionary with my appeal and, in the many letters I have sent the government on this subject, there is a sufficiently clear identification of that which I seek and believe I am entitled to.

Of this, the working papers are only part.

The panel itself listed some of its raw materials.

However, I do note that after my letter and before your answer, the Attorney General responsible for this panel said among the things it provided in sworn statements. If I have no way of knowing who is truthful, I also have it spelled out clearly that everyone cannot be.

And restricting myself to your redefinition of my request, which is the only way you could have written me as you did, I note two things: how remarkable it is that there could have been so special a panel whose work was so important, yet no scrap of paper about it remains; and the requirement of the law, as set forth in the Attorney General's Memorandum on it, that agencies not in possession of what is sought under it be forwarded to the agency of paramount interest.

In any event, I take it from this and previous letters that I have exhausted all administrative possibilities.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20405



DEC 3 1970

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d' Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of November 10, 1970, appealing from prior decision of the Archivist of the United States, respecting your request for the raw materials of the so-called Clark Panel which made a study of autopsy materials in the assassination of President Kennedy.

By virtue of the language in the third paragraph of your letter of February 4, 1970, the term "raw materials" has been construed, both in our letter of March 12, 1970, and in this letter, to mean separate reports, special memoranda, letters, observations, comments, or notes relating to the reports of doctors concerning the x-rays and photographs taken during the autopsy of President Kennedy. On March 12, 1970, you were advised by the Archivist of the United States that the Archives had no such materials in its possession.

Once again we must inform you that the National Archives and Records Service has no separate reports, special memoranda, letters, observations, comments, notes, or working papers relating to the report of the panel of four doctors to Attorney General Ramsey Clark, concerning their review in February 1968 of the x-rays, photographs, and other material relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy. Under the circumstances we are unable to take favorable action on your appeal.

Sincerely,

W. L. Johnson, Jr.

W. L. JOHNSON, JR.
Assistant Administrator
for Administration

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