3/13/70

SS Meeting by Harold of 3/4/70

To Dick and Harold:

After two readings of Harold's memo, I am convinced that this is one of the most important things which has yet occurred. I have several comments to make which I write as I go over the meo once more.

I do not understand what was meant when Kelly put his arm around Harold and said, "We know how the President was killed. The Bureau told us." Does this mean "We know that the WR is a lot of bull and we know the real story" or "We know that the WR is right."?

Do not know the significance behind the WDSU footage and related matters.

The dear receipts! The one about the pix and X-rays seems good. As for the 14 X-rays listed, I note that Humes told Specter that prior to the taking of total body X-rays, they had taken exactly those which the Pnael describes, including only the upper parts of the extremities. So I do suspect more than 14, and I suspect that the Panel was denied (if indeed they do exist) those X-rays which would have completed the entire body. I forget if this is mentioned in PM III. However, you say in the memo that the number "6" in six of another size had been changed from another number. Could be significant.

I am startled by the 3rd and longest paragraph on p. 2. I suppose I should not be. That the X-rays were shown to staff is quite a revelation. That Specter was not in on this is dubious for the reason that this viewing was "to prepare for the questioning of the (autopsy) doctors." And it was Specter who did this. Harold writes something which I do not fully understand. "I suggest one possible interpretation, assuming his recollection is accurate, that the viewing of the X-rays is all Adams needed." Adams, I presume, refers to Francis Adams who was at first Specter's superior in that field of research. I know from Inquest that Adams was "not able to participate" and that the whole thing here was left to Specter. Also from Inquest, Rankin wanted Adams to resign and Adams himself appears to have had his own "doubts" about the investigation. I presume that Harold means that this viewing is what turned Adams away.

So it really was Kelley who showed Specter the picture of the back. Now that I have this certain knowledge, I can truly appreciate Specter s startled reaction when I put this to him in person. He must have crapped in his pants. Harold says of this photo "The purpose being to locate the non-fatal." Yet, did Specter actually ask to be shown this photo? If he did, it becomes even more important. I know Specter saw this in Dallas for he says so in his Tink debate. I have prepared a transcript of almost all of Specter's remarks during that which you will get soon.

I am somewhat lost on the transfer to the Archives. The Panel lists a memorandum of transfer which lists the pix and X-rays and I forget if Harold has this or not.

Good luck with the notes! We know they exist, of course. But to get them.

As for the slides and related materials, may I ask what "1221" refers to as well as "CD 498." Without knowing this, I cannot make much of the paragraph on the slides. *

As for the over-exposed batches of pictures, I feel that the blame for this goes to whoever developed them and it is my understanding that the SS did. A medical photographer took these and as Harold points out in PM III, even the worst and cheapest camera today makes it next to impossible to overexpose film so that it bears no image. And Fillinger told me that, providing a medical photo man did the taking, the blame rests with the one who did the developing.

I hope he can find something about the 6.5mm fragment (this, I presume, is the one at the back of the head which I pointed out to you). Same for rectangular structure and "missile" in receipt.

That the car was washed in Dallas (as Harold correctly predicted) is very important for many resons including those stated by Harold. And who did the actually washing and just who was allowed around there when this was done? Hospital personell only? Or does this really matter considering some of the employees as mentioned in Oswald in NO?

Great--just great. As I see it, this could turn out to be the most important thing yet. I do not know how this came about, whose idea it was or who initiated it, but it certainly has paid off. I must really commend Harold on this.

Howard

* I now see that this is the supp. autopsy report — I understand now.

HW.