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From: CN=Douglas Horne/O=ARRB
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DisplayDate: 01/14/1997
DisplayDate_Time: 6:17:58 PM
ComposedDate: 01/14/1997
ComposedDate_Time: 6:09:43 PM
Subject: First Known Mention of Bethesda Autopsy on President Kennedy

Amended thoughts follow: The Sibert-O'Neill report is a report on the autopsy, of course, and was typed and dated November 26, 1963. Therefore, at this time in our review it seems to be the first official document which mentions the autopsy, predating the Moore report by 16 days. The two December 18, 1963 newspaper articles referred to below, however, appear at this writing to be the first two public mentions that an autopsy took place. It is interesting that the Letters of Silence given to military and civil service personnel do not even mention the word "autopsy" in association with the injunction against speaking; instead, they refer to not speaking of "the events of November 22, 1963," rather than overtly saying, "do not speak of the autopsy." To: Jeremycc: From: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date: 01/14/97 05:04:09 PM Subject: First Known Mention of Bethesda Autopsy on President Kennedy Here is what I have initially found: Elmer Moore's Secret Service report written on December 12, 1963 describes Moore having shown the pathological examination report signed by Humes, Boswell and Finck to Dallas doctors on December 11, 1963, the previous day. The December 18, 1963 Washington Post article by Nate Haseltine is titled "Kennedy Autopsy Report," characterizes the autopsy report as "the as yet unofficial report of pathologists who performed the autopsy on the President's body on the night of November 22." The main points made by the author's article were that (1) the President was shot twice, from behind; (2) the back wound did not transit; and (3) reports from Dallas indicating that the President was shot in the throat from the front were wrong, and are proved to be wrong by the autopsy report. It is interesting to note that the article says the right-rear head (occipital-parietal region) was blown off by the head shot. The December 18, 1963 St. Louis Post-Dispatch article by Richard Dudman describes the Secret Service having shown the autopsy report to Dallas doctors with the following two headlines: "Secret Service Gets Revision on Kennedy Wound," followed by "After Visit by Agents, Doctors Say Shot Was From Rear." Key quote: "The investigators did so by showing the surgeons a document described as an autopsy report from the United States Naval Hospital at Bethesda." See my memo on autopsy protocol dtd August 2, 1996 for more details on all of the above. ACTION: Our task now is to determine if Moore's December 12 report is the first official report which mentions the autopsy report, and whether the two December 18 newspaper articles are the first public mention, in print, of an autopsy having been performed. WORTHY OF NOTE: The December 6, 1963 LIFE says only that JFK went to Bethesda for "preparation for burial," and the word "autopsy" is not mentioned in the article (see page 48). Interesting.

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