May 29, 1968

Dr. James B. Rhoads

Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

Your letters of May 14 and 20 awaited me on my return.

Each of us will have to stand on the record. I think the record leaves absolutely no doubt that from the day of my very first visit to the Archives I asked you for everything available on the entire subject of the autopsy. Your own records bear this out and will reveal that I have every available piece of paper from every file of whatever designation. There likewise has never been any doubt in my correspondence with your staff about my interest in <u>every</u> scrap of paper on this subject for it is the subject of a separate book I have written.

You may, if you elect, evade response. In so doing you leave this record:

I was the very first person to ask for the contract between the General Services Administration and the representative of the Kennedy family. I was refused it. Without any change in circumstances, it was made available to another writer with no experience in the field and no one in the National Archives has any explanation for this.

I think this establishes, first, that I was denied my rights and, second, that the National Archives violated its own procedures.

Quite obviously, it is beyond the capacity of any researcher to imagine what artificial designations some government clerk will select to describe a file. It likewise is beyond the capacity of any one human to understand how the enormous files in your custody are arranged unless they are indexed as in this case they are not. We therefore are dependent upon those of you who have custody of the material.

You have left unanswered what I believe to be a perfectly proper request that is entirely consistent with the order of the Attorney General of October 31, 1966. I have asked that you ask the agencies of origin for copies of these materials whose existence I have established and which you cannot find or for copies which you can keep in your files and of which you can supply me copies. The order of the Attorney General is explicit and I believe this to be your responsibility. Failure of the government to make available that which it is required to is an open violation of this order and I believe is willful suppression.

With regard to the Commission's executive transcripts, I have written you that I believe some of the material withheld does not fit the reason given for its being withheld and I believe examination will establish this to be the case.

May I ask for clarification of your reference to the executive session of September 18, 1964. This represents itself as a transcript, whereas it is not and you in your letter of May 20 describe it as "minutes only". Is it that the Commission eliminated the stenographic transcript? Quite obviously, there was one. Equally obviously, what was supplied me was not prepared by the official reporters. If it does exist, may I assume from your letter that it is not in the National Archives?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. Commission Exhibit 3119 refers to a Secret Service interrogation of Philip Geraci. I would like to have a copy of this, please.

Also, Commission Document 64.1 discloses that Dr. Stanley L. Drennan, 375 Wonderview Drive, North Hollywood, California, "had been interviewed by the Secret Service" in connection with a threat to kill the President and others. May I please have this.