

Memo on Dr. John Nichols
September 6, 1995
Page 2

MEMORANDUM

September 6, 1995

To: Anne Buttimer

From: Laura Denk

Subject: Visit to University of Kansas Medical Center to Review File of Dr. John Nichols

On Wednesday, August 30, 1995, I called Nancy Hulston, the Archivist at the University of Kansas (KU) Medical Center (phone (913) 588-7243) to ask whether the University held the papers of Dr. John Nichols, a former Professor of Pathology at KU. She called me back on Thursday, August 31, 1995, to tell me that the University does not have Dr. Nichols papers. She had only one file, consisting primarily of news articles, but that I would have to talk to the Executive Vice Chancellor's Office in order to get permission to view the documents. I called the office on the same day (phone (913) 588-1443) and spoke to Marilyn Darbonne, an administrative assistant, who asked me to fax to Dr. Roger Lambson a letter stating why I wanted access to the files. My letter to Dr. Lambson is in the Nichols file. Dr. Lambson called that afternoon (August 31) and told me that the file would be available for my inspection in the Executive Vice Chancellor's office. His letter to me confirming this conversation is also in the file.

On Tuesday, September 5, 1995, I went to the Executive Vice Chancellor's Office to review the file. As Ms. Hulston promised, the file contained a number of newspaper articles from the late 1960s and 1970s. The file also included Dr. Nichols' obituaries (he died 11/29/78), several versions of Dr. Nichols' C.V., miscellaneous correspondence to and from Dr. Nichols (primarily administrative), and several photographs of Dr. Nichols (black and white -- probably from the Medical Center's yearbook.)

Most of the newspaper articles covered (1) Nichols' research into whether President Kennedy had Addison's disease, (2) Nichols' ballistics research on the assassination, (3) Nichols' ongoing requests for information about the assassination, (4) Nichols' lawsuit against the AMA, in which he claimed that the AMA violated his privacy by listing him in their directory despite his express request that they not list him, and (5) various murder cases in which Nichols acted as pathologist.

I asked the administrative staff in the Vice Chancellor's office to copy some of the articles and pieces

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September 6, 1995

Page 2

of correspondence and I have passed those copies on to you. If you are interested in having a copy of everything in the file, we can either call the University and ask for a copy or I can get copies during my visit to Kansas City in December.

Dr. Nichols worked as a professor at the KU Medical Center from 1958 until 1978. The file indicated that Dr. Nichols worked on a contract basis for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation as a pathologist on murder cases. Dr. Nichols died on November 29, 1978.

File 7.1.54

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