All the working papers, reports, hearing transcripts and exhibits of the Warren Commission still be preserved in the National Archives …

See also San Francisco News Call Bulletin, same date. AP Washington A107WX 758 aed

Washington - Evidence and records compiled by the Warren Commission … have been deposited with the U.S. Archives, an official said tonight.

Deputy archivist Robert D. Bahmer said it will take some time to identify and classify the huge collection for storage.

Meanwhile, he said, it is expected that the general policy of the government of restricting for 75 years any material assembled by an investigative agency will apply.

It is a matter of federal law, he said, that this restriction can be applied by any agency originating an investigation. In the Warren Commission probe the FBI and some other governmental investigative agencies all had a hand, he noted.

Requests for access to restricted archives material - by scholars or other interested persons - may be placed with the proper investigative agency, Bahmer said. …AP 1157 pes

Concludes at least one more assassin involved, postulates a minimum of five bullets.

... With the purpose of checking the possible divergence of findings between the FBI and the Warren Commission, I applied to the National Archives and Records Service, Washington, DC, for permission to inspect the FBI report. The Archives staff apparently does not construe its task as compelling the American people to "rely on the conclusions and the statute of the men on the Commission." For, after having identified myself as a critic of the Warren Commission Report, I was afforded the courtesy and helpfulness of devoted public servants of the National Archives who performed their job well as trustees of public information. In short, I was permitted on February 26, 1966 access to the four-volume work entitled Investigation of Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963 which work bears the name of John Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Minority of One, p. 9, The Separate Connally Shot, by Vincent J. Salandria. 2nd of 2 articles, 1st in April 1966 issue.

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:

1. The wound-ballistics test bullets - all of them.
2. Zapruder frames 208, 209 and 211.
3. X-rays and photographs taken at the autopsy of President Kennedy.
5. All FBI date dealing with the shooting on the assassination site.

None of the above can be rationally included in the category of "national security and intelligence" material, unless our society is much less free and much more closed than it is supposed to be. *Minority of One, The Separate Connally Shot*, by Vincent J. Salandria

4/19/66

We have been referring to Lee Harvey Oswald, without qualification, as the man who killed President Kennedy.

Hereafter, make certain that we use a qualifying phrase, such as "identified by the Warren Commission as the man who shot and killed President Kennedy." *AP*, notice mailed to bureau chiefs and correspondents [Filed Warren Commission]

*The Minority of One, 4/66*, carried article by Vincent J. Salandria, in which he said that on 2/26 he had examined, in the National Archives, FBI report of 12/63 [which conflicts with the Warren Report on location of back wound.] See Archives 4/66 ff.

5/30/66

… FBI reports [12/9/63 and 1/13/64] which had not been made public at the time the commission submitted its finding. *LA Times*, Robert J. Donovan

6/20/66

… Epstein [deals] with the four-volume FBI report of 12/9/63, which became available to the public early this year at the National Archives ... and a "Supplemental Report" dated 1/13/64, excerpts of which he makes public for the first time. *The New Leader*, p. 25, Leo Sauvage, review of Epstein

6/29/66

The second source [on which research for this study was based] is the investigative reports in the United States National Archives. Although a portion of the material is not yet declassified, most of the pertinent investigative reports were unclassified and available for this study. [Book includes reproduction of parts of FBI report] [Publication date], Epstein, *Inquest*, p. xviii

7/3/66

From review of Inquest: … Mr. Epstein found in the National Archives two newly declassified FBI reports, dated 12/9/63, and 1/13/64. *New York Times*, Fred Graham

7/5/66

San Antonio, TX, 7/4 President Johnson today signed a bill designed to insure the public greater access to Federal records. The new law's most important provision establishes the right of judicial review of government decisions to withhold records. The law, which becomes effective a year from now, puts on the government the burden of proving that it has the right to withhold records. ...provides exceptions to the kinds of information that Federal agencies are required to give inquiring citizens or reporters ... national security secrets, foreign policy information required by executive order to be kept secret, trade secrets ...[etc.]
[The President Apparently signed with some reservations as language of his statement changed in a second release succeeding the first.] New York Times

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, p. 47, Jacob Cohen, The Vital Documents

7-8/66  
... Epstein's other sources were ... the unpublished investigative reports which have been declassified and made available in the National Archives ...

p. 29 ... Epstein's other sources were ... the unpublished investigative reports which have been declassified and made available in the National Archives ...

p. 30 ... The 12/9/63 [FBI] Report has recently been declassified and made available in the National Archives … Minority of One, Sylvia Meagher, review of Epstein

8/13/66  
Lane's assertion that "important details" of the testimony have been impounded in the National Archives "for another 75 years" brought this statement from James B. Rhoads, assistant archivist:

"About 95 per cent of the testimony has been released. From time to time, more will be de-classified."

