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FORENSIC PATHOLOGY
LEGAL MEDICINE

July 29, 1994

Mr. Wayne J. Mastalski
3781 Ivanhoe Circle
Schiller Park, Illinois 60176

Dear Mr. Mastalski:

I apologize for not having responded sooner to your letter of April 10th. However, I just recently received your correspondence from my publisher in New York.

Inasmuch as your inquiries relate to statements made by Posner and his book, Case Closed, I should like to urge you to obtain a copy of a complete rebuttal to that book entitled Case Open by Harold Weisberg (address below). I believe Mr. Weisberg, who is one of the most respected and knowledgeable JFK critic-researchers, has addressed these points and many others in his book.

Insofar as the so-called Thorburn reflex is concerned, I intend to address this in an article I am now working on for a medical journal. After it has been published, I shall be happy to send you a copy.

Kennedy's back wound is definitely lower than where Posner places it. Admiral Burkley knew a little bit more about medicine than Posner.

In light of your genuine interest in the JFK assassination, I should like to make you aware of a new organization, Coalition on Political Assassinations (COPA). Perhaps you might wish to consider becoming an active member and receiving our publication and other announcements. Also, we shall be conducting a conference in Washington,

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D.C., October 7-10. I shall see to it that you are sent membership and conference materials directly from the COPA office in D.C. in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

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

CHW/mb

cc: Mr. Harold Weisberg ✓
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Wayne J. Mastalski
481 North Branch Circle
Frank Park Illinois 60170

July 5, 1994

Dr. Cyril Wecht
c/o The Dutton Division
Penguin Books
375 Hudson Street
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Mr. Wecht:

I have read your book, "Cause of Death", and was most interested in your comments on the JFK assassination. However, my reading of your book prompted the following medical questions:

1. In your book, you make reference to two bullets that penetrated only a short distance (one or two inches) into Kennedy's body. These wounds were, of course, the back wound and the neck wound. What might cause such wounds? Specifically, I am interested in the type of bullets and weapons that would have such shallow penetration at such short distances.

2. In his book, "Case Closed", Gerald Posner stated Kennedy had a neurological reflex known as the Thorburn position. A description of Kennedy's reaction was not explained in your book. Therefore, was this reflex possible and if so, what might have caused it to occur?

3. There are at least two descriptions of the back wound. Admiral Burkley's puts it about the level of the third thoracic vertebra while the aforementioned "Case Closed" puts it at the sixth cervical vertebra. Which is consistent with your examination of Kennedy's clothes described on page 35 of your book (five and three-quarter inches down from the base of the neck)?

A SASE is enclosed for your answers. If a telephone conversation is more convenient, my work phone is (708) 782-2390 and my home phone is (708) 678-3516. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wayne J. Mastalski