

- 11/26, 29/63** Note on special appendix to Bantam edition: The following documents were released by The National Archives too late to appear in the hardcover edition of *Inquest*. ... This special appendix includes Federal Bureau of Investigation reports of 11/26 and 11/29 regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy [reports of Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., and James W. Sibert, dated 11/26/63, FBI file No. 89-30; 11/29/63, FBI file No. BA 89-30]. FBI report by Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., and James W. Sibert, *Inquest*, given by Epstein, Bantam edition, 9/21/66, p. 165
- 11/29/63** Mr. Gerald A. Behn, Special Agent in Charge, White House Detail, United States Secret Service, was interviewed at his office ... Mr. Behn advised that the undeveloped photographs and X-rays made during the course of the autopsy ... are in the custody of Mr. Bob Bouck, Protective Research Section, United States Secret Service and could be made available to the Federal bureau of Investigation on request. [date of report; dictated 11/27/63.] FBI report by Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., and James W. Sibert, given by Epstein, Bantam edition. 9/21/66, p. 171
- 12/19/63** Washington, -[12/18] -- Description of what pathologist were said to have found in an autopsy on President Kennedy's body [Bethesda]:
- The account, printed in the *Washington Post*, gave detailed support to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's finding that two bullets had hit Mr. Kennedy from the rear. The FBI came to this conclusion in its report on the assassination.
- The pathologists were said to have found that a first bullet bit the President in back of the right shoulder, five to seven inches below the collar-line. The bullet lodged in the body. ... it caused a hematoma, or a pooling of blood, inside the neck and shoulder muscles.
- The second shot, it was said, hit the right rear of Mr. Kennedy's head and caused such destruction as to be "completely incompatible with life." A fragment of this bullet, according to the report, passed out the front of the throat. This presumably would account for various reports suggesting -- on the basis of the hurried observations of doctors in Dallas after the shooting ... that there was an "entry wound" in the front of the throat. ... the FBI, in its report ... stated flatly that both bullets had come from the window where Oswald assertedly was.
- 12/27/63** ... Thus *Parkland* doctors through that one bullet had struck Kennedy in the throat, just below the necktie knot, another in the back of the head, and either would have been fatal. But the autopsy indicated that the first bullet had struck Kennedy in the back, some six inches below the collar line, and that the throat wound ha been made by a fragment of the last bullet which literally; exploded in Kennedy's head. *Parkland* doctors, who worked over Kennedy as he lay on his back, apparently missed the first wound. And it might not have been fatal. The bullet had penetrated but two or three inches, perhaps after ricocheting from part of the limousine, and it struck no vital organs. ... *Time, The Autopsy*, p. 18
- 1/4/64** "Washington News" column on autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Item titled "Kennedy shot twice in back," says, "The first bullet did not go through his body and was recovered during the autopsy." *Journal of the American Medical Association*

3/64 The X-rays and photographs prepared at Bethesda ... happen to constitute the best extant evidence of the wounds. If the United States Government will not produce this vital data, we must conclude that their omission from the Warren Commission Hearing was purposeful.

They must now be produced for the scrutiny of non-governmentally connected scholars. Not to do so would be to place the Warren Commission under the dark cloud of failure in its obligation to the American public. We have a right to know. Justice Warren has frequently supported such a right in its judicial opinions. Produce the X-rays and photographs. *Liberation* magazine, Vincent J. Salandria, p. 22

[See Autopsy, 4/66 – Salandria]

9/28/64 New York - description of JFK wounds, citing small wound in neck and one in back to the right of the spine [cites autopsy report] "the second primary wound was at the base of the back of the neck to the right of the spine, according to the autopsy report." *San Francisco Chronicle, New York Times Service*

9/28/64 Quotes *Warren Report* as saying two unnamed Dallas officials tried to prevent removal of JFK's body until after autopsy performed. *Washington Evening Star*

4/66 We call upon the United States Government to release to the National Archives, for purposes of examination by interested persons, the following essential evidence which has not been produced to date:

... 3. X-rays and photographs taken at the autopsy of President Kennedy. *The Minority of One, The Separate Connally shot*, Vincent J. Salandria

[See Autopsy, 3/64, Salandria]

5/28/66 Autopsy X-rays and undeveloped photographs missing. See books by Epstein, Weisberg, Lane.

