

January 5, 1969

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

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

Your letter of December 26, of which Mr. Johnson told me January 2, arrived here yesterday, without postmark. I do thank you for it and the enclosures.

If you have not yet sent them, I do have copies of all the things you list under numbers 1 through 4 except one Haack report. I assume the first two items are Secret Service Controls 703 and 109 and that the Garner affidavit is that dated May 5, 1964. Of the FBI interviews with Mrs. Garner, those by Haack that I have are of his December 5 interview, page 418 of CB305 or vice versa, and CB102: 182. Because of the delay of your letter in the mails, it is possible these were sent pursuant to it. If there is anything else, of course, I would appreciate a copy.

Those things you said were enclosed were and I thank you for them, also. They corroborate what I had earlier reported, what I told Mr. Johnson on January 2.

With regard to the endorsement on the back of Garner Exhibit No. 1, the copy sent me has been cropped. At least, it seems to have been. It measures in length but 9-5/8 inches. Unless in writing on it Liebeler put the top of the "E" in "Exhibit" as close to the edge as humanly possible, which seems unlikely with all the blank space below, there would seem to be something cut off. The size also indicates this. What is missing includes the border normally shown in Xeroxing. I would appreciate a full copy of this endorsement, of the reverse side of the picture.

Mr. Johnson suggested to me that the May 1, 1964, letter to Mr. Jessie J. Garner, drafted by Wesley J. Liebeler April 28, might explain the apparent impossibility of an April deposition by Mrs. Garner alluding to an "exhibit" not yet in evidence as an attachment to an affidavit of a month later. Your sending this letter to me is quite helpful and I deappreciate it. It is a unique, if not, indeed, bizarre, concept of evidence to attach to an unprepared affidavit the intended witness might not have executed, indeed, might not have survived the rigors of modern society to execute, a photograph that might have and should properly have been offered in evidence during the deposing of the then-current witness. It would not, in any event, have been at all unusual had the same photograph been incorporated into the record in both cases. When Mr. Liebeler endorsed this picture "Exhibit No. 1 to affidavit of Jesse J. Garner - 4/6/64 New Orleans, La." (his initial and "J.J.G." being written below), he executed an endorsement of the nonexistent, for there then was no affidavit of Jesse J. Garner in any form. Particularly because Mr. Liebeler is a professor of law, whose superior had been Solicitor General of the United States, on a Commission headed by the Chief Justice, does this excite my curiosity. If you could search the unindexed staff papers further for any additional material on this, it would be very helpful and, I think, perhaps interesting.

Page 2

Q183 consists of bullet fragments recovered during the autopsy, and there is information concerning a receipt given for these fragments by the FBI on page 204 of CV7 and page 4 of CE 307. We can show you this exhibit in the National Archives. We have no other information relating to a missile recovered during the autopsy.

At no time have we told you that we had furnished you copies of all records relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy. As you may recall, you requested copies of all records in the "John F. Kennedy 4-1 Autopsy" file. Copies of all records in that file were furnished to you.

Sincerely,



JAMES B. HINES
Archivist of the United States

Enclosures