

Summary of POST-MORTEM, by Harold Weisberg

The autopsy of President John F. Kennedy was not a forensic-medical document. It was part of the federal framing of Lee Harvey Oswald that began with the first acts of the FBI and the Warren Commission, neither of which ever seriously considered any other possible assassin or the existence of a conspiracy, whereas both had irrefutable evidence of a conspiracy and overwhelming proof of Oswald's innocence.

The Commission organized its work around the concept of Oswald's singular guilt, then tightened this formulation in outlining its Report, before it conducted any investigation at all. I have all the cited evidence in my possession.

The autopsy was rewritten, with basic substantive changes, as soon as Oswald was murdered and it was certain there would be no cross-examination of that protocol or the doctors. The original draft was burned, without any official questioning and with the written approval of the White House physician, Admiral George Burkley. It said the President had been shot from the front, as other suppressed evidence confirms. The doctors performing the autopsy said the President had been shot in the back, not the neck, as the lawyer conducting the investigation also did, but both changed the official account, one doctor saying he had been "careless" because he never dreamed there was any significance in his work.

The White House physician "approved and affirmed" that the President had been shot in the back, not the neck. This, like a shot from the front, disproves the entire official account of the murder.

There were not fewer than two shots from the front.

All copies of this "approved" version of the autopsy have been removed and destroyed save one, misfiled, which I discovered. Consistent with this, all copies of the autopsy notes, receipts for which from the autopsy bench to the Commission are in my possession, have likewise been removed and destroyed.

No civilian observers or medical experts were permitted to see any part of the autopsy or the body. There were 25 military observers present, none of whom were called as witnesses. The testimony of the Secret Service men guarding the President disputes the autopsy. Two FBI agents, watching the Secret Service agents, also not called as witnesses, basically dispute the autopsy report. Their written observations were also suppressed.

Consistent with this, the Commission expunged from its evidence the most basic proofs, the pictures and X-rays, now blaming it on Robert Kennedy. He, however, never denied the Commission access to this evidence, was never consulted about it until long after the Commission finished that part of its inquiry, and had already told the Commission it could have the pictures and X-rays. He had already waived all his rights in signing the authorization for the autopsy. Again, all copies of this essential authorization, without which there could have been no

autopsy, have been removed and destroyed save one, also misfiled, that I also discovered and have. This expunging includes the Navy's permanent files where evidence is required to be. It is not now possible to prove the suppressed film is, in fact, that of the autopsy because, as I have established over the proper official signature, there is no chain of possession on any of it.

When the lawyer in charge of this work recognized the magnitude of his error and began a campaign of self-justification, demanding the pictures and X-rays be examined, contrary to the account leaked to the Saturday Evening Post, Chairman Earl Warren ordered General Counsel J. Lee Rankin, formerly Department of Justice Solicitor General, to have this done. Rankin did not do it. This is in the suppressed executive sessions, copies of which I have, and is explicit.

The contract between the General Services Administration and Burke Marshall, representative of the Kennedy family, is illegal. The pictures and X-rays, government property, could not, legally, have been given to anyone; hence, there could be no contract for their return that restricts access to them. When I pressed for this contract and other autopsy evidence, it was denied me. What has since been released was in arranged "leaks", to reporters without the knowledge of fact to understand what the evidence means. In each case, what says the opposite was made into propaganda for the government and its false conclusions. The contract reveals what is simply incredible, that two batches of pictures taken by the government's top medical photographers, are with images on them.

As the government illegally, by raw power alone, denies me access to this data, which it cannot legally deny, so Mr. Marshall, after promising response, refuses to answer any inquiries.

For two years I have sought a lawyer to file a suit compelling release of this basic suppressed evidence and will file one when I can.