

TESTS RE: HANDWRITING ON NOTE

Screened by NARA (RD-F)
08-09-2018 FOIA # none (URTS
16306) DOCID: 70105142

1516C 1 1/2" EXPANSION
1526E 3 1/2" EXPANSION
1536G 5 1/2" EXPANSION



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: Kenneth W. Starr
Independent Counsel
Office of the Independent Counsel
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 490-North
Washington, D.C. 20004

Date: November 9, 1995

FBI File No. 29D-LR-35063

Lab No. 51101004 D UD

Reference: Letter dated October 30, 1995

Your No.

Re: MOZARK;
MAJOR CASE #106

Specimens received: October 31, 1995

Specimens:

RESUBMISSION OF Q29 PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO LABORATORY AND
ASSIGNED Q1 (30730011 D/S UD UJ)

K7 Four sheets of paper bearing purported known writing
of VINCENT W. FOSTER, JR.

Results of examination:

It was determined that the questioned writing on
previously submitted Q29 was prepared by VINCENT W. FOSTER, JR.
whose known writings are designated K4 through K7.

The submitted evidence which has been photographed is
returned herewith.

Enclosures (2) (Q29 and K7)

October 25, 1995
For Immediate Release

For more info: Anne Dunne
410-576-0900

Press Conference Today:

*file -
Foster Note -
Handwriting
Analysis*

OXFORD EXPERT DECLARES FOSTER NOTE A "FORGERY"

At a press conference today, a world renowned forensic handwriting expert from Britain's Oxford University, along with two American forensic experts, will give the results of their examination of a copy of a torn note. The torn note was found in the briefcase of former Deputy White-House Counsel Vincent W. Foster, Jr. shortly after his death.

Leading the panel of forensic experts, a prominent British authority, who has lectured on handwriting, manuscripts, and forgery detection at Oxford University for over thirty years, will offer his findings: the torn note is a forgery. The Oxford expert has ruled on a number of celebrated cases, and has flown into Washington for the press conference today.

Two other prominent forensic document examiners will offer their findings, illustrations, and detail the improper handling and investigation of the note by federal authorities.

James Dale Davidson, Editor of Strategic Investment, a prestigious financial newsletter, organized today's conference. Mr. Davidson will open the conference with a statement.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 25, 1995
TIME: 10AM Sharp
PLACE: WILLARD HOTEL(Crystal Room)
14th Street and Pennsylvania Ave
(across from Press Building)

Written reports will also be available to the press. A question and answer session will follow the panel's presentations.



From: Western Journalism Center / Joseph Farah / (916) 852-6300

Associated Press national wire story on Foster case follows.
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reporter Christopher Ruddy broke the story.

Friday, October 20, 1995 — Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Whitewater prosecutors have hired the chief medical examiner of San Diego to review findings in the death of deputy White House counsel Vincent Foster.

Dr. Brian Blackbourne said Friday he would be meeting with Whitewater prosecutors in Wash-

ington and that he is weeks away from reaching any conclusions about the Foster matter.

Blackbourne joins Dr. Henry Lee, a forensic scientist who testified at the O.J. Simpson trial. Lee was hired by Whitewater prosecutors in May to examine the physical evidence and photos taken in the Foster death.

Two earlier investigations concluded that Foster died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. His body was found July 23, 1993 in a Virginia park outside Washington.

Blackbourne's hiring was first reported in Friday editions of the Pittsburgh, Pa., Tribune-Review.

Breaking the News Again

Friday, October 20, 1995 — Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

New Face Emerges in Probe of Vincent Foster's Death

By Christopher Ruddy
FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

WASHINGTON — Whitewater Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr has hired San Diego Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Brian Blackbourne to re-examine the death . . .

The WASHINGTON POST
the following day

Saturday, October 21, 1995 — Washington Post

Medical Expert Hired in Foster Probe

Associated Press

Whitewater prosecutors have hired the chief medical examiner of San Diego to review findings in the death . . .

