

November 1, 1996

Ms. Cindy Smolovik
City Secretary Records
1500 Marilla, Room 5D South
Dallas, Texas 75021

Dear Ms. Smolovik:

I am writing you on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal Agency established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). The Review Board, whose members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is charged with the responsibility of collecting records and information related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board is not seeking to reach any conclusions regarding the assassination, but is primarily concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating, and making available assassination records. I am enclosing some explanatory material about the Review Board and its mandate.

The Dallas Police Department told us that you are the custodian of Dallas Police Department records from 1963 pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy. For this reason, we are referring to you our questions regarding a bone fragment apparently found on Elm Street the day of the assassination by someone named David Burros (or Burroughs), and turned over to Dallas County deputy constable Seymour Weitzman. Weitzman, in turn, gave it to a Secret Service agent, and the Secret Service then transferred it to Washington, D.C. and gave it to Presidential physician George G. Burkley on November 27, 1963. The two documents supporting the above reconstruction of events are enclosed with this letter.

The fragment has been missing for years; we are now pursuing contemporaneous records that might have recorded details of this event. For this reason, we would like to ask you to research the Dallas Police Department files from 1963 for documents which may provide answers to the following questions:

-Was there a police officer named David Burros or David Burroughs employed by the Dallas Police Department in 1963? (Some have alleged that the person who found the bone fragment and gave it to deputy constable Weitzman was a policeman.)

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-Were there any law enforcement reports, or citizen affidavits, filed by either the Dallas Police Department or the Dallas County Sheriff's Office regarding this event?

-Was this bone fragment photographed?

-Was this fragment x-rayed?

-Is there any record of exactly when deputy constable Weitzman transferred the fragment to the Secret Service, or of the name of the Secret Service official to whom he gave it?

I would like to thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter, inasmuch as assisting the Review Board in this matter might entail some effort on your part. Any records of any kind that you can find which would bear on this matter would doubtless assist us in our efforts to complete, and to clarify, the historical record of President Kennedy's assassination.

We would appreciate very much hearing from you on this matter when it is convenient for you to do so. Should you have any questions, please call Mr. Douglas Horne, a Senior Analyst on our staff who is well-versed in the medical evidence, at (202) 724-0088.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel and Associate Director for
Research & Analysis

Enclosures