

EARLE CABELL
5TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
148 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

DALLAS OFFICE:
408 FEDERAL COURTS BUILDING
PHONE: RI 9-3371

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE:
BANKING AND CURRENCY

SUBCOMMITTEE:
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
SMALL BUSINESS

HARRY CRITCHER, III
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
MRS. JO RYAN GUMMELT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

September 13, 1965

The Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
The Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

With the passage of H. R. 9545, and the anticipated subsequent passage of a similar measure by the Senate, a matter presents itself to which I would draw your attention.

Among the articles involved in the incident of November 22, 1963, and which has previously not received too much attention, is the casket in which the body of the late President was transported to Washington. Inasmuch as the family of the late President (President Kennedy) did not see fit to use this particular casket in the ultimate interment of the body, this casket has subsequently become surplus.

It is an extremely handsome, expensive, all bronze, silk-lined casket and, fortunately, and properly, was paid for by the General Services Administration, and presently is in the possession of GSA.

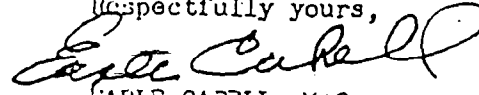
This item has absolutely no more historical significance than does the plastic mattress cover in which the body was encased for shipment from Dallas to Washington, but does have a value for the morbidly curious. And I believe that I am correct in stating that this morbid curiosity is that which we all seek to stop.

I, therefore, would like to recommend to you that this casket, now in the possession of the GSA, be declared the proper property of the USA and, as such and in keeping with the best interest of the country, be destroyed.

I believe that the Administrator of GSA and others involved will concur in this recommendation.

Thanking you for your earnest consideration of this matter, I am

Respectfully yours,



EARLE CABELL, M.C.

EC:KC

129-11
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
27 SEP 14 1965
F.W.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MD 116

001152

9/13

I understand from Harold
Reis that this was discussed
by AG, Schlie & Bareford
& decision was made to
make no further response
to letter & that destruction
of coffin was not advisable

I suggest it be kept
with Oswald gun &
other Gov's evidence
in secret library

Files note
JTS
2/2/65

001153

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL



Case of wife H. H. H.
Coffin in the room
See through Coffin.

Person who was
brought in but not
- buried he destroyed
GSA has coffin

Private letter to Justice
will be

Howard M. Donald

001154