Wednesday On The Web (<http://www.pacg.com/pvbr/>).

WEDNESDAY ON the WEB

WOW

A DIFFERENT KIND OF WEEKLY NEWS AND VIEW'S CYBERMAGAZINE

EDITORIALS

THERE THEY GO AGAIN! -- 60 MINUTES: A TRIUMPH OF BIAS OVER TRUTH

It's an old trick every journalist knows-- when you want to slant a story to come out the way you want it to, find sources known to be friendly to your viewpoint who'll say what you want them to say, and stay away from people who insist on revealing things that contradict your slant.

If you're a TV journalist, you can go even further; you can interview unfriendly sources and edit the tapes, leaving out whatever contradicts your bias. Or you can leave the entire interview on the cutting room floor.

Nobody is better at this than the people at 60 Minutes. They proved it with their totally misleading broadcast dealing with Alar -- a chemical used at the time by apple growers. Challenged by apple growers and others who pointed out some very inconvenient facts, they went back and did a second piece, even more misleading than the first.

They did it again in a totally misleading piece that besmirched the reputation of General William Westmoreland -- a piece castigated by CBS itself after an internal investigation turned up hanky panky in the production.

More recently, they got in a lot of trouble with American Catholics when they aired the petulant gripes of a small group of dissidents from Catholic teaching and presented them as typical of the views of the laity in America, which demonstrably they are not.

Well, they're at it again. Obviously smitten with William Jefferson Blythe Clinton, the ultra-liberal 60 Minutes bunch set out to whitewash the blatantly obvious cover-up in the matter of the death of Vincent Foster, Bill C's good buddy and White House counsel, and Mrs. William Clinton's former good and dear friend and law partner.

The Foster case is potential dynamite. The official investigation was a farce, as anyone looking at the results of both the Government probe and the almost laughable conclusions of former independent counsel Fiske quickly learns.

Last week, in discussing the Foster case, we noted that Big Media's attitude was either one of hands-off the case or of categorizing anyone who questions the official line as an incorrigible kook.

After all, if the whole truth about the mysterious death of Vincent Foster was to become known it could easily spell the end of the Clinton Administration and sound the death knell of the loony liberalism to which most Big Media is committed. This, of course, must be avoided at all costs, even if the media has to aid and abet a cover up.

Five days later, Mike Wallace and his cronies weighed in on the skeptic-bashing side. The 60 minutes crew pulled out all the stops, editing interviews, ignoring facts that contradicted their you're a-wacko-conspiracy-theorist-if-you-question-the-official-findings line.

In our Media Monitor section, with the help of two well informed critics of the official probe, we take a close look at the way 60 Minutes manhandled what could be the defining episode in the dreary presidential saga of William Jefferson Blythe Clinton.

TAX CUTS --WHO GETS WHAT?

The rich, it is said, get richer, while the poor have more children. This old saw comes to mind everytime we hear some dazed Democrat screech about Republicans wanting to give tax cuts to the rich.

Given the fact that by far the largest chunk of the \$284 billion tax break the GOP is planning is the \$500 per child tax break for parents, and if indeed the poor have more children, shouldn't this be called a tax cut for the *poor*?

After all, the more kids you have the more money you'll get back from Uncle Sam.

This latest excursion into class warfare borders on the criminal. The Democrats and their allies in big labor know darned well that linking Medicare and Medicaid and welfare reform to tax reform is about as sleazy a tactic as their charges that the GOP wants to cast the elderly, the sick and disabled and the disadvantaged young into the outer darkness where there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth for the lowly, and unrestrained glee from all those GOP fat cats watching their plight from their mansions.

And the media doesn't help matters when they chatter about "cuts" in Medicare when they know that it is NOT being cut -- that only the *increase* in Medicare is being reduced by a few percentage points.

The Republicans are doing exactly what they said they'd do if given control of Congress. The public believed them, gave them control, and you can bet the American people are pleased with how the GOP are keeping their promise to reduce big government, stop wasteful spending and give the people back some of the money Uncle Sam has been taking from them thanks to a thoroughly corrupt and now discredited Democratic Party-controlled Congress.

