

Dear Dave,

8/24/92

I was awake this morning with less than three hours of sleep and the nap I took tired me rather than refreshed me. But I've finished the long chapter I told you I was working on and with your Corruption and Control here today (mailed Friday, good time) I'll let reading and correcting that wait and read what you sent as I can. I'll be able to take a nap soon, delayed because of lunch, but I've read and like the first 4 1/2 pages, down to Rankin. I guess I'll just add to this as I am able to read it.

One 2 I suggest making a single sentence out of the two marked to eliminate the possibility of confusion or misunderstanding by misinterpretation of what their duty was.

Lower in the same graf I wonder whether the use of Chosin Reservoir and Sights of M. are too obscure for most readers?

I don't know that you need it or that it really adds anything but when I finished this graf I wondered whether you might want to ~~add~~ add, they being lawyers, a reference to Wigmore, who described cross examination as ~~the~~ the greatest engine for discovering truth. It is the duty of lawyers to try to establish truth. But there was no ^{CROSS-}EXAMINATION, thus that engine could not run, and the lawyers did not seek any replacements while at the same time not themselves undertaking the responsibility. They were not prepared to meet the challenge to their personal and professional integrity created by the absence of cross examination and of adversary counsel.

In the last line, do you also mean ethically?

Page 3, about middle, do you want to say "Arlen Specter's single-bullet theory."

Penult line "his " for "their"?

page 4, top line, insert "or the" between ~~the~~ "as" and ^{the} "the next".

page 4, Willens was also liaison between the Commission and his ~~employer~~ employer, WJ.

When I got this far I had to take a nap. When I sat to get back to present~~ly~~ norm on awakening and thought about it I decided to write on the copy rather than read it and type comments and suggestions because that is the only way I could get this back to you in the morning; mail and with classes this close thought you might want that. So I have and if there is anything you can't read, send me a copy and I'll see if I can.

In general, I think you did what you set out to do. I have the feeling you did it in too much haste, as some of what I've indicated suggests to me. The electrician who is to ~~replace~~ replace the defective fixture in my office is here so I add only the one thing I'll probably have time for before getting on the packages, I think you got a bit carried away by your justified emotions at the end. You may want to reread that critically. Best to all,

Handwritten signature

Dear Dave,

8/25/92

In writing you in haste yesterday to be able to mail the chapter back today I made a careless mistake. I said the WC did not know about the NAAs that the FBI did. It did not know the results but it did know that they had been done. I was reminded of this in checking PM this morning looking for what I did not find. I'll enclose the page which includes an FBI letter.

I did not find two things this morning. I was looking for a discussion of the design of bullets, varminting, under the Geneva convention, and in connection with the dust-like fragments in the autopsy report. I checked the indexes to all the books but ~~XXXX~~ Whitewash II, where by accident the printer omitted it. My source was Bernabei.

I thought I had a file carbon copy of this index but in that file folder is a copy of the index to WW. I do not find any II index. If I gave you a copy I'd appreciate 2 copies if it is not real clear, if clear one is enough. Jerry wants one.

I was up at midnight last night, did not realize I'd been abed so little, felt OK, and my daily caffeine ration was made by the time I did. So I skimmed some of the xeroxes from standard autopsy sources Cyril sent me that came yesterday. I then began to look at them. So far they are not exactly what I'd hoped for but I'll be keeping them separate if you want to look at them or borrow them when you are next here. You may find some interesting.

Can you remember where by more than mere passing reference to hardened ammo I discussed the meaning of those dust-like fragments?

I may be wrong but I think that at the point I noted that while they say the pattern was from back to front it was no less from front to back.

If I missed this in the indexing it is a first, she was that good and careful!

If not Post Mortem I thought perhaps Frameup but the subject index to that was wiped out and under his name it is not there.

Contrary to what the doctors anticipated my working from after 12 to near 2 a.m. did not curtail my sleep that followed. It was for 2:45, the longest uninterrupted sleep for some time, and I got up because of pressure to urinate then. So having work clear in mind seems not to be a factor.

Maybe I'll learn more tomorrow.

Best,

Harold

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

GA1 FBI

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C. 20002

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

March 10, 1964

By Courier Service

INV

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to my letter dated January 10, 1964, advising that arrangements were made with the Atomic Energy Commission to process by nuclear analytical techniques items relating to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The paraffin casts from Lee Harvey Oswald were examined by neutron activation analyses at the Oak Ridge National Laboratories, Research Reactor Site, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

These analyses were made to determine if the paraffin casts from Oswald which were made, chemically treated and washed by the Dallas law enforcement authorities, bear any primer deposits from the rifle cartridge cases found in the Texas School Book Depository Building following the President's assassination.

As a result of these examinations; the deposits found on the paraffin casts from the hands and cheek of Oswald could not be specifically associated with the rifle cartridges. Elements (barium and antimony) were found on the casts; however, these same elements were found in residues both from the above rifle cartridge cases and from the revolver cartridge cases which were fired from Oswald's revolver reportedly between the time of the assassination and the time of apprehension.

No characteristic elements were found by neutron activation analyses which could be used to distinguish the rifle from the revolver cartridges.

In view of the fact that the paraffin casts were not made until after the reported firing and handling of the revolver, no significance could be attached to the residues found on the casts other than the conclusion that barium and antimony in these residues are present in amounts greater than would be expected to be found on the hands of an individual who has not recently fired a weapon or handled a fired weapon.

Sincerely yours,

Commission Exhibit No. 2455

See p. 446.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

July 8, 1964

By Courier Service

Dear Mr. Rankin:

As previously reported to the Commission, certain small lead metal fragments uncovered in connection with this matter were analyzed spectrographically to determine whether they could be associated with one or more of the lead bullet fragments and no significant differences were found within the sensitivity of the spectrographic method.

Because of the higher sensitivity of the neutron activation analysis, certain of the small lead fragments were then subjected to neutron activation analyses and comparisons with the larger bullet fragments. The items analyzed included the following: C1 - bullet from stretcher; C2 - fragment from front seat cushion; C4 and C5 - metal fragments from President Kennedy's head; C9 - metal fragment from the arm of Governor Connally; C16 - metal fragments from rear floor board carpet of the car.

While minor variations in composition were found by this method, these were not considered sufficient to permit positively differentiating among the larger bullet fragments and thus positively determining from which of the larger bullet fragments any given small lead fragment may have come.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

The Commission kept out of the Report and the evidence any indication that NAA's had been performed on anything other than the paraffin casts. This letter, buried in the Commission's files, represents the full record the Commission had relating to NAA's on any of the ballistics evidence. A more total abdication of the Commission's responsibility is hard to imagine. By January 1964 the AEC had informed the Commission that the increased sensitivity of NAA could be of great significance to the investigation. On January 27, Rankin told the Commission that the bullets and fragments were then with the AEC, that the "new process" had the potential of resolving some of the basic questions about the crime, and that the results were forthcoming (see p. 445). Now the government claims NAA's on 399 and the fragments were not run until May 15, 1964. Even if that is true, as it most likely could not be, it was not until July 8 that Hoover got around to giving the Commission these sketchy, deceiving and incomplete "results" of the NAA's. Had the Commission been conducting a real investigation, it would have been knocking down the AEC's doors to have those tests done fully and competently at the soonest possible point. Yet this belated letter from Hoover was unaccompanied by any documentation, does not include all the tests known to have been done (such as on Q15), omits any comparison of the various copper samples, fails to specify exactly which comparisons were made, and gives no indication who had decided the differences in composition were "minor" and why. It does not even include a single statistic. With this the Commission was entirely satisfied, asking no further questions, demanding no additional tests. See Chapter 29.