

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service

Washington, D.C. 20408

August 4, 1967

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of July 25, 1967.

We have received several requests similar to yours to make individual items of records available to researchers in advance of the time when we could make the chronological files to which these items belong available. We have not complied with these requests because we wanted (1) to make the records available in an orderly way rather than in a haphazard and piecemeal fashion and (2) to treat all researchers equally. We have kept a list of those who have made these requests in order that we could notify them when the records are available. We have added your name to the list.

We expect that we will be able to make available by September 15, the files of correspondence and internal memoranda of the Commission that can be released under the guidelines. This will include records in which you are interested. You will be notified at the time. Our usual procedure will be followed. We have no plans to publish any of these records, and copies will not be furnished to anyone who does not order them on his own initiative.

We have made a search in relevant files for records which you say should be in the autopsy file. A signed carbon copy of the autopsy report with the original and a carbon copy of the Rowley memorandum attached has been located. This has been placed in the autopsy file, since it bears the file number for that file. A copy of it will be furnished to you. You will then have copies of everything in the autopsy file except the two memoranda to which you refer. Copies of these will be furnished to you when the files of correspondence and internal memoranda are made available for research.

We are preparing for you copies of the records relating to Governor Connolly's injuries that have previously been made available. There is a file classification manual used by the Commission which you may examine to determine whether it is what you have in mind in speaking of a file chart of the Commission's records.

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Documents relating to the gift of President Kennedy's clothing and the photographs and x-rays concerning the autopsy are not available for research. The restrictions in the deed of gift for the stated purpose of preventing the undignified and sensational use of the materials presented to the Government are understood to apply also to the selected documents.

I wish to report that it has consistently been our policy to provide access to records on a basis of complete equality for all. You will be notified promptly if any records in which you are interested become available.

Sincerely yours,



Robert H. Bahmer
Archivist of the United States