Class warfare just plain doesn't work anymore, and the scoundrels engaging in it are going to discover that fact a year from next month.

MEDIA MONITOR

In a blistering assault on the 60 Minutes broadcast they called "Mike Wallace's Fake Foster Probe," media critics Reed Irvine and Joseph Goulden exposed Wallace's assertion that he had "dealt with," the most important questions about the case as nothing but a sham.

Here are key excerpts from the column which Accuracy In Media's Reed Irvine graciously supplied to Wednesday On The Web:

"On October 8, as the FBI was heading into its fifth week of an exhaustive search for the bullet that killed former White House deputy counsel Vince Foster, "60 Minutes" aired a vicious attack on Christopher Ruddy, the reporter who forced the reopening of the Foster investigation in January, 1994, six months after the White House thought it was buried for good.

"Ignoring the fact that FBI agents were literally making a shambles of Fort Marry Park in their inch-by-inch search for the missing bullet, Mike Wallace claimed that there are no valid grounds for questioning the theory that Foster Committed suicide in the park."

Noting that Wallace ended the Foster segment of the program by declaring the evidence supported only one conclusion: that Foster killed himself in the park, Irvine and Goulden charged that Wallace's claim he had dealt with the most important questions about the case was "false."

"There are a number of questions for which there are no answers that are consistent with the suicide in the park theory. Wallace ignored all of them," they wrote.

"The only question Wallace addressed that is relevant to the ongoing debate over Foster's death is the claim that the small amount of blood observed at the scene is one of several indicators that he did not die in the park. The fact that there was little blood was noted by the medical technicians who found the body. One of them, Sgt. George Gonzalez, told the FBI that 'there was not much blood at the scene for the manner in which the victim died.' Corey Ashford, who lifted the body by the shoulders, cradling the head, said he 'did not recall seeing any blood and did not recall getting any on his uniform or his disposable glove.'

"'60 Minutes' ignored them, focusing on Dr. Donald Haut, the part-time county medical examiner who approved the removal of the body. Chris Ruddy has Haut on tape saying 'There was not a hell of a lot of blood on the ground.' Wallace asked Haut if he told Ruddy 'there was an unusual lack of blood at the scene.' He said 'No,' saying that there was 'plenty of blood' for Foster to have died there, creating an illusion that Ruddy had misquoted him."

But, the columnists noted, Haut also told the FBI that the amount of blood was small, and that he didn't recall seeing blood on Foster's shirt or face or any blood on the vegetation around the body.

"Dr. Haut concluded from this that a low velocity bullet had been used, but the spent cartridge case in the gun in Foster's hand was stamped 'HV,' meaning high velocity.

Mike Wallace didn't mention all this because the small amount of blood, together with an absence of skull fragments, brain tissue and blood spatter and the fatal bullet, means there is no forensic evidence to prove that Foster shot himself in the park. That is why the FBI has spent a month looking for the missing bullet."

We are also indebted to Joseph Farah, founder and director of the Western Journalism Center which has both supported Ruddy's investigative reporting and retained veteran homicide experts to examine the evidence.

Farah shared his outraged reaction to the scandalous 60 Minutes whitewash with Wednesday On The Web.

60 Minutes, Farah said, made an attempt to close the case on the controversy of Vincent Foster's death.

"They failed," he said.

"Anyone with half a brain could see they didn't do what Ruddy has done -- compare the known facts to expert forensic opinion. Instead they had to manipulate and edit Ruddy's lengthy interview and distort the case.

"They didn't even mention that Independent Counsel Starr says the investigation is on-going and has forensic scientist Henry Lee looking into the case."

Among Farah's criticisms of the 60 Minutes broadcast:

- Wallace said that Foster, who is right handed, was left handed.

