

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laura Denk

FROM: Ronald G. Haron

DATE: August 25, 1998

SUBJECT: Obtaining the Testimony of Dr. Kemp Clark

I spoke by phone yesterday with Dr. Kemp Clark about his willingness to testify for the Review Board. Dr. Clark currently resides in California. I spoke with Dr. Clark once previously and also had sent him information about the JFK Act and the Review Board. Notwithstanding this information, which he reviewed, Dr. Clark was very firm that he does not wish to testify for the Board regarding the treatment of President Kennedy. He stated that he would be unable to remember events any more specifically than he did when he testified before the Warren Commission. I asked Dr. Clark whether he has testified since the Warren Commission, and he said he could not recall doing so.

I told Dr. Clark that the Review Board has authority to subpoena him and may decide to take that course. I told him that I would notify him in the event we tried to subpoena him.

I have asked Doug Horne for his opinion regarding the need for Dr. Clark's testimony in the context of the medical issues. Doug advocates that Dr. Clark be subpoenaed. According to Doug, Dr. Clark, of all the Parkland Hospital doctors, had the best view of President Kennedy's head wound and had closely examined the head wound. In addition, Dr. Clark was Head of Neurosurgery at the time and pronounced the death of President Kennedy. Doug stated that other treating physicians may have only cursorily examined the President's head wound. Doug advocates that Dr. Clark be deposed since neither the Warren Commission nor the HSCA asked Dr. Clark to "authenticate the condition of the wounds in the pre-incision autopsy photographs."

Notwithstanding the issues as articulated by Doug, I recommend that we not subpoena Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark has testified before the Warren Commission. Moreover, at present, we have scheduled the depositions of five of the Parkland Hospital doctors who treated President Kennedy. Furthermore, a deposition subpoena could not compel Dr. Clark to appear in Washington, D.C., and we would have to take the deposition in California. Finally, as you know, we have several competing priorities and little remaining time. In view of these factors, I would counsel against subpoenaing Dr. Clark.

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