

Ed, Chitrib 3/25/73 banner story, "Coroner's bungling bared", is vy interesting. What you had earlier sent made its allegations less of a surprize. If you wantt have a suspicious mind, you might wonder if there is more than a political plum involved in the office of coroner being elective and requiring only a medical degree. In deaths from violence the average, competent lab pathologist is out of his depth. You-all have lots of deaths from violence, meaning lots of people who don't want to be caught. The possibilities of having a good coroner's office are immeasurably greater is he is qualified in forensic pathology, greater than that if he is experienced. That heart-attack jazz got no attention hereabouts. I knew the coroner's record in the Panther case, but there I was willing to believe political pressures could have caused it. Man, this is beyond belief. I knew the standards were low or non-existent in most places, where anybody can be coroner, but I didn't suspect it would be true of a major city. You might want to remember what I've hinted at in some of your crime work, especially borderline cases and those the solution of which hinges or depends entirely upon the pathology. The JFK autopsy is the classic case, of course. Thanks EW 3/27/73