5/28/66 [Discussion of books by Epstein and Weisberg]

Contradiction between *Warren Report* and FBI reports of 12/9/63 and 1/13/64, on location of JFK back wound. *Times-Post Service*, Richard Harwood

5/30/66 [Discussion of books by Epstein and Weisberg]

If the FBI statements [in its reports of 12/9/63, and 1/13/64] are not errors, they could unhinge the central conclusion of the commission report: that Lee Harvey Oswald was probably the sole assassin. An FBI spokesman Sunday said, however, that the statements are in error. *LA Times*, Robert J. Donovan

6/13/66 ... Still, some staffers were unhappy with the autopsy. There was even talk, one insider disclosed, of exhuming JFK's body for a second look. All this could presumably be resolved by the autopsy photographs; but, for announced reasons of taste, they have never been published - and they are still unavailable. *Newsweek*

6/20/66 Discussion of anatomical facts and trajectory; criticism of autopsy report. *The Nation*, Fred J. Cook, pp. 740-741

6/27/66 New York -- One of the three doctors who issued an autopsy report on President John F. Kennedy after his assassination has denied a published charge that the report was altered by the Warren Commission.

In an article appearing in the current issue of *Look Magazine*, retired Navy Commander J. Thornton Boswell rejected a charge made by Edward Jay Epstein in his newly published book, *Inquest*. Epstein wrote that the doctors' autopsy evidently was not the one issued in the Commission's Report. *AP* 627 ped

7/2/66 Washington - Retirement of William A. Greer, 56, who drove limousine in Dallas on day of assassination.

... Mr. Greer retired yesterday because of an ulcer condition that doctors believe was seriously aggravated by the tragedy. ...

... There was hardly a moment in the first 12 hours after the assassination when Mr. Greer was not near Mr. Kennedy. He even watched autopsy at Bethesda.

"I was there mainly for professional reasons," he said. "We were looking for traces of lead or pullet fragments that might have helped us later on. It's nothing for a policeman to watch an autopsy. But this one was very rough." ... *New York Times*, Robert D. Semple

7/3/66 From review of *Inquest*:

... [Epstein] ... failed to note a fact that appears in the autopsy file in the National Archives, but not in the published evidence or report. The autopsy report, showing that the first bullet passed through and out of the President's neck, was sent to the Commission by the Secret Service on 12/20/63 - a month before anyone knew a "single bullet" thesis would be necessary to

explain Oswald's solitary role. *New York Times*, Fred Graham

7/11/66 Argument by one who accepts the *Warren Report* that the X-rays and photographs of JFK must be produced and inspected by an impartial commission in order to settle speculation and arguments.

Recounts his unsuccessful efforts to locate them through inquiries at the National Archives, the FBI, The Secret Service, The office of Sen. Robert Kennedy, and others.

[National Archives - not in Archives.]

[Treasury Department: Robert Wallace, assistant secretary, and David C. Acheson) - unsatisfactory answer, Cohen wrote again, no answer.]

[Dr. Humes - no comment.]

[Admiral Burkley - no answer.]

[Robert Kennedy - no answer.]

Casts serious doubt upon Epstein's statement that the FBI had seen color photographs of the autopsy when it submitted its report of 12/9/63, says Epstein cites only a commission staff member, Francis W. H. Adams, as his authority. Says Adams does not recall Epstein or talking to him. *The Nation, The Vital Documents*, by Jacob Cohen, p. 43

7/11/66 ... What did Humes mean when he said that he didn't know whether these documents [X-rays, photos] "would be available" to the commission? At one point in his testimony he informed the commissioners that some of the X rays taken during the autopsy, as distinguished from the X rays taken before the autopsy, would be "available" if requested, strongly suggesting that the other X rays would not be "available." *The Nation, The Vital Documents*, Jacob Cohen, p. 46

7/11/66 ... On 3/31/66, I spent a day with John F. Simmons and Marion Johnson of the archives staff working through a long list of all the items in the assassination collection. Mr. Johnson said he had handled every item on the assassination in the building - classified, declassified and unclassified - and was sure that he had not seen the Kennedy X-rays and photos. ... We also checked through all correspondence between the Secret Service and the commission and found no mention of these documents. The people at the archives, who were clearly irked that such important material is missing from the collection, suggested that I get in touch with the Secret Service. *The Nation, The Vital Documents*, Jacob Cohen, p. 47

7/11/66 ... Certainly everyone with an opinion on the *Warren Report* - those who, by and large, accept it, as I do, and those who seriously

criticize it, can agree that the X-rays and photos must now be made available for competent study and interpretation. If the Kennedy family - which probably has legal title to the documents - will not release them for publication, or even place them in the National Archives for the use of scholars, perhaps a committee of trusted scholars and doctors can be assembled to examine them. *The Nation, The Vital Documents*, Jacob Cohen, p. 49

7/12/66 Re allegations that autopsy report was altered:

Denial by Commander Thornton Boswell, and explanation of conflict in FBI report of autopsy by "official FBI spokesman"; also comment by Norman Redlich and Arlen Specter. *Look*, Fletcher Knebel, p71

7/28/66 ... On 3/16/64, ... Dr. Humes' undated autopsy report was first introduced in evidence, it directly contradicted both the FBI report of 12/9/63, and the subsequent FBI report of 1/13/64. ...

