

January 12, 1972

Archivist of the United States - N

Regulations for Reference Service on Warren Commission Items of Evidence

Assistant General Counsel - LR

Enclosed is a proposed revision of paragraph 5 of our "Regulations for Reference Service on Warren Commission Items of Evidence" in order to provide for showing the clothing of President Kennedy to ~~researchers~~ whose applications to see the autopsy X-rays and photographs of President Kennedy are approved by the Kennedy family representative.

We have previously refused to show the clothing to researchers, including Mr. Harold Weisberg, and have shown photographs of the clothing instead. We have now begun to show the autopsy X-rays and photographs to researchers whose applications to see them are approved by the Kennedy family representative. It seems that there could be no doubt concerning their qualifications as researchers to see the clothing also under the agreement between the Administrator of General Services and the Kennedy family representative dated October 29, 1966.

The regulations became involved in our lawsuit with Mr. Weisberg, and we revised them to provide specifically for showing photographs instead of the clothing. A copy of the regulations as revised on July 6, 1971, is enclosed. Copies of correspondence with Mr. Weisberg, LC, and Assistant United States Attorney Robert Werdig concerning the regulations are also enclosed. I would like to request your opinion concerning whether the proposed revision of the regulations is all right from a legal point of view.

JAMES B. RHOADS  
Archivist of the United States

Enclosures

cc: Official file - NNF  
Reading file - NNFC  
Day file - N

MJohnson:vk ext. 23171

NNF *JH* NN *ZGL*

meet the needs of the researcher additional photographic views will be made. A charge may be made for unusually difficult or time-consuming photography. Photographs reproduced from existing negatives or prints will be furnished on request for the usual fees. The clothing of President Kennedy will not be shown to private researchers, except those researchers whose applications to examine the X-rays and photographs relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy are approved by the Kennedy family representative. Photographs of the clothing will be shown to other private researchers. No copies or enlargements of photographs of this clothing prepared by the National Archives will be furnished to researchers in order to avoid any possible violation of the provision of the letter agreement between the General Services Administration and the Kennedy family representative dated October 29, 1966 (page 2), in regard to preventing undignified or sensational reproduction of the clothing.

6. One photocopy or photograph of an item of evidence will be furnished without charge to persons presenting proof of prior ownership.

Rev. 2, January 10, 1972

Regulations for Reference Service on  
Warren Commission Items of Evidence

1. Documents (paper records) will be furnished to researchers in the research rooms of the National Archives Building. Items of particular value or fragility may, at the Archivist's discretion, be photocopied and the copies furnished to researchers in lieu of the originals. Copies will be furnished on request for the usual fees. Copyrighted material will be reproduced for research only after receipt of a release from the copyright holder.
2. Still photographs will be furnished to researchers in the research rooms of the National Archives Building. When negatives are prepared incident to filling a request for copies, the negatives will be retained. Copies will be furnished on request for the usual fees. Copyrighted materials will be reproduced for researchers only after receipt of a release from the copyright holder.
3. Motion picture films and sound recordings will be made available to researchers on appropriate equipment in the National Archives Building. Use copies will be prepared and the original materials withheld from normal reference use as a protective measure. Copies will be furnished on request for the usual fees. Copyrighted materials will be reproduced for researchers only after receipt of a release from the copyright holder.
4. Oversize charts, graphs, diagrams, and other means of two-dimensional presentation will be furnished to researchers in the research rooms of the National Archives Building. Copies will be furnished on request for the usual fees. Copyrighted materials or items incorporating copyrighted materials will be reproduced for researchers only after receipt of a release from the copyright holder.
5. Three-dimensional objects and materials that have been subjected to techniques of detailed scientific examination (the aforesaid provisions notwithstanding) will be withheld from researchers as a means of protecting them from possible physical damage or alteration and in order to preserve their evidentiary integrity in the event of any further official investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The National Archives will prepare special cases of varying sizes, constructed in part or entirely of translucent materials, in which objects or materials that do not present unusual problems of size or shape may be viewed by researchers. The Archivist reserves the right to limit the number of such items that may be shown to a researcher within a given period of time, as it will be necessary for a member of the staff of the National Archives to be present at all times during the viewing of such items. Researchers will not be permitted to view the incased items unattended or to touch or handle in any way the items themselves, either manually or with instruments. To the extent possible, photographs of these materials will be furnished to researchers as a substitute for visual examination of the items themselves. In the event that existing photographs do not