

10/18/76

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Dear Dr. Sperber,

Thanks for your helpful and informative letter of the 13th.

When it comes to witnesses the final decision is that of my lawyer, Jim Lesar. I expect to see him this week. I'll then give him your letter. He should find your suggestions worthwhile.

Meanwhile, for whatever help he may be able to provide in preparing for the taking of testimony on the scientific tests themselves, I look forward to hearing from Mr. Alexander.

I'm sure we need, from standard texts, the right way to go about spectroscopy and NAAs in both the JFK and King cases, for two different suits. What is tested, for what purposes, what is normally expectable and how it is all compiled and reported. For the state of knowledge of early 1964 and 1968.

I was at San Francisco State only once, in November 1967. I was not able to conduct a seminar, as I now recall it, because I had other obligations. I do recall an interview by a young woman reporter for the college paper.

She saw me wearing a Caesar haircut and a Hitler mustache. Who could forget that?

The next status call in this case is on the 29th. Before then, after months of federal stonewalling, we should have the responses to our interrogatories. From this we hope to be able to decide which people we want to depose prior to the hearing. But for both we'll need the kind of basic information I've indicated. I do have a number of articles from Forensic Sciences but they are written for the informed. They do not address what I see as our need in deposing and taking in-court testimony.

An extreme example of what we face comes from another of my cases. In it the FBI claims that when the bullet has a dozen elements they test the clothing for lead only, ignoring the copper-alloy jacket.

In this JFK case the claim is that the Connally clothing was not subjected to NAA after spectroscopy disclosed nothing; that all the fragments were not subjected to NAA; and that neither the windshield nor the curbstone were. You've seen the spectro results in Post Mortem.

The NAA work was done by Gallagher at Oak Ridge. He decided, ERDA now says, what would and would not be tested.

Again thanks,

Harold Weisberg