Their [the autopsy doctors'] report was completed on 11/24, and sent to the White House on the 11/25. The Secret Service then received the report, and, according to statements published recently, sent it to the Commission on 12/20 and to the FBI on 12/23. ... *The New York Review of Books, The Second Oswald: The Case For a Conspiracy Theory*, p 11, Richard H. Popkin.

7/28/66 In the *Los Angeles Times* of 5/30/66, Robert Donovan quotes an FBI spokesman as saying only that "the FBI was wrong when it said 'there was no point of exit'."

"The FBI agents were not doctors, but were merely quoting doctors, the FBI spokesman said." *New York Review*, Richard H. Popkin, p. 12

8/15/66 Warren's courtly sense of propriety, too, was a source of bitter frustration for some of the staff. It was he who refused, over staff protests, to have the autopsy pictures and X-rays admitted even as secret evidence - Warren contended that it would be "tasteless" to look at pictures of the President's corpse. *Newsweek*, Kenneth Auchincloss, p. 32

8/15/66 The whereabouts of these photographs and X-rays remain one of Washington's most puzzling mysteries. A diligent two-month inquiry by *Newsweek* has failed to turn up a single government official who can, or will, give a simple answer to the question: "Where are the Kennedy autopsy pictures?" The Secret Service says it no longer has them. The National Archives do not have them. The White House says that Presidential physician George Burkley once had them but gave them to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln "for delivery to the Kennedy family." Mrs. Lincoln, JFK's secretary, recalls no such transaction. Senator Robert Kennedy suggests they are in governmental custody. But other sources close to the Kennedys believe they are probably being kept in a vault that can be opened only with the permission of Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy. *Newsweek*

8/21/66 Asked about mounting criticism of *Warren Report*, said he traveled a great deal in other parts of the world and had encountered

almost universal disagreement abroad with the conclusions of the Warren Commission, but the critics focused on "minuscule details." He himself accepted the commission's conclusions. Had Known Mr. Warren all his adult life and could not believe he would be a party to deceiving the American people.

Asked about growing demands for examination of autopsy photographs and X-rays, said "I am not going to get into that detail." Pierre Salinger, press secretary, JFK, on *Face the Nation*, KCBS

- 9/21/66** The following is a complete listing of photographs and X-rays taken by the medical authorities of the President's body. They were turned over to Mr. Roy Kellerman of the Secret Service. X-rays were developed by the hospital, however, the photographs were delivered to Secret Service undeveloped:
- 11 X -Rays
 - 22 4 x 5 color photographs
 - 18 4 x 5 black and white photographs
 - 1 roll of 120 film containing five exposures *Inquest*, Epstein, *Bantam* edition, p. 170, FBI report [11/26/63] by Francis X. O'Neill, Jr. and James W. Sibert
- 9/21/66** Mr. Gerald A. Behn, Special Agent in Charge, White House Detail, United States Secret Service, was interviewed at his office ... Mr. Behn was questioned concerning the section of the President's skull, which was brought to the National Navy Medical Center at Bethesda, MD after the autopsy was in progress. He advised that this section, which was measured by the Doctor performing the autopsy as being 10 x 6.5 centimeters, was found in the Presidential car on the floor between the front and rear seats. *Inquest*, Epstein, *Bantam Edition*, p. 171, FBI report by Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., and James W. Sibert, dated 11/29/63, dictated 11/27/63
- 9/21/66** Mr. Gerald A. Behn, Special Agent in Charge, White House Detail, United States Secret Service, was interviewed at his office. ... Mr. Behn advised that the undeveloped photographs and X-rays made during the course of the autopsy ... are in the custody of Mr. Bob Bouck, Protective Research Section, United States Secret Service and could be made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on request. *Inquest*, Epstein, *Bantam Edition*, p. 171, FBI report by Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., and James W. Sibert, dated 11/29/63, dictated 11/27/63
- 9/21/66** The following documents were released by The National Archives too late to appear in the hardcover edition of *Inquest*. ... This special appendix includes Federal Bureau of Investigation reports of 11/26 and 11/29 regarding the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy [reports of Francis X. O'Neill, Jr. and James W. Sibert, dated 11/26/63, FBI file No. 89-30; 11/29/63, FBI file No. BA 89-30] *Inquest*, Epstein, *Bantam Edition*, Note on special appendix to *Bantam* edition
- 10/6/66** Footnote: This report bears the Commission File Number CD-7 and FBI file numbers 89-30. It was discovered in the National Archives by Mr. Paul Hoch of Berkeley, CA