Rhoads said some of the material still classified is composed of the working papers of the individual members of the commission. The attitude of the White House, he said, "is to lean over backwards to de-classify as rapidly as possible." AP, Relman Morin

8/25/66  
One third of the official reports that led to the Warren Commission report on the late President Kennedy's death have been classified as secret, a New York attorney said here yesterday.

... [Mark] Lane said about 500 of the more than 1500 reports, now in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., are restricted material to be made public in 75 years. The time was chosen because it is longer than the average life span, he said.

Lane asked ... that all the evidence on the assassination in the National Archives be made available for objective analysis. San Francisco Chronicle

9/21/66  
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

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. *New York Review*

10/66 *Life magazine and the Warren Commission*, by Vincent J. Salandria. Author says his original demand for release of the autopsy X-rays and photos, made in March 1965, has now become a national clamor, which he suggests "could prove to be an irresistible invitation to governmental forgery or blackmail."

Says release by *Life* of the Zapruder films is now more important because they have been seen by too many people and cannot be altered, and would immediately prove to everyone that JFK was hit from the front and to the right. *Liberation*, p. 44

10/17/66 Stanford - Autopsy X-rays of the late President Kennedy are the strongest possible evidence supporting the Warren Commission's finding that ... Oswald was a lone assassin, and should be made public, Prof. Wesley J. Liebeler ... said [today].

[He] also suggested that photographs of the late President, taken at the time of his autopsy, be shown privately to an independent panel of pathologists. To make them public would violate good taste, he added.

... While the consensus of public opinion is that the X-rays and photographs taken during the autopsy are being held by the Kennedy family, Liebeler said he understood they are now at the justice Department. *Stanford University News Service*

From *Stanford Daily*, 10/18/66: "I predict they will be made available."

10/18/66 ... On 8/17/66, the Attorney General's office asked the National Archives "to apply the same standards of public accessibility to the working papers and administrative reports" as to other public documents it has received from the Warren Commission.

Initiated by Assistant Attorney General Frank Wozencraft, head of the department's office of legal counsel, this little-noticed move could clear the way for the publication of hundreds of secret FBI, Secret Service, State Department and Warren Commission staff papers dealing with the assassination.

In most instances these documents already have been carefully combed by William Manchester ...

... Only a directive from President Johnson can rip the secrecy seal from these papers ...

In the sharp debate now raging in the administration, Under-Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzehbach has taken the lead in
arguing for publication of all documents. He was still attorney general when his aide called for disclosure ...

Katzenbach's position is supported by a number of officials, especially in the Justice Department, who are holdovers from the Kennedy administration. They believe publication ... will revive interest in the late President's death and indirectly help the political fortunes of Sen. Robert Kennedy, D-NY.

Oakland Tribune version, 10/14/66: [...] As this administration controversy begins to come out in the open, president Johnson will have to decide personally on whether all the Warren Commission papers will be made public, and when.

Regardless of the decision he makes, many long-time Washington observers believe it will spark a public controversy that could shake this country from coast to coast. San Rafael Independent Journal, Inside Washington, Warren Papers Brewing Feud, by Robert S. Allen and Paul Scott (same column in Oakland Tribune, 10/14/66, but each version contained material the other did not).

10/18/66 The archives of the Warren Commission's investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy probably will be made public before the end of the year, according to an assistant Counsel to the commission [Wesley J. Liebeler, speaking at Stanford University, 10/17]. San Francisco Examiner, Mary Madison


10/30/66 New York - Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike and Ramparts magazine publisher Edward M. Keating said Saturday [Oct. 29] it is their belief the assassination of President Kennedy involved a conspiracy in which Lee Harvey Oswald played only a part.

Both men conceded this conclusion might be wrong, but they said all evidence, both from the government and from other interested parties, must be revealed to the public.

... Keating, a Roman Catholic, and Pike announced they and Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York are forming a national inter-faith committee, which will call on President Johnson to release all withheld evidence in the assassination. ... Keating said committee members will attempt to present the petition to the white House within the next 10 days.

