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*See  
your  
guidance  
P.*

Telephone 603-659-7357

December 27, 2000

President Gerald R. Ford, Jr.  
Box 927  
Rancho Mirage, CA  
92270-0927

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Determined to be an  
Administrative Marking

By 90 NARA, Date 8/1/2017

Dear President Ford,

I was active-duty Navy and assigned to the White House as White House Physician in 1963, when President Kennedy was assassinated. I continued on as White House Physician for President Johnson and his family for three more years, before requesting transfer to get back into Navy academic medicine. I was 34 years old, when President Kennedy was assassinated.

Knowing that you were on the Warren Commission at that time, I am writing to you confidentially, to see if you have any knowledge about an issue which has puzzled me for years. The day after President Kennedy's assassination, I was staying in the White House to provide services to Mrs. Kennedy. While in the doctor's offices waiting to be called, I felt the need to write my feelings and my concerns about my current time in the White House and about the conflicting medical services offered by Dr. Janet Travell and Dr. George Burkley's office to which I was assigned.

I am providing some of my writings and my moments of the White House to my eight children. In doing so, I reread my 23 page handwritten description of our medical departments, the autopsy which I attended from beginning to the end and my preparations for the arrival of President Kennedy's body and its disposition for the autopsy.

My particular problem is a description of what occurred at the autopsy. During the autopsy examination, Dr. Jim Humes, then the Chief of Pathology at Bethesda Naval Hospital, and two other pathologists stated that some pieces of President Kennedy's skull bones were missing. In order to reconstruct the President's head for burial, Dr. Humes wanted to find those pieces which were missing. Dr. Burkley and I requested two of our corpsmen who were assigned to our White House medical unit, to go to the Executive Office Building where the secret service had placed the "Queen Mary", the open convertible in which President Kennedy had been shot, for bone fragments.

Two of the corpsmen left and returned sometime later with three varying sized pieces of President Kennedy's skull bones. In addition, they brought back in an envelope a spent misshapen bullet which they had found on the back floor of the "Queen Mary" where they had found the pieces of skull bones. The bullet and pieces of skull were given to Dr. Jim Humes.

I have never seen anything written about that spent bullet in the Warren Report or elsewhere. Do you recall any testimony or comments which would clarify my concerns? Obviously, this is of the utmost confidential nature. I do not choose to be identified in this matter at all. I have been able to subsume my identity, but recently have contributed a chapter in book



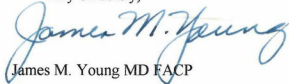
at all, I have been able to subsume my identity, but recently have contributed a chapter in book published this fall by the Fordham University Press titled "Managing Crisis - Presidential Disability and the 25th Amendment". I was also on the "Working Group on Presidential Disability" where I met the editor of the recent book on "Managing Crisis", Dr. Robert E. Gilbert, a Professor of Political Science of Northeastern University in Boston. He urged me to write to you.

I am interested in the utmost confidentiality because I do not choose to become the eye of further "witch hunts" into President Kennedy's assassination and all the attendant publicity.

I have recently given copies of my original 23 pages of handwritten notes to each of my children for posterity and plan to turn my dictated notes over to the National Archives only.

I totally concur with the Warren Commission Report. If you can shed any light on this issue, I would rest much easier.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James M. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

James M. Young MD FACP

