

KENNEDY

014467

INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Identifying Information:

Name Harold F. Reis Date May 8, 1978
 Address 1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Place Law Office
 City/State Suite 1214, Washington, D.C. 20036 Telephone 202/862-8411
 Date of Birth _____ M or S _____
 Social Security _____ Spouse _____
 Children _____

2. Physical Description:

Height _____ Color Eyes _____ Hair _____
 Weight _____ Special Characteristics _____
 Ethnic Group _____

3. Personal History:

- a. Present Employment: Attorney-private practice
 Address See above. Was Executive Assistant to Robert Kennedy
 Telephone _____ at Justice Department in the 1960's
- b. Criminal Record
 - 1. Arrests _____
 - 2. Convictions _____

4. Additional Personal Information:

a. Relative(s): Name _____
 Address _____

b. Area frequented: _____ - MD 127 -

c. Remarks: _____ 001198

Investigator Andy Purdy

Date May 8, 1978

Form #4-B

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Harold F. Reis Date May 8, 1978 Time _____

Address Law Office: 1025 Connecticut Place _____

Avenue, N.W., Suite 1214, Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: 202/862-8411

Interview: Harold Reis was interviewed because of his role as Executive Assistant to Robert Kennedy, Nicholas Katzenbach, and Ramsey Clark at the Justice Department in the 1960's. Mr. Reis was a career attorney in the Office of Legal Counsel, beginning in 1951, until he left the Department to go into private practice on April 1, 1967. Mr. Reis participated in the negotiations which culminated in the transfer of the autopsy photographs and X-rays from the Kennedy family to the United States Government in 1966.

In the early 1960's Mr. Reis worked extensively with Bobby Kennedy on work which culminated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and included investigations into the Freedom Riders of the Civil Rights Movement in the South.

While at the Justice Department, Mr. Reis worked closely with Mr. Katzenbach when Mr. Katzenbach was working closely with the Warren Commission. Mr. Reis said this was one of the few areas that Mr. Katzenbach was working on that Mr. Reis was not involved with. At most, Mr. Katzenbach would have mentioned an occasional Warren Commission problem to him, but he has no specific

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature Andy Purdy

Date transcribed Rife 5-11-78

By: _____ Form #4

001199

Harold F. Reis Interview
Page 2.

recollection of this.

Mr. Reis said that while it is possible that Mr. Katzenbach mentioned to him that the autopsy photographs and X-rays were in existence, it is his present impression that the existence of these materials was common knowledge due to press accounts. Mr. Reis became involved in the negotiations leading to the transfer of the autopsy photographs and X-rays because of the expertise he had developed on the law of the disposition of government papers which he had gotten experience on during the Eisenhower Administration following the death of former Secretary of Defense Forrestal.

Mr. Reis recalled that around 1966 it was generally known that the Kennedy family had possession of the autopsy photographs and X-rays and that Jackie Kennedy was worried about the possibility of someone making use of these materials in a sensational way. Mr. Reis recalls someone (name unknown) suggesting that an arrangement be worked out like the one Mr. Reis accomplished for the Forrestal papers back in the late 1950's. Mr. Reis subsequently negotiated with Burke Marshall for the transfer of the autopsy photographs and X-rays to the United States Government. Mr. Reis had known Mr. Marshall when the latter was working at the Justice Department.

Mr. Reis believes that the only individuals he discussed the transfer of these materials with would have been Burke Marshall, Nicholas Katzenbach, Ramsey Clark, or possibly Frank N. Wozencraft, Howard Willens (Justice Department liaison to the

001200

Harold F. Reis Interview
Page 3.

Warren Commission), Leon Ulman, or Sol Lindenbaum. Mr. Reis said he believes that Mr. Wozencraft is currently working for the Houston law firm of Baker and Bott. He believes that Leon Ulman is doing contract work for the Justice Department following his retirement.

Mr. Reis does not recall telling Ramsey Clark about the existence of the autopsy photographs and X-rays or about the fact that there was a time limit within which Mr. Clark had to act or lose the possibility of the United States Government obtaining possession of those materials pursuant to the Act of Congress which authorized obtaining possession of materials related to the assassination. Mr. Reis said he has only a vague recollection of discussions concerning the possibility of a law suit by the United States Government against the Kennedy family in reference to the autopsy photographs and X-rays. He did recall that following the assassination a law was passed giving the Justice Department the ability to obtain certain materials related to the assassination, after it became public knowledge that a person had obtained the alleged assassination weapon and was planning to mark it for commercial advantage. He does not recall obtaining information from any one concerning the existence of the autopsy photographs and X-rays. He also said that he does not recall participating in a discussion with Robert Kennedy concerning the autopsy photos and X-rays or any accompanying tissue materials.

001201

Harold F. Reis Interview
Page 4.

He said he has no recollection of any such discussions with Nick Katzenbach, but said he would be "surprised if he 'did not.'" Mr. Reis suggested that Mr. Katzenbach might be helpful concerning any such discussions with Mr. Reis or with Bobby Kennedy.

Mr. Reis did not recall any discussions concerning missing materials at the time of the transfer of the autopsy photographs and X-rays to the Archives. He said it is possible that Mr. Lindenbaum participated in some follow-up relative to the analysis by doctors of the autopsy photographs and X-rays or was involved in some follow-up concerning missing materials. Mr. Reis recalled some subsequent discussions with Mr. Lindenbaum concerning the Zapruder film but not on this subject. Mr. Reis also said that he did not participate in the arrangements for nor supervision of the examination by doctors of the autopsy photographs and X-rays under the direction of Ramsey Clark.

Mr. Reis said he does not recall who provided information as to what materials the Kennedy family possessed that the United States Government might have an interest in. He only recalls the fact that attention was focused on the autopsy photographs and X-rays. He did not recall comparing the 1965 inventory of autopsy-related materials with the 1966 listing which accompanied the document transferring the autopsy photographs and X-rays over to the National Archives. Mr. Reis said he did recall counting the autopsy photographs and X-rays in the Archives to make sure that all the items which were subject to the transfer were present. He remembers comparing them to a list which

001202

Harold F. Reis
Page 5.

matched up exactly. I showed Mr. Reis the 1966 list and he read through it and said it was not inconsistent with his recollection. I then showed him the 1965 list to compare with the 1966 list. His immediate impression was that there were significant things present in the 1965 listing which were not present in the 1966 listing. He said he did not recall checking the items present at the transfer in 1966 with the 1965 listing. He did note that his impression is that the 1966 list used language sufficiently similar to the 1965 list to indicate to him that the 1965 list was used as the items were checked off for the drafting of the 1966 list.

Mr. Reis was not able to recall any discussions concerning segments of organs or tissue section or any other specific materials which were present on the 1965 list but not present at the transfer in 1966.

001203

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10105-10403

RECORDS SERIES :
NUMBERED FILES

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 014467

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : HSCA
FROM : REIS, HAROLD F.
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 05/08/78
PAGES : 6

SUBJECTS :
REIS, HAROLD F.
KATZENBACH, NICHOLAS
KENNEDY, JOHN; AUTOPSY
X-RAYS
PHOTOGRAPHS AND FILMS
NARA

DOCUMENT TYPE : SUMMARY
CLASSIFICATION : U
RESTRICTIONS : OPEN IN FULL
CURRENT STATUS : O
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/08/93

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :
Box 258.

RELEASED PER P.L. 100-626 (JFK ACT)
NARA DATE 12/13/83
100

001204