... The photographs and X rays of the President's body, [Keating] said, "could contribute a great deal to the resolution of my doubts and those of many others." Sacramento Bee
11/1/66

Washington - The federal government took legal title today to the great mass of evidence considered by the Warren commission. It ordered that the evidence be preserved for the ages in the National Archives.

This includes what the commission designated as the death weapon - "one 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, with telescopic sight, serial number C2766, including sling and cartridge clip."

It also includes a .38 Special Smith and Wesson revolver which, the commission found, was used by Oswald to kill J. D. Tippit ...

... Items of evidence covered by the Attorney General's order occupy seven-pages of fine print in the Federal Register. They range from the rifle to a bus transfer. AP 1248 pes

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, the late President's parents, the President's brothers and sisters and his two children. Limitations on access to material included in letter to Archives by [Burke Marshall, representing Kennedy family]. Federal law regarding Presidential libraries provides that items deposited in Archives are subject to limitations imposed by donors. New York Times, Fred P. Graham

For text of agreement, see 1/6/68.

11/2/66

... The letter also gave the government possession of the clothes Kennedy was wearing when he was shot. Restrictions on viewing these are somewhat less stringent than for the pictures.

Garrison is reported to have become interested again in the assassination and the possibility of a New Orleans origin in 11/63. Oakland Tribune

11/2/66

... In an earlier action today, acting. Attorney General Ramsey Clark took title for the Federal Government to all the physical evidence considered by the Warren Commission.

Acting under a law of 1965 [H.R. 9545: See Weapon, Sale, 9/7/65 ff.] that authorized him to decide which articles should be
preserved in the National Archives, Mr. Clark concluded that "the entire body of evidence considered by the commission" to be preserved intact. *New York Times*, Fred P. Graham

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  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, Nov. 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, Nov. 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
text. 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,
said, but the news media will probably still be excluded.  New York Times, Fred P. Graham

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

11/5/66 Dr. James B. Rhoads, deputy archivist at the National Archives, said today that the mass of Warren Commission evidence
delivered ... by the Justice Department last week would be available for study by researchers in about a month.

These include all of the physical evidence ... except Oswald's ... rifle and ... revolver [which] have been kept in Dallas where they
were the subject of litigation ... A department spokesman said the FBI would return the weapons to the archives within the next
few days, where they will be placed with the other evidence.

Dr. Rhoads said "any serious researcher" would be permitted to study the items, which Acting Attorney General Ramsey Clark
officially claimed for the Government this week.  New York Times

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.

11/23/66 James B. Rhoads, deputy archivist of the National Archives said yesterday that ... the National Archives and other agencies ... are
"required to review in 1970 the material that remains unopened, and thereafter at 10-year intervals until everything is opened up,"
although they would not have to wait that long if it seemed possible to release material earlier.

[Justice Department guidelines for material not to be released include data relevant to the pending court prosecution of Jack
Ruby.]  New York Times, Peter Kihss

12/12/66 Chicago --Bell & Howell, which acquired Zapruder camera from him a few weeks after the assassination, turns it over to the
National Archives. San Francisco Chronicle Chicago Tribune Service,

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

1/17/67
Chicago - Mark Lane … says President Johnson should make public all classified information on the investigation of the Kennedy assassination … in an interview in the February issue of Playboy magazine. … Lane said responsibility for withholding information for 75 years rests ultimately with President Johnson. San Francisco Chronicle (UPI)

2/16/67
Washington - Rep. Theodore Kupferman said yesterday that the Kennedy family's lawyer had refused him permission to inspect the photographs and X-rays taken during the autopsy. Said the impression the material would be available was "illusory."

Dr. James Rhoads, deputy archivist, said all requests since material turned in 10/31 have been turned down by Kennedy lawyer, Burke Marshall. San Francisco Chronicle, New York Times

3/24/67
From Considine's story on interview of District Attorney Henry Wade:

... I told Wade I had just heard that the family of Ruby had decided to present the snub-nosed murder weapon to the National Archives.

"Really?" Wade said, with a start. "That announcement is a little premature. I have the gun right here in Dallas. I've felt that it should be a part of exhibits in this case, and I still feel that way. But it isn't up to the Ruby family or to me. When the time comes, I'll turn it over to a judge here in Dallas and he'll make the decision about what should be done with it.

