

# MEMORANDUM

October 4, 1995

To: David G. Marwell  
T. Jeremy Gunn

cc: Doug Horn

From: Dennis J. Quinn

**Subject: Review of Petition for Medical Records**

I recently met with Doug Horn, Anne Buttimer and Dave Montague to review the petition submitted by Dr. Aguilar, Dr. Crenshaw, Kathleen Cunningham, et al, requesting that the Board locate various medical and forensic records. We reviewed each of the items on the list in an attempt to put them into some workable priority.

## About The List

There are 83 requests on the petition. Many of the items they request are things we should be (and in most cases already are) looking for. Much of the rest, however, ranges from the unusual (the personal papers of Ari Onnasis) to the bizarre (a document known as "The Herlands Report" dated 1954 and included in the papers of Thomas E. Dewey). We concluded that each of the "petitioners" probably included everything they could think of in compiling this "wish list."

The petitioners make some misrepresentations in their requests. For example, item # 36 refers to an HSCA interview with Dr. Boswell that "states that the autopsy was being controlled by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara." Based on this document, the petitioners expect us to question McNamara under oath "about these charges". Yet the HSCA interview they cite makes no such charge. Doug and I reviewed this document last week. In it, Boswell says that there were several phone calls from the 17th floor and that McNamara may have been acting as an intermediary between the family and the doctors. No where does he charge that McNamara was controlling the autopsy. Such misrepresentations do nothing to help the credibility of the petitioners.

## Priority Items

As indicated above, we reviewed the list in order to determine what items we should be focusing on, and what items we could disregard, at least for now. In attempting to prioritize them, we looked at

each item with three factors in mind:

1. **Practicality** -- While some of the requested documents may have historical significance, the chances that they still exist is slim. For example, Anne and Dave tell me that getting 32 year-old phone records is probably impossible.
2. **Historical Significance** -- We had a hard time determining the real value of some of the documents requested. For example, the Service Record of CDR Humes (item #40) will not indicate whether or not he attended "every single hearing of the [Warren] Commission." And even if it did, what would that prove?
3. **Scope of Request** -- Quite often the "petitioners" ask for a wide category of documents in their attempt to prove a particular theory, without informing us of that theory. For example, they request (item #74) "any reports by or about Admiral Canada (C.O. of Bethesda Hospital)." Neither Doug nor I are familiar with a report about or by Admiral Canada that has any connection to the assassination. Asking the Navy to search for any report about an officer who served for 30 years (over 30 years ago), without offering a reason for the request, is, in our opinion, over reaching.

The petitioners request that we obtain the personal papers of some sixty-three people, many of whom are dead. While we debated the value of doing so for all of those listed, Anne suggested that she could send one of her "boilerplate" request letters to each of them (or their estates).<sup>1</sup>

What follows is our list of "priority" items extracted from the list submitted by the petitioners. We did not agree on the value of each item, but I decided to submit them to you for further guidance and recommendations. I have also attached my copy of the petitioners' list, with notes and comments made during our initial meeting and followup research conducted since.

1. Any records still in the possession of Parkland Memorial Hospital concerning the treatment of President Kennedy or Governor Connally(#38).
2. The Presidential Libraries of JFK and LBJ should be re-visited by our staff in search of assassination records not already identified by the respective libraries (I understand this is in the works with the JFK Library).
3. Records in the possession of Gawler Brothers Funeral Home (#61).

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<sup>1</sup> For practical reasons, we eliminated Robert Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Aristotle Onassis and Lyndon Johnson from the list. If you feel we should carve it down even further just let us know.

4. Records held by Military District Washington concerning the funeral arrangements and burial of JFK (#64).<sup>2</sup>
5. All working papers, memos, etc from the HSCA Medical Panel (#79).
6. "Statements of Medical Treatment" allegedly prepared by the Parkland doctors prior to the departure of the Presidential party (#14).
7. Richard Dudman's notes of his observations made at Parkland and subsequent interviews with medical staff (#59).
8. Secret Service interviews with Parkland Hospital staff (#12).
9. "Medical tests" allegedly conducted at the request of the Dallas P.D. on a piece of bone found by Officer Haywood, as well as any reports he may have written about this incident (#48).
10. Any records, reports, photographs or x-rays which might exist at Methodist Hospital in Dallas regarding the "Harper Fragment" (#73)."

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<sup>2</sup> According to the paperwork forwarded by Kandy Light, MDW did a record search two years ago and submitted a negative report. The Archives has a small amount of material on the funeral, most of it news clippings and draft obituaries. MDW must of had a lot more than this. I recommend we ask them to try again.