"Wallace never mentioned that it was the Boston Globe which first reported Foster was left-handed. Ruddy, in fact, is the first to have reported that Foster was right handed.

- 60 Minutes took Dr. Haut's testimony that contradicted Ruddy's assertion that Haut had seen little blood at the alleged death scene under Foster's body.

"In a tape recorded interview with Haut, Haut told Ruddy *"There was not a hell of a lot of blood on the ground. Most of it had congealed on the back of his head."* Ruddy told Wallace during his interview that he had the interview on tape.

"Was Wallace interested in the tape, or confronting Haut with it to ask him why he changed his story? Apparently not. Wallace didn't even confront Haut with his statement to the FBI which is not consistent with the story is now giving 60 minutes.

"The bottom line is this: '60 Minutes and Mike Wallace didn't want to find the truth, it just wanted to use Haut to rebut Ruddy and cast doubt on his reporting.'

- Farah added that the amount of blood wouldn't be a point of controversy had not the photographs of the scene mysteriously disappeared along with a 35mm film, another set of polaroids and autopsy X-rays.

"60 Minutes could have asked what happened to this critical evidence, but they didn't," Farah said.

- Wallace claimed that carpet fibers found on Foster's body could have come from walking across carpets and that Foster's house had just been carpeted.

"Nice try," Farah said. "Carpet fibers of seven different colors were found on almost every piece of clothing, including Foster's underwear. They didn't get swept up from walking across carpets as Wallace asserted. If this important evidence could be from Foster's home, why weren't they matched to it by the FBI? If the fibers could be from anywhere, as Wallace asserted, why conduct the test in the first place?"

- "The really crucial aspects of Ruddy's investigation were omitted by 60 Minutes: seven leading forensic experts say the powder burns on Foster's hand are inconsistent with suicide; the gun in Foster's hand was never positively identified as being his; Foster's eyeglasses were found 19 feet from his head; two witnesses said they saw two men (not Foster) in and around Foster's car -- one with the hood up, just before police arrived; Foster's car keys were not found on his body in the park. The Park Police never handled the case properly, and the record shows Fiske accepted the police investigation at face value.

"These are just a few of the items Ruddy has detailed in almost two years on this case, asking the type of questions Mike Wallace and 60 Minutes can't or are afraid to. Even ABC's Nightline had to admit Ruddy has raised legitimate questions about the case.

- '60 Minutes also omitted the very serious statement former FBI Director William Sessions made last year, stating that the investigation into Foster's death was 'compromised' from the beginning. Wallace couldn't even mention this because if the original investigation was 'compromised' then the center piece of Wallace's argument -- that the case is closed because the official investigations says it is, falls," Farah said.
- "Also shocking was the fact that Wallace withheld key evidence that Foster's body was moved: the FBI found no trace of soil on Foster's shoes, despite a 700 foot trek through the park. Wallace had good reason not to mention this. Wallace admitted to Ruddy during their off-air interview he had found soil on his own shoes he tested after taking the same walk while at Fort Marcy Park.

"'No evidence,' Mike. or just no evidence you think the American people should know about?" Farah asked.

Reed Irvine asked Wallace in a phone call to cite just one piece of forensic evidence that supported the suicide in the park theory.

"He ducked and he dodged," Irvine reported. "After we asked the question literally ten times, he said 'I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll put it in writing.' When we reminded him of that promise the next day, he asked 'What do you mean by forensic evidence?'"

"This is one of the country's best known investigative reporters? As Mike himself might say, 'Give us a break!'"

*****FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET*****

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10825 FINANCIAL CENTRE PARKWAY
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72211

MAIN NUMBER: (501) 221-8700

FAX NUMBER: (501) 221-8707

TO: DC

DATE: 10/25/95

TEL:

FAX NUMBER:

FROM: Deb

NO. OF PAGES:
(Including Cover Page)

TEL: (501) 221-

REMARKS:

From you know who!

Confidentiality Note: This facsimile is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure. Dissemination, distribution, or copying of this facsimