

Dr. Cyril Wecht, pathology
Central Medical Center & Hospital
1200 Centre Ave.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

8/2/92

Dear Cyril,

Thanks for your 7/28 and its informative enclosures. The two that you wrote surprise me because they really say that doctors and hospitals are foolish in not having autopsies for their own protection. Who ought be more aware of this than doctors?

Thanks for your offer to assist with what is technical. All I am interested in is restricted to crimes of violence ending in death. Is there a recognized authority, like a text or a law, that says the autopsy is not limited to establishing the cause of death? and one that specifies the minimum to do be done in death by gunshots? and what is sought other than the cause of death, obviously not necessary with JFK's head so shattered.

Without taking much of your time, in part because I have in earlier writing addressed it and have some knowledge, can you readily lay your hands on an acceptable source on the behavior, particularly the nature of fragmentation and nonfragmentation, of hardened bullet jackets in accord with the provisions of the Geneva convention under which the alleged JFK bullets were manufactured? I think Humes, Boswell et al are familiar with what I have written about this because to JAMA they eased off of what their protocol says on the small fragments. They've eliminated "dust-like" from their description of the small bits. That, I believe, is contrary to the requirements of the Geneva convention and hardened cores and jackets.


The many interruptions, medical and because I am a small publisher and get much mail, it has been more than week since I had any time for writing. But I've completed the draft, I should emphasize rough draft, of the first half of the book knowledge of which I do not want to get round because responding to letters and calls on that would take more time. This half goes into what those four whoresmen, Humes, Boswell, Lundberg and Breo did and said and provides a context for it and for the second half and understanding of both halves from largely unknown and some never published official documents. In the second half I'll do an autopsy on this outrageous thing they did. I mean item by item.

I've already quoted you from the enclosed page a student provided from one of the retrieval systems available to him. It does not have a date. Can you provide, if not for the story, that of conference or of the day on which you spoke so I can add that?

And when you said that color slides of the wounds are missing in the pictures taken, are you saying that the existing black-and-whites do not or cannot show any ring of parasion or scorching? I can't see any on the pictures Fox leaked to Crouch.

Again, thanks and best wishes,

sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

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FORENSIC PATHOLOGY
LEGAL MEDICINE

July 28, 1992

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Harold:

I was pleased to learn from your letter of July 16th, that you are planning to write a book dealing with the JAMA/Lundberg/Breo bullshit. If there are any specific technical aspects pertaining to pathology that I might possibly be able to assist you with, please let me know.

Enclosed are some articles that relate to your inquiry, namely, what are the purposes of an autopsy. You are absolutely correct that the cause of death is not the exclusive objective of a post-mortem examination. I hope these articles will be of assistance to you.


Congratulations on your 50th wedding anniversary! That is a wonderful and very special occasion, and I should like to join all your family, friends, and colleagues in extending hearties best wishes to you and your wife.

I was sorry to learn about your new medical problem. I hope that you now have it under control with your revised sleep-work schedule.

I shall look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,


Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

CHW/mb

Enclosures

Expert discounts JAMA Kennedy analysis

By KIRK LONGHOFER

WICHITA, Kan. (UPI) — An internationally recognized forensic pathologist called "absurd" conclusions regarding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy drawn in an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Cyrel Wecht was the first non-government physician to examine materials from the autopsy of JFK, and served on an advisory panel of pathologists working with the Warren Commission investigation into the assassination.

The article by JAMA editor George Lundberg was based on interviews with the two Navy doctors who conducted the Kennedy autopsy.

In the article, Dr. James Humes and Dr. Thornton Boswell reviewed their findings of the autopsy conducted on Nov. 23, 1963, at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. In what amounts to a forceful endorsement of the Warren Commission report on the assassination, they said they stand by all of their original conclusions.

The Warren Commission found that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, fired two shots, killing Kennedy, and wounding then-Texas Gov. John Connally.

Wecht, speaking at the annual Western Conference on Civil and Criminal Problems, said Humes and Boswell were taken to task in 1964 by a panel of nine pathologists appointed by the Warren Commission, who criticized their work.

"You must remember, Humes and Boswell had never done medical-legal autopsies in their careers," said Wecht. "It was really inept."

Wecht said the two doctors missed one bullet wound to Kennedy's throat and noted discrepancies in the location of another wound on the back of his head or upper shoulder as evidence that the autopsy was incomplete.

"These two people are guilty of professional negligence at least," said Wecht.

Wecht reviewed evidence from the autopsy in 1972, when researchers were given limited access to information on the assassination. He discovered that important evidence, including Kennedy's brain, other tissue samples and color slides of the wounds were missing.

That missing evidence, Wecht said, would have proved that "the Warren Commission report is a fraud."

Wecht said he believes that more than one gunman had to have fired shots at the Presidential motorcade. He said an examination of film taken of the assassination shows that the shots came too close together for Lee Harvey Oswald to have fired them both.

Wecht questioned Lundberg's qualifications to draw any conclusions based only on his interview with the physicians.

"The whole thing is a farce, really," said Wecht. "He has not studied the autopsy materials. He is not a fully formally trained board certified forensic pathologist.

"I'm not sure he would be qualified to testify in a court of law."

The JAMA article, Wecht said, is fresh fodder for those who want to believe in a single assassin theory.

"It makes the American public believe that some kind of true investigative study has been done afresh," Wecht said. "And, there is nothing new here."