

MEMORANDUM

To: File

From: Jeremy Gunn

Date: December 18, 1995

Subject: Parkland Memorial Hospital Records

On December 18, 1995, I visited the office of the Director of Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dr. Ron Anderson. Dr. Anderson made available to me what he described as the complete set of Parkland records related to President Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, and Governor John Connally. He stated that he also had available the records of Jack Ruby. Dr. Anderson came in from vacation in order to meet with me and to make the records available.

I briefly described to him the mission and goals of the Assassination Records Review Board. I stated that the Review Board is attempting to collect as many original records as it can related to the assassination of President Kennedy. I asked Dr. Anderson whether he believed that Parkland Hospital would be willing to donate the records to the National Archives. Dr. Anderson was very cordial and very agreeable and said that it was opinion that the records in Parkland are in fact records belonging to the people of the United States. He said he saw no reason why the hospital would not be willing to contribute the original records to the collection.

I asked Dr. Anderson whether he was aware of any telephone logs from the period surrounding the assassination. He said that he did not know, but would look into the matter and let me know. He said that he believed that such records probably would not have been available and so the hospital never would have been in possession of them. But he said that that was his own speculation and that he would look into the matter further. I spent a few minutes looking over the files that were made available to me.

For Lee Harvey Oswald there is one folder containing very roughly twenty pages of records including several loose sheets of paper. The folder is numbered 263770 and is the record for treatment of Oswald at the hospital. There is no autopsy record, although there is a certificate pronouncing the death of Oswald. All of the records in the folder appear to be originals. In addition, there are two large envelopes that contain what appear to be x-rays of Oswald. I am unable to determine whether they are originals or copies.

I was handed a folder of Governor John Connally, File No. 263699. The folder contains what appear to be without exception original records describing the treatment of Governor Connally. There is a second folder relating to Governor Connally that contains additional records, all of which appear to be originals. It includes a "supplementary report describing in detail the appearance and location of a small metallic density superimposed on the soft tissue shadows of the medial aspect of the left thigh of Governor John G. Connally on films dated 11-22-63." This is a one-page document. The folder also contains the billing statement for Governor Connally. There are, in addition, two large envelopes containing x-rays of Governor Connally. There is a photocopy of a letter from Mark Flanagan, of the HSCA, to Mr. Fred Talkington of the Dallas Records Building. The letter informs Mr. Talkington that the original x-rays are being returned to his custody subsequent to their use by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. There are two folders that contain principally news clippings and correspondence from the 1990s related to the Kennedy assassination. I saw no records from the 1960s in these two folders.

In addition, there is a box of materials that contains correspondence of the hospital with interested members of the public. The box also contains original medical records for Lee Oswald when he was five years old and Marina Oswald at the time of the birth of her daughter, Rachel. The originals of Jack Ruby's medical records are also contained in the box.

Finally, there are two large black binders entitled "Thirteen Days at Parkland Memorial Hospital" that include newspaper clippings, letters written to the hospital, and commendations from the public applauding the work of Parkland Hospital at the time of the assassination.

I saw no original records relating to the treatment of President Kennedy, although there were some photocopies.