- 10/6/66** ... According to the *Greater Philadelphia Magazine*, 8/1/66, issue, Dr. Humes refused to discuss the discrepancies between the autopsy report and the FBI statements. The quotation attributed to him hardly inspires confidence: "I am not concerned with what was in the FBI report. We did our job and we signed the report and it was very straightforward and unequivocal. We don't feel we should discuss the matter any more. That is the position we are taking and that is the position we have been instructed to take by our superiors."
- ... If the FBI reports turn out to be accurate, the public should be immediately informed as to the identity of those superiors who are now telling Commander Humes what to say, and what not to say ... *The New York Review of Books*, Letter to the Editor, Richard H. Popkin, rebutting one from Curtis Crawford taking mild exception to Popkin's original letter in 7/28/66 issue, p. 32
- 10/6/66** p. 32 - Since I wrote my article, a more impressive firsthand document has come to light, Commission Document No. 7 in the National Archives papers ... This is the original report on the autopsy by FBI Agents O'Neill and Sibert, who were present at the time, and who dictated their report on 11/26. [It is remarkable that neither O'Neill nor Sibert were called as witnesses by the Commission, when it is obvious from their document that their information formed the basis for the FBI reports of 12/9 and 1/13.] *The New York Review of Books*, Letter to the Editor, Richard H. Popkin, rebutting one from Curtis Crawford
- 10/6/66** p. 33 - ... I think, as I said in my article [same journal, 7/28], a new investigation is urgently required, and it should start by examining the fundamental data of the X-rays and the autopsy photographs, so that we can know what is really a possible explanation. *The New York Review of Books*, Letter to the Editor, Richard H. Popkin, rebutting one from Curtis Crawford
- p. 34 - Considering what is at issue, I think the Commission owes it to the public to answer the critics, to justify itself, and to produce the basic data of the X-rays and the photos. *New York Review of Books*, Richard Popkin, in reply to letter from Curtis Crawford
- 10/10/66** p. 47 - Official sources have told *U.S. News & World Report* that the complete set of pictures and X-rays was never made available to the Warren Commission, or its staff. Here is what these sources report:
- Robert F. Kennedy ... took charge immediately, and refused to let anyone else see the X rays and pictures.
- ... Official sources say the X rays and photographs remained under lock and key at Bethesda Naval Hospital until sometime in 1964. Then they were sent to the Secret Service, and turned over to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, the late President's longtime secretary.
- Mrs. Lincoln, at the time, was working on the Kennedy archives. The X rays and pictures are said to be in this collection, located in the National Archives, but under direct control of the Kennedy family. *US News & World Report*, - *Truth about Kennedy Assassination*

10/10/66 p. 49 [Question follows discussion of wound in back of neck.]

Q. If the FBI had received a copy of the final autopsy report, completed on 11/24, why did it write into its 12/9 report the tentative conclusion that a bullet entered the upper back for a short distance - and then repeat that same theory in a later report dated 1/13?

A. That is a question which would best be directed to the FBI. The only responses that I could give you would be my inferences. The [FBI] may not have had the autopsy report when its report, dated 12/9, was originally prepared. [An unimpeachable source told *U.S. News & World Report* the autopsy report was delivered to the FBI on 12/23.] As to the January report containing the same information, some data from the earlier report may have been repeated without carefully focusing on it as such later reports frequently are repetitious without any special reason, except perhaps to give the reader the information if he missed it earlier.

I do know the FBI itself came to the same conclusions that the Commission did. Mr. Hoover testified to this, and nobody in the Bureau placed any substantial credence in the preliminary thoughts as reflected in the early reports. *U.S. News & World Report*, Interview of Arlen Specter

10/10/66 p. 50 - Q. Were there preliminary autopsy reports or memoranda of any kind that were destroyed?

A. Yes, the record is plain that there had been a series of notes taken by Dr. Humes at the time of the actual performance of the autopsy ... which had been destroyed when he made a written - handwritten - autopsy report on Sunday, 11/24. ... He had never performed an autopsy on a President, and he was using his best judgment under the circumstances, never dreaming that loose, handwritten notes would become a subject of some concern.

That matter was of concern immediately to his superiors, and he was questioned on it. He made a formal report on it, and he explained his reasons fully before the Commission. *U.S. News & World Report*, Interview of Arlen Specter

10/10/66 p. 53 - Q. Could we get to this matter of the pictures of the President's body? Have you seen the pictures?

A. The complete set of pictures taken at the autopsy was not made available to me or to the Commission. I was shown one picture of the back of a body which was represented to be the back of the President, although it was not technically authenticated. It showed a hole in the position identified in the autopsy report. To the best of my knowledge, the Commission did not see any photographs or X rays.

Q. Why were all the pictures not shown?

A. Because the Commission decided that it would not press for those photographs, as a matter of deference to the memory of the late President and because the Commission concluded that the photographs and X rays were not indispensable ... they would have

served only to corroborate what the autopsy surgeons had testified to under oath, as opposed to adding any new facts for the Commission. *U.S. News & World Report*, Interview of Arlen Specter

10/10/66 p. 53 - Q. Who ordered these photographs to be sequestered?

A. That is a question that I could not answer, because the limitation of my role as a Commission assistant counsel imposed upon me the obligation to search for evidence, including requests, and to sift for evidence that was obtained. An answer to the question you just posed is not one within my personal knowledge.

