

Kennedy Photos Were Faked, Technicians Say

NEW YORK (Reuter) — Two Navy medical technicians who witnessed the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy said Thursday that autopsy photographs and X-rays recently released by the government have been tampered with and falsified.

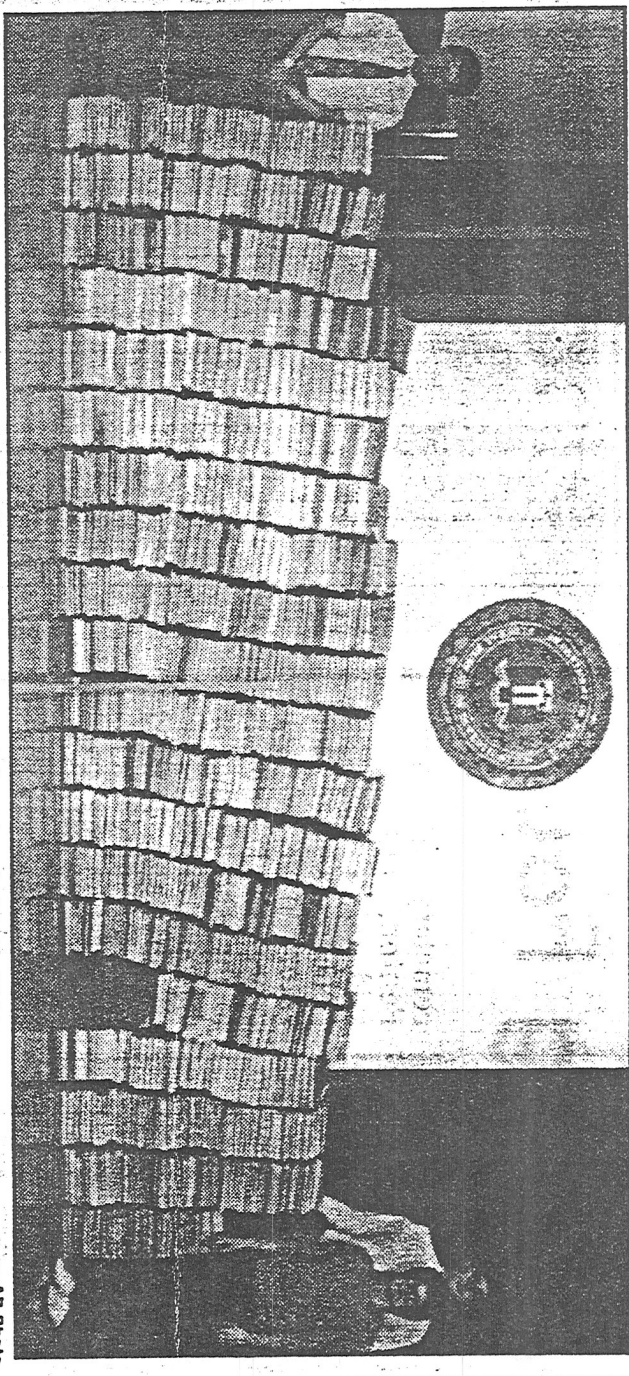
Jerrold Custer who took X-rays of Kennedy's body at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland the night of the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination, told a Manhattan news conference that the X-rays "are wrong."

He said the released X-rays indicated that a portion of Kennedy's face had been destroyed. But he said, "There was no damage to his face and no part of his skull was missing on the forward part of his head."

Photographer Floyd Riebe, who took pictures of the body during the autopsy, claims that the photographs released by the government are "phony."

Holding up dozens of autopsy photographs of the late president, Riebe said:

"The picture of the back of his head is not right. All that part of his head was missing as far as the right ear, and there was not enough



— AP Photo

Three Justice Department clerks pose with the documents processed by the FBI relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. A House panel approved legislation Thursday to release the records.

scalp to pull over the wound as it is in the pictures."

He said that once in the autopsy room, Secret Service agents prevented him and others from leaving the room and that as he took out the film from his camera, it was quickly removed by the agents.

"These films are doctored one way or another," he said. Custer said that "his basic job that night was to find bullet fragments," and that when he lifted Kennedy's body a bullet fell out of his back.

Custer insists Kennedy's "face was intact." After the autopsy, Custer said he was sent to

an admiral's office at Bethesda where he was warned to "keep my mouth shut ... and that if I were to open my mouth, I would wind up in prison."

Both Custer and Riebe are no longer members of the Navy.

The news conference was called to rebut articles published last week in the Journal of the American Medical Association by two Navy pathologists who performed the autopsy on Kennedy and who support the official Warren Commission findings that the president was shot twice from behind by a lone assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.