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Subject: Autopsy X-Rays and Photographs

FROM: JEREMY QUINN/ARRBCC. DENNIS QUINN/ARRB FROM: DOUGLAS HORNE/ARRB Date: 11/16/95 05:38:07

PMSubject: Autopsy X-Rays and PhotographsAs a follow-on to our conversation this subject, I reviewed HSCA Volume 6. The HSCA published the following: a. The HSCA examined the photographs and X-Rays BOTH in regard to determining whether the individual depicted was John F. Kennedy, and whether there had been any alteration or forgery of said photos and X-rays. b. IDENTIFICATION OF SUBJECT as John F. Kennedy:The person in autopsy photos 1-45 (out of a total of 52) IS John F. Kennedy (para 573); the brain in autopsy photos 46-52 CANNOT be positively identified as John F. Kennedy's brain (para 574); the skull and torso X-rays in the archives ARE X-rays of John F. Kennedy (para 603). c. POSSIBILITY OF TECHNICAL ALTERATIONS TO NEGATIVES, PRINTS, OR X-RAYS: The HSCA conducted both microscopic examination and stereoscopic viewing of photos and X-Rays, and the X-rays were also examined by a radiologist (para 525); the conclusion was that there was no evidence found of alteration of either (para 528). Specifically, regarding the photos, the HSCA found no evidence of retouching or compositing, and all photos for which it was possible were studied stereoscopically (para 530); in the X-Rays studied, there was no evidence found of alteration or forgery after studying density, discontinuity, and looking for impossibility of pathological processes (para 535).However, Robert Groden (who although a photographic consultant to the HSCA, was not on the committee of photographic experts) published a minority report in HSCA volume 6 in which he states that he DID find evidence of alteration/forgery in four photos of the back of the President's head (B & W #s 15 and 16; and Color #s 42 and 43) when he studied the contrast buildup in later generation reproductions. He goes on to name the technique that he feels would be responsible for this type of alteration/forgery, namely "soft edge matte insertion" composites, and further claims that this technique would allow integrity when viewed stereoscopically. Although the HSCA did not concur with Mr. Groden's findings, what we have here is a disagreement among experts. (MY OPINION: The HSCA admitted that the reason for the authenticity studies of the President's identity, and of the integrity of the materials, was due to the wide disparity in descriptions among Dallas medical personnel who treated the President, Bethesda autopsy descriptions, and the X-Rays and photographs themselves. Given their acknowledgment of these disparities, and the published existence of a minority opinion by an HSCA consultant, I feel that the possibility exists that some photos could be "very good forgeries which went undetected by the HSCA." Recent events, namely (1) the release in 1993 of the many Andy Purdy interviews of Bethesda witnesses; (2) Dr. Crenshaw's two FBI interviews; and (3) Dr. Crenshaw's excellent 6800-word rebuttal article written in response to the JAMA material, which is essentially

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