Q. Mr. Specter, would not those photographs, if they were available, clear up, beyond all doubt, the question of whether the hole in the back of the neck was higher or lower than the hole in the front of the throat?

A. They would corroborate that which is already known, which, in my opinion, has cleared up that question once and for all. ...

Q. Where are these photographs now?

A. I do not know. I have only heard speculation on that subject. Since I never had possession of them and have not talked to anyone who has, I would not at all be able to answer that question. *U.S. News & World Report*, Interview of Arlen Specter

10/10/66 [Specter] also commented that, "even as corroborative information, the photographs and X rays would always be helpful," and that "any lawyer or any investigator likes to have every conceivable piece of information available to him." *U.S. News & World Report, Truth About Kennedy Assassination*, p. 47

10/18/66 Account of Wesley J. Liebeler's talk at *Stanford* the day before, where he is quoted as saying the archives of the Warren Commission's investigation probably will be made public before the end of the year...

"I think the X-rays [made at the Kennedy autopsy] will be made public, and should be made part of the record," he declared. ...

... Photos of Kennedy's body ... probably should not be made public, for reasons of good taste, he continued. But he suggested that a panel of pathologists might be appointed to study them and make a public report to settle some of the questions raised by Lane and other critics who relieve more than one man was involved in the slaying ... *San Francisco Chronicle*, Mary Madison

10/22/66 Review of Lane, Epstein, Sauvage, Weisberg, Popkin, Fox.

Fein points out that those who criticize the autopsy report because it is undated fail to mention also that the report form provides space only for the date and time of death and date and time of autopsy, both of which are indicated. *Saturday Review, JFK in*

Dallas: the Warren Report and its critics, Arnold Fein, p. 44.

10/22/66 Review of Lane, Epstein, Sauvage, Weisberg, Popkin, Fox.

p. 45 Why is it necessary to assume falsification and a plot? Why cannot the third possibility, the unmentioned possibility - that Commander Humes' explanation is the truth - be accepted? It is not even discussed, except by Popkin. The alternatives proposed by the others involve either falsification by Humes or distortion or worse by the FBI. ... They do so, I suggest, because this fits more easily into their theories of conspiracy and plot. And if there was a plot to falsify the record, is it inappropriate to ask, "Why didn't somebody tell the FBI?" . *Saturday Review, JFK in Dallas: the Warren Report and its critics*, Arnold Fein, p. 45.

11/1/66 Louisville asks Washington how the Kennedy family happened to own autopsy data rather than some government investigative agency. AP 1030 pes message exchange

11/1/66 Washington replies Justice Department spokesman says they don't know precisely how various pieces of material ended up where they did, particularly in the days prior to formation of the Warren Commission. But theorizes off the record that the government did turn much of the material over to the family.

Any proof, or even grounds for such theorizing? AP 1108 pes

11/2/66 Washington - The family of President John F. Kennedy has turned over to the National Archives pictures taken in connection with the autopsy ...

A Justice Department spokesman said last night the Department had asked for [the material] ... A letter dated 10/29 and signed by Burke Marshall, representing the Kennedy family, gave the government possession of the pictures.

... The Justice Department spokesman said arrangements to take possession of the autopsy pictures were handled informally. He said the Department had been asked by the Kennedys not to announce the acquisition, but had done so in answer to many queries.

Asked if the Kennedy family had more material pertinent to the assassination, the spokesman said, "We know of nothing they are holding back." AP, 148, 253 aes

11/2/66 Justice Department disclosed that photographs and X-rays [14 X-rays, 25 black and white negatives and 26 color transparencies] turned over to Archives 11/1 by Kennedy family.

Restrictions: Immediate access by law-enforcement officials of all Federal investigative agencies; no public display or release permitted; for five years, access by scholars and other unofficial investigators granted only with specific consent of Kennedy

family; after five years, the family will permit qualified pathologists and other medical experts to study items. Limitations remain in effect throughout the lifetimes of Mrs. Kennedy, JFK's parents, his [For text of agreement, see 1/6/68] brothers and sisters and his two children. Limitations on access to material included in letter to Archives by [Burke Marshall, representing Kennedy family]. A federal law regarding Presidential libraries provides that items deposited in Archives are subject to limitations imposed by donors. *New York Times*, Fred P. Graham

11/2/66 Story on receipt of autopsy photos and X-rays by National Archives.

... The material had been withheld by the [Kennedy] family for reasons of taste. As had been previously reported, it was not seen by the full Warren Commission, although Chief Justice Earl Warren, who headed the commission, had viewed it.

... Today, Commander Humes and another of the three physicians who performed the autopsy, J. Thornton Boswell, went to the National Archives and authenticated the X-rays and pictures as those taken during the autopsy. ... The third physician, Col. Pierre A. Finck is on duty in Vietnam.

