

as you requested - HRL

January 19, 1972

Dr. James B. Rhoads
National Archives and Records Service
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

My letter concerns the recent examination of the John Kennedy autopsy materials by Dr. John Lattimer.

The San Francisco Examiner-Chronicle of January 9 carried an Associated Press story which stated that you had made a statement the day before concerning Dr. Lattimer's examination. I would greatly appreciate it if you could provide me with a copy of this statement, or any other press release concerning this.

I pose the following questions and request that you respond to them in the event your statement does not:

1. How long did Dr. Lattimer's examination last, from the time he was first given the materials to the time they were removed from his presence?
2. Exactly what was Dr. Lattimer shown, including Commission exhibits, files, clothing, and autopsy films?
3. Under whose supervision was this examination made?
4. Who, if anyone, accompanied Dr. Lattimer in the examination other than employees of the Archives?
5. Has Dr. Lattimer been permitted to make or provided with copies of any materials he examined?
6. Has anyone else been granted permission to view the autopsy films and the clothing and, if so, who?
7. How did you satisfy yourself that Dr. Lattimer was qualified to make this examination under the specific conditions stated in the Kennedy family-G.S.A. contract?

I would also appreciate it if you could provide me with copies of all of Dr. Lattimer's requests for access to the autopsy films and the clothing, plus the authorization which allowed him access. If you cannot provide copies of his requests, I would like to know the date of his first request for access.

I would certainly appreciate your assistance on these matters.

Sincerely,

H. ROSSMAN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408



February 7, 1972

Mr. Howard Roffman
357 Craig
University of Pennsylvania
37th and Spruce Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Dear Mr. Roffman:

This is in reply to your letter of January 19, 1972, concerning the examination by Dr. John K. Lattimer of the X-rays and photographs relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy.

The statement referred to in the San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle of January 9 was an oral statement in response to questions by an Associated Press reporter on the telephone. There was no written statement or press release.

The following answers are numbered in accordance with the questions in your letter:

1. About four hours.
2. The autopsy material listed in Appendix B to the letter agreement of October 29, 1966, between the Administrator of General Services and the Kennedy family representative, Mr. Burke Marshall; a report concerning the autopsy material, which includes a descriptive list, by the personnel of the Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland, who were present at the autopsy; President Kennedy's coat, shirt, necktie, back brace, and Ace bandage; and Commission Exhibit 399 (bullet).
3. Employees of the National Archives.
4. No one.
5. None, other than copies of Commission exhibit photographs of the clothing and bullet available to the public that may have been provided to Dr. Lattimer at times before his examination of the material.

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6. No.
7. Dr. Lattimer's application to examine the autopsy material was approved by Mr. Marshall, the Kennedy family representative, as provided for in the agreement with him.

We do not provide copies of our reference correspondence or information relating to that correspondence pursuant to the exemption found in the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6), which relates to "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

Sincerely,

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States