

# GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



*National Archives and Records Service*

*Washington, D.C. 20408*

November 14, 1966

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Coq d'Or Farm  
Hyattstown, Maryland 20734

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I have received your letter of November 3, 1966, requesting permission to study the x-rays and photographs made at the time of the autopsy of John F. Kennedy, and have forwarded it to the representative of the executors of the estate of President Kennedy.

The statutory authority for the Administrator of General Services to accept materials of this kind is found in the Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended.

As you requested, a marked copy of the pertinent portions of the law is enclosed. At this time we do not know the entire chain of possession of these materials since their creation. As you know, the pathologists who conducted the autopsy have authenticated them.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert H. Bahmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert H. Bahmer  
Archivist of the United States

Enclosure

head): *Provided, however,* That statutory and other restrictions referred to in the provisos of this subsection shall not remain in force or effect after the records have been in existence for fifty years unless the Administrator by order shall determine with respect to specific bodies of records that such restrictions shall remain in force and effect for a longer period: *And provided further,* That restrictions on the use or examination of records deposited with the National Archives of the United States heretofore imposed and now in force and effect under the terms of section 8 of the National Archives Act, approved June 19, 1934, shall continue in force and effect regardless of the expiration of the tenure of office of the official who imposed them but may be removed or relaxed by the Administrator with the concurrence in writing of the head of the agency from which material has been transferred (or if the existence of such agency shall have been terminated, then with the concurrence in writing of his successor in function, if any).

(c) The Administrator shall make provisions for the preservation, arrangement, repair and rehabilitation, duplication and reproduction (including microcopy publications), description, and exhibition of records or other documentary material transferred to him as may be needful or appropriate, including the preparation and publication of inventories, indexes, catalogs, and other finding aids or guides facilitating their use; and he may also prepare guides and other finding aids to Federal records and, when approved by the National Historical Publications Commission, publish such historical works and collections of sources as seem appropriate for printing or otherwise recording at the public expense.

(d) The Administrator shall make such provisions and maintain such facilities as he deems necessary or desirable for servicing records in his custody that are not exempt from examination by statutory provisions or other restrictions.

(e) The Administrator is authorized, whenever he deems it to be in the public interest, to accept for deposit

(1) the papers and other historical materials of any President or former President of the United States, or of any other official or former official of the Government, and other papers relating to and contemporary with any President or former President of the United States, subject to restrictions agreeable to the Administrator as to their use; and

(2) documents, including motion-picture films, still pictures, and sound recordings, from private sources that are appropriate for preservation by the Government as evidence of its organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, and transactions.

(f) The Administrator is authorized, whenever he deems it to be in the public interest—

(1) to accept, for and in the name of the United States, any land, buildings, and equipment offered as a gift to the United States for the purposes of creating a Presidential archival depository, and to take title to such land, buildings, and equipment on behalf of the United States, and to maintain, operate, and protect them as a Presidential archival depository, and as part of the national archives system; and to enter into agreements, upon such terms and conditions as he deems proper, with any State, political subdivision, university, institution of higher learning, institute, or foundation to utilize as a Presidential archival depository land, buildings, and equipment of such State, subdivision, university, or other organization, to be made available by it without transfer of title to the United States, and to maintain, operate, and protect such depository as a part of the national archives system: *Provided,* That the Administrator shall submit a report in writing on any such proposed Presidential archival depository to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which report shall include a description of the land, buildings, and equipment offered as a gift or to be made available without transfer of title as aforesaid, a statement of the terms of the proposed agreement, if any, a general description of the types of papers, documents, or other historical materials which it is proposed to deposit in the Presidential archival depository so to be created, and of the terms of such proposed deposit, a statement of the additional improvements and equipment, if any, necessary to the satisfactory operation of such depository, and an estimate