The radiologist who took the X-rays, whose name was not given tonight, also authenticated the X-rays.

... Asked if everything they saw today was corroborative, the doctors were said to have replied, "Yes."

The spokesman [Justice Department] emphasized they were merely trying to authenticate the material and did not study it from a medical standpoint.

... The spokesman gave as one reason for the Department's request for the data the desire to complete the historical record of the assassination.

He added that he was "sure that the questions which some of these books helped to raise in the eye of the public" helped lead to the Justice Department's action. *New York Times*, Fred P. Graham

11/2/66 Boston - Edward Jay Epstein, author of *Inquest*, ... says the possibility of a second assassin "will probably be reduced to nil" by pictures released by the Kennedy family.

Epstein ... said in an interview yesterday the pictures and X-rays ... may supply conclusive proof of the Warren Commission finding that a single assassin killed the President.

... If we now have photographic evidence that the bullet went through the President's body, this must be seen as new evidence. ... This also proves," he said, "the main point of my book - that the Warren Commission failed to examine crucial evidence. ..." *AP*

832 acs

11/2/66 Columbus, Ohio – [Mark Lane] threatened today to file suit to open to the public photographic files from the National Archives. [He] issued a statement criticizing government action in turning over to the Archives [the autopsy pictures and X-rays]. ... Lane contended the action "officially confirmed" that "the Warren commission failed to examine some of the most relevant and vital documents in the case."

... If the government will not permit examination of the photos and other evidence, Lane said, "I will bring a tax-payer's action in the federal court." *AP* 1152 acs

11/2/66 Washington - The National Archives reported today it already has received several inquiries about the possibility of viewing a mass of material it holds concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

... Dr. James B. Rhoads, deputy archivist, told a reporter that while he has had several telephone inquiries, he has received no written requests to view the X-rays or photographs of the autopsy ...

... In order to see the autopsy photographs, requests must be made in writing to Dr. Robert H. Bahmer, Archivist of the United States, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C., 20408. Requests must state the qualifications that the applicant has for using material of this nature and must contain, in as much detail as possible, the reason for seeing it, Rhoads said. The letter then is relayed by the Archives to a representative of the Kennedy family. *AP* 7 pes, Stephen M. Aug

11/3/66 Washington, [11/2] - ... The 65 X-rays, color transparencies and black and white negatives were placed in the National Archives by the Kennedy family on Monday [10/31]. *New York Times*, Fred P. Graham

11/3/66 Washington, [11/2] - Private persons will not receive permission to see the autopsy photographs and X-rays ... for the next five years, a representative of the Kennedy family disclosed today.

A statement by Burke Marshall ... indicated that news media representatives might be denied access to them for much longer.

... Mr. Marshall's statement was surprising in view of the announcement last night by a Government spokesman that under the agreement with the Kennedy family only nonofficial persons approved by Mr. Marshall would be permitted to see the articles during the first five years. This had created the impression that Mr. Marshall would give selected private persons access to the material. His latest statement appeared to rule this out. Mr. Marshall gave no reason for his decision.

... Reached in New York ... Mr. Marshall said he would grant no requests from journalists, historians, biographers and researchers for at least five years. ... After the five-year period, selected scholars and researchers will be given access to the pictures and X-

rays, he said, but the news media will probably still be excluded. *New York Times*, Fred P. Graham

11/3/66 [No dateline - New York?] - Senator Robert F. Kennedy ... when asked Tuesday night [11/1] why the executors of his brother's estate had placed the restrictions on the pictures and X-rays, said that "the reason is so obvious it shouldn't need spelling out."

He said the items turned over to the Archives were things the general public would not be concerned about, that they would be of interest only to medical persons, Federal police officers and federally appointed investigators. *New York Times*

11/3/66 Washington - Two Naval pathologists who performed the autopsy ... have spent 3½ hours viewing photographs taken in connection with the examination. They reiterated that the pictures substantiate their testimony before the Warren Commission.

The pathologists, Commanders James J. Humes and J. Thornton Boswell ... went to the Archives building for the limited purpose of identifying and authenticating the 65 X-rays, color transparencies and black-and-white negatives. ... Both doctors said the pictures add nothing to testimony they gave the commission. "These photos are nothing more than supportive evidence ... " Boswell said. *AP* 710 aes

11/10/66 ... Since the Commission believed that it was not in good taste to give a national tragedy the aspects of a sideshow, Chief Justice Earl Warren ordered all the photos and X-rays sent to the Justice Department, with instructions that they not be shown to anyone except law enforcement officers or other qualified officials. *San Francisco Chronicle*, Drew Pearson

11/14/66 Some of the government's legal authorities raise a question about the legal right to treat X rays and photographs related to the assassination of the late resident as under the control of the Kennedy family, subject to conditions imposed by them, inasmuch as these pictures were taken when the late President no longer was president and were part of the record of a government-conducted autopsy. Actually, it is said, the government itself is imposing these conditions. *U.S. News and World Report, Washington Whispers*, p. 34.

