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JFK Brain Missing, House Prober Says

Washington

John F. Kennedy's brain, partially destroyed by an assassin's bullet, was removed in an autopsy and has disappeared, the chief investigator for the House Assassinations Committee said yesterday.

Chief Counsel G. Robert Blakey said the brain was preserved and placed in a metal receptacle during the autopsy on the slain president in 1963 and has been missing ever since.

Kennedy's body was buried in Arlington National Cemetery without it, Blakey said.

Blakey said the committee had approached the National Archives, Bethesda Naval Hospital, other authorities and the Kennedy family but had received no definitive answer on what happened to the receptacle and its contents.

He said a spokesman for Kennedy's family said he believed that the material had been destroyed. Robert Kennedy, when he was attorney general, had expressed fears that the president's brain might be put on public exhibition, Blakey recalled a Kennedy family spokesman saying.

Blakey said that it was confirmed, however, that the brain was not buried with Kennedy's remains.

Baden said all but one member of the panel agreed that lack of the brain did not affect their conclusions on the cause of Kennedy's death.

The experts found, Baden said, "There was extensive fracture of the skull. It was an explosive type of injury. The panel concluded without question that the head shot would have been fatal."

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