"Congress passed a law some time ago giving the federal government all physical evidence in cases of this general nature. Oswald's rifle and pistol are either with the FBI or Archives. Some fellow in Denver is suing the government over the rifle. He paid Oswald's widow $10,000 for it but never got it. Now he wants the rifle or his $10,000 back. The case is waiting to come up here in Dallas. "San Francisco Examiner, Bob Considine

4/19/67
Washington - For the first time since the Warren Commission published its findings, President Johnson is seriously considering designating a federal agency to receive and examine any new evidence turned up on the assassination… Under a proposal discussed in the White House, the justice Department, with FBI assistance, would be empowered to study and pass on new information.

Authority for such a review and the issuing of reports and findings by the Justice Department would be included in an executive order to be issued by the President. This order … might be promulgated in connection with the National Freedom of Information
Act enacted by Congress last year and due to become effective 7/4.

This law requires the President to determine which of the still-classified records of the Warren Commission ... should be made available to the public. ... As interpreted by the Justice Department, under the new law government documents can be kept secret only if the President rules that is necessary "in the interest of national defense or foreign policy."

Pending decision on what to do about the proposed plan, the President has asked Attorney General Ramsey Clark to review the still-unpublished Warren Commission documents and recommend which should be declassified. *San Rafael Independent-Journal*, Robert S. Allen and Paul Scott

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. Agreement lists the photos and X-rays - numbers, description, etc.

No reason is given - in *New York Times* story - for publication at this time of details of the agreement. *New York Times* 1/6/68

2/26-27/68  Panel of four medical experts meet in secret to review the autopsy material in Washington, DC. [See 1/16/69]

3/24/68  Robert Bahmer, chief of National Archives, quoted by David Wise in *Saturday Evening Post* 4/6/68 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, article deals with transcripts of executive sessions of Warren Commission, most of them declassified at author's request, he says, and sample titles of classified documents; notes "perfunctory" attempts to view autopsy photos, which were never seen by commission.

3/25/68  Campaigning in Southern California, RFK is greeted at *San Fernando State College* with placards including one asking "Are you going to open the Archives up?" During question period students ask whether if elected he will open the archives. At first he tries to ignore the question, but then says the archives will be opened "at the appropriate time ... If I became President ... I would not reopen the Warren Commission Report. I have seen everything that's in there. I stand by the Warren Commission Report." (*UPI* quotes him as saying "I have seen everything that is in the archives.") An aide says this is Kennedy's first public statement of this kind.

Steve Burton writes open letter to RFK challenging his statement that he's read everything in the archives. Says it's impossible to believe and tells why. *LA Free Press*, 3/29/68
Jim Garrison issues subpoena for Archives to produce X-rays and autopsy photos, needed for preparation and presentation of case against Clay Shaw.

Material requested was not released by Archives. For details of court action, etc., see Garrison or Chronological.

Weisberg says there is no connection between the nomination of Abe Fortas as Chief Justice (see WC, Warren resignation) and keeping the Archives closed. Archives closed by executive order; not a judicial decision.

"Nine frames of the Zapruder film that had been suppressed, that were in evidence but suppressed, I have finally forced loose from the National Archives, and I want to tell you that if you ever see the last of that series of nine frames of the Zapruder film and you see the look of utter horror on Jackie's face you will never forget it." Harold Weisberg, interview by Robin King, KNEW; tape No. 81, notes filed with tape with footage indicated.

District Attorney’s office, New Orleans, says it will file a new subpoena today designed to obtain autopsy X-rays and photos for use in trial of Clay Shaw. [Original subpoena 5/9/68?]

On the evening of the same day Ramsey Clark releases findings of a panel of medical experts which met in secret to review the autopsy material, 2/26-27/68; existence of this panel not known publicly until report is released.

For details see Garrison or Chronology.

Also see card under Autopsy/photos, X-rays, 8/19/72.

Dr. John M. Nichols brings suit in Federal District Court, Topeka, Kansas, 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.

Harold Weisberg files suit in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., asking that Departments of Justice and State grant access to public record of the trial of James Earl Ray; action is taken under Freedom of Information Act.

Sherman Skolnick, described by AP as "legal researcher," files suit in U.S. District Court, Chicago, charging Archives with suppressing documents concerning alleged plot by five men to assassinate JFK in Chicago 11/2/63. Suit says that when JFK canceled his appearance the assassination was rescheduled for Dallas three weeks later.
Suit says that less than an hour before JFK's scheduled appearance in Chicago one of the men was arrested for minor traffic violation, and that this man, Thomas Arthur Vallee, "was a double for Lee Harvey Oswald."

For details see clippings filed Warren Commission - Archives.

4/10/75  *Time Inc. Giving Up JFK Film* [to Zapruder heirs, for $1.00], *Washington Post*, William Gildea