11/14/66 ...Last week ... three years after the fact, the 65 X-rays, color slides and black and white negatives were at last delivered to the National Archives. If the pictures still remained off limits to all but federal investigators for the next five years, the mystery within a mystery at least was solved: the pictures, in effect if not in fact, had been in the possession of the Kennedy family all along. ... *Newsweek, Assassination: The Missing Link*.

11/24/66 Story datelined Washington. Dr. J. Thornton Boswell said in an interview that his sketch showing JFK's wound in the back was made in error and the wound actually was at the base of the neck, as verified when he saw the photographs the first time 11/1/66.

Said the sketch was not intended to be exact and that the longhand notes jotted down on the side gave the exact location. Said autopsy report was correct.

Autopsy, Photos, X-rays

... If I had known at the time that the sketch would become public record I would have been more careful." He said the diagram "was strictly a worksheet - the same as rough working notes. You could see that by looking at it. It was very dirty."

As for FBI reports that the wound was in the back, Boswell said they were simply wrong. He noted that the FBI agents at the autopsy were not trained in medicine.

The autopsy report concluded that a single bullet hit both Kennedy and Connally, and Boswell said in the interview "there is absolutely no doubt in our minds now."

Boswell said he and the chief autopsy pathologist, Capt. J. J. Humes, have concluded that the autopsy photographs cannot prove the single bullet theory. Humes declined to discuss the autopsy. *AP* 139 acs

11/25/66 Dr. Boswell says he has seen the X-rays and photographs and they confirm the wound at the back of the base of the neck, but he agrees with Dr. Humes the pictures cannot prove the single bullet theory. Explains his sketch showing the back wound farther down was a diagram error in rough working notes which he would have been more careful with they would be published. Says his measurements still correct. *New York Times*, Peter Kihss

11/26/66 From text of statement by J. Edgar Hoover [requested by *Washington Evening Star*]:

While there is a difference in the information reported by the FBI and the information contained in the autopsy report concerning the wounds, there is no conflict.

[For explanation, refer to statement.] *New York Times*

11/28/66 [Representative Hale Boggs], a member of the Warren Commission, suggested yesterday that the Attorney General or another appropriate authority might name a "group of doctors and others" to look at X-rays of President Kennedy's body taken after the assassination.

[He] insisted that all questions so far raised by critics of the Warren report had been considered by the Commission. He made an exception, however, of calls for an independent look at the X-rays. *New York Times*, Peter Kihss

12/5/66 Henri Nannen's Addison's disease theory as to why the Kennedy autopsy report withheld. *San Francisco Chronicle*, Drew Pearson

12/5/66 *Der Stern's* theory that Kennedy family withheld autopsy records because didn't want disclosure of JFK's case of Addison's disease. *San Francisco Chronicle*, Drew Pearson

1/67 Footnote 54, p. 100 - ... According to Dr. Humes, the autopsy report was written and transmitted to "higher authority" by Sunday, 11/24. Why was the FBI reconstructing the crime the "wrong" way on 12/5? Did it have the final autopsy report? Did it have another, earlier version? ...

Footnote 55, p. 100 - ... J. Edgar Hoover disclosed that the FBI and the Warren Commission did not receive official copies of the autopsy report until 12/23/63, from the Secret Service. [*New York Times*, 11/26/66.] *Ramparts, The Case for Three Assassins*, David Welsh and David Lifton

1/4/67 Joseph A. Ball, speaking before "Town Hall, Los Angeles, says public confusion about JFK autopsy might be dispelled if X-rays and medical data in the Archives could be examined by "an objective panel of scholars." *New York Times*

1/14/67 ... The autopsy X rays and photographs .. left Bethesda in Kellerman's custody, and they were taken to the White House early on the morning of 11/23. Thereafter they vanished. ... According to a high FBI official, the autopsy pictures were sequestered by the written order of Attorney General Kennedy, directing the Secret Service not to release any information or material pertaining to the autopsy without his permission. ...

Says working notes by Dr. Humes, which were not destroyed and which he identified during testimony, are not in the printed record or the Archives and no one will acknowledge the existence of these notes today.

Recently Specter admitted he saw a single autopsy photograph [bullet hole in the back] under curious circumstances 5/23-24, shown to him by Inspector Kelley of the Secret Service.

... According to an official of the Treasury Department, the Secret Service did not turn over the autopsy material to the family until 4/26/65. Hence, at the time when the pictures might have proved enormously useful, they were still in Government hands, and therefore within the reach of the Warren Commission if it had pressed the matter urgently. *Saturday Evening Post, The Kennedy Assassination*, Richard J. Whalen, p. 69

4/18/67 Justice department, with FBI help, would be empowered to study and pass on any new evidence.

