

11818 1/2 Dorceth, Street
Los Angeles, Calif., 90049
November 9, 1966

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Mohr	.....
Mr. Wick	.....
Mr. Casper	.....
Mr. Callahan	.....
Mr. Conrad	.....
Mr. Felt	.....
Mr. Gale	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Sullivan	.....
Mr. Tavel	.....
Mr. Trotter	.....
Tele. Room	.....
Miss Holmes	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Sir,

Last week, I contacted F.B.I. agent James W. Sibert, Jr. by phone where he was vacationing in Georgia. I am engaged in research on the Warren Commission's Report, and wanted to ask Mr. Sibert some questions concerning an F.B.I. report written by him and agent Frances X. O'Neill, Jr. entitled: "Autopsy of Body of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy". (This report is "Commission Document 7" at the National Archives; at the bottom of page one is indicated "File # 89-30", presumably an F.B.I. designation).

This F.B.I. report says that the President's body was removed from the casket and was placed on the autopsy table. The report then states:

"Following the removal of the wrapping, it was ascertained that the President's clothing had been removed and it was also apparent that a tracheotomy had been performed, as well as surgery of the head area, namely, in the top of the skull." (emphasis added)

My question was: precisely what did these two agents, Sibert and O'Neill, witness which enabled them to make this statement in their F.B.I. report? Did one of the autopsy doctors present or any other doctor present point out that head surgery had been done on the President? Which doctor said so? If the agents involved did not rely on any doctor's statement as the basis for this statement in their report, what direct observations or other criteria enabled them to make this statement? In short, precisely what did these two agents witness which formed the basis for their comments regarding head surgery in their F.B.I. report?

It appeared to me that Messrs. Sibert and/or O'Neill would most probably be the best people to answer this question and to provide the elaboration requested inasmuch as they witnessed the autopsy proceedings and wrote the report which contains the above statement. Presumably, they also took some sort of notes during the autopsy since there is such a wealth of detail in their report (such as a long list of names of those present) despite the fact that this report was not dictated until November 26, 1963, four days after the autopsy. The answer to my questions, therefore, would probably involve the agents consulting any notes made at the time, or their respective memories, or both. That is why I called Mr. Sibert.

Mr. Sibert pointed out to me on the phone that he could not discuss this matter with me, and that I would have to direct my inquiry to the headquarters office in Washington. I agreed to follow Mr. Sibert's advice and direct my questions in this letter to you.

31
EXP
NOV 14 1966
FBI

ST-107 REG 32 62-15960-79



MD 172

5 NOV 1966

CORRECTION

001452

Since neither of these agents were called as witnesses before the Warren Commission, there is nothing in the twenty-six volumes or in the material publicly available at the National Archives that I am aware of that could answer the above questions. For that reason, I am directing the inquiry to you, with the hope that it can and will be answered as soon as possible.

I thank you for any cooperation you are able to extend to me in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

David S. Lifton
David S. Lifton

001453