

November 15, 1972

Dr. Vincent P. Guinn
Professor of Chemistry
University of California
Irvine Campus
Irvine, California 92664

Dear Dr. Guinn:

Enclosed herewith please find your Declaration which has been re-typed according to the corrections made by you.

Please sign the enclosed before a Notary Public and return same to this office at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

Tamsin Lee
Secretary

/tl
encl.

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

3
4 DECLARATION OF DR. VINCENT P. GUINN

5
6 I

7 My name is DR. VINCENT P. GUINN, and I am a Professor of
8 Chemistry at the University of California, Irvine, California.

9 II

10 I hold the degrees A.B. and M.S. in Chemistry from the
11 University of Southern California, and the Ph.D. in Chemistry from
12 Harvard University.

13 III

14 I have had many years of professional experience in chem-
15 istry, research, and teaching, and I have published numerous scienti-
16 fic papers, as can be ascertained by perusal of my attached
17 resume.

18 IV

19 One of my fields of research specialty is a scientific
20 technique known as Neutron Activation Analysis; I have particularly
21 undertaken application of this technique over an eight-year period
22 from 1962 to 1970, when I was on the research staff of the Gulf
23 General Atomic Corporation, in San Diego, and since 1970, at the
24 University. In this field, I have authored and co-authored reports
25 and scientific papers. One of my main areas of application of this
26 technique has been in the area of Scientific Crime Investigation.
27 My forensic activation analysis studies at Gulf General Atomic
28 were conducted with the financial support of the United States

1 Atomic Energy Commission (Contract AT (04-3, GGA Project 295), and
2 of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the United
3 States Department of Justice.

4 V

5 Following the June 5, 1968 assassination of Senator
6 Robert F. Kennedy, (on June 7, 1968), I was contacted by the Office
7 of the Los Angeles County Coroner, Dr. Thomas Noguchi, M.D. Dr.
8 Noguchi was interested in the possibility of my applying the tech-
9 nique of Neutron Activation Analysis to the bullets involved in the
10 Robert F. Kennedy assassination. Essentially, this would have
11 involved my comparing the chemical-element constituency of the
12 bullets removed from the spectators at the scene of the Kennedy
13 homicide with the bullets removed from the body of Senator Robert
14 F. Kennedy. the importance of this test is the following:

15 Assuming that the eight copper bullet casings removed
16 from the gun of Sirhan B. Sirhan on June 5, 1968, were all of one
17 manufacturer (indeed, I understand, all eight have been reported
18 to have been made by Cascade Cartridge Company, all bearing the
19 letter "C" at the firing pin end of the copper jacket), the scien-
20 tific presumption and scientific likelihood is that all eight
21 bullets placed in the gun by Sirhan were selected from the same
22 box of 50-shot capacity 0.22 caliber ammunition. Also, the scien-
23 tific likelihood is that all 50 cartridges in any given box of
24 ammunition were produced in the same "batch" of ammunition, (in
25 this instance, by the Cascade Cartridge Company). When ammunition
26 is made, literally thousands of 0.22 caliber cartridges are made
27 from one "batch" of bullet lead. This "batch" would then have the
28 same chemical characteristics throughout the batch - that is, the

1 same percentages of lead and antimony, and the same levels of var-
2 ious other trace elements.

3 Under the assumption that bullets made by two different
4 manufacturers at two different geographical locations and two differ-
5 ent chronological times would potentially have different chemical
6 makeups, (and this assumption is supported by a considerable amount
7 of experimental data), and assuming that the bullets removed from
8 Senator Kennedy's body were manufactured by a different firearms
9 producer than those removed from the spectators at the scene of the
10 crime, there is an excellent probability that this technique would
11 reveal appreciable differences in their respective elemental compo-
12 sitions, if, indeed, these bullets had different origins. It was
13 in this vein that the original contact was made to me by the Office
14 of the Los Angeles County Coroner on June 7, 1968.

15 Following this initial contact and two subsequent ones
16 on September 23 and 24, 1968, I received no further contact from
17 that office, nor any request to proceed with such analysis.

18 It is my opinion that the potentially highly significant
19 findings that could have resulted from the application of this
20 powerful analytical tool were removed from the case of People v.
21 Sirhan by the failure to have such an analysis undertaken, either
22 by the prosecution or the defense.

23 VI

24 The technique of Neutron Activation Analysis is still
25 quite applicable to the analysis of bullet-lead specimens even
26 after a long passage of time. This means that today the tests may
27 still be made on all of the slugs involved in this case, and that
28 the results will be exactly as meaningful today as they were on

1 June 7, 1968.

2 VII

3 I have been contacted by Roger S. Hanson, Attorney at
4 Law, of Beverly Hills, California, pursuant to the possibility of
5 my undertaking these analyses at my laboratory, and I related to
6 Mr. Hanson that I could undertake these measurements. To do so,
7 it is only necessary that I be allowed to remove a minute portion
8 of each bullet. The tiny portion analyzed is also not destroyed in
9 the analytical procedure, and such tiny portions can be removed
10 from the bullets such as to not interfere in any way with any
11 further ballistics analysis that might be undertaken.

12 VIII

13 I can analyze these bullet specimens and prepare a
14 report covering the analyses and findings, within a period of four
15 weeks after my receipt of the specimens.

16 VIX

17 It is my professional opinion that the foregoing analyses
18 should have been undertaken in June, 1968, and still should be
19 undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

20 I declare the foregoing to be true under the penalty of
21 perjury this _____ day of _____, 1972.

22
23
24 VINCENT P. GUINN, Ph.D.

25 Professor of Chemistry
26 University of California
27 Irvine Campus
28 Irvine, California