... It has been charged that the Warren Commission did not study the X-rays. This is flatly denied by Representative Hale Boggs, D-LA., Senator John Sherman Cooper, R-KY, and other members. They say emphatically the Commission did have the X-rays and examined them.

In discussions at the White House, the President has been urged to have [Ramsey] Clark, a trusted personal friend, study the X-rays and advise him what should be done regarding them ... *Oakland Tribune*, Allen & Scott column. *New Plan to Revive*

Assassination Probe?

[See 6/28/67, McCloy]

6/28/67 John J. McCloy ... agreed with *CBS* that the Warren Commission should have demanded to see the pictures and X-rays made during the Kennedy autopsy... "I think that there's one thing I would do over again," McCloy said on the program. "I would insist on those photographs and X-rays - have them produced before us." *CBS News Inquiry: The Warren Report*, AP 953 ped

[See Autopsy, 4/18/67]

1/5/68 National Archives releases text of agreement, dated 10/29/66, under which the Kennedy family - through Burke Marshall, their representative - transfers to the Administrator of General Services "all of their right, title, and interest" in clothing and personal effects of JFK, and autopsy photos and X-rays. See text for listing of photos and X-rays.

No reason is given - in *New York Times* story - for publication of details of agreement at this time. *New York Times*

2/26-27/68 Panel of four medical experts meet in secret to review the autopsy material in Washington, D.C. Existence of panel not known until report is released 1/1669 by Ramsey Clark, Attorney General, who does not say why the report was kept secret until then.

[See this Garrison 1/17/69 ff.]

3/24/68 David Wise, quotes David Bahmer, chief of National Archives, as saying that "from what I know of the records" there is nothing in the "sealed files" [Classified files?] to contradict the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald, acting alone, killed JFK. Unclear whether Bahmer was answering direct question phrased in these terms.

Basically, the article deals with transcripts of executive sessions of the Warren Commission most of them declassified at the author's request [he says], and sample titles of classified documents; notes "perfunctory" attempts to view autopsy photos, which were never seen by the commission. *Saturday Evening Post*, David Wise [4/6/68]

5/2/68 Garrison: Ordinarily, you would expect that it would be possible to look at the 18 color photographs and 12 black and white photos of the autopsy and see what happened. But they're still undeveloped. The reason they are still undeveloped is because if they were developed the developer would be able to see that John Kennedy was torn to pieces from the front. And they don't want you to see that.

King: Why don't they ...

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Garrison: I might say this: our federal government [at least under Lyndon Johnson] has reached the point of such total disregard for the truth ... that an excellent possibility now exists that they have succeeded in replacing the original autopsy pictures with autopsy pictures of another subject where the wounds fit. Garrison [*Larry King show, WTVJ-TV, Miami; tape No. 77, X-rays at 800 feet*]

[See Garrison file 12/15/67.]

5/9/68 Garrison subpoenas X-rays and photos taken at autopsy.

[See Garrison file and Chronology.]

1/17/69 Dr. John M. Nichols brings suit in Federal District Court, Topeka, KS, against National Archives, asking that all autopsy exhibits be declared public property under the public records act. Dr. Nichols is compiling material for a book on the assassination; has asked 50 or 60 times to see autopsy exhibits.

For details see Garrison or Chronology file.

1/16/69 Ramsey Clark, Attorney General, releases findings of a panel of medical experts that met in secret to review the autopsy material, 2/26 and 2/27/68, in Washington, D.C. Existence of panel was not known until report was released; Clark does not say why the review was kept secret. Stories in file do not give date the panel was appointed, nor date their report was signed. [See Chronology, 1/16/69]

New York Times says panel examined 69 photos and X-rays; Justice Department [this file, 11/2/66] lists a total of 65.

Report of this panel is released the evening of the same day Garrison's office says it will file a new subpoena designed to obtain autopsy exhibits for use in trial of Clay Shaw. [Original subpoena 5/9/68?] For details see Garrison file or Chronology file.

[See Autopsy, 8/19/72]

8/17/72 Dr. Russell H. Morgan says pathologist who examined JFK body at autopsy made a mistake, placing entrance wound into head four inches higher than initially reported, and that Warren Report failed to clarify this, leading to false speculations about the assassination.

[See Garrison Chronology, 1/16/69, on Ramsey Clark releasing - before Shaw trial opens 1/21/69 - findings of panel of four medical experts who had reviewed in secret the autopsy material, 2/26 and 2/27/68.]

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10/7/75 Story by Rod Gibson on Harold Weisberg obtaining documents from National Archives "after a 9-year court battle."

The new evidence "reveals conclusively that the Warren Commission was wrong and that Lee Harvey Oswald could not have been the lone assassin of President Kennedy. Top secret documents hidden for years in the National Archives show clearly that there had to be at least two gunmen - one behind the President and one ahead of him, says veteran Kennedy assassination investigator Harold Weisberg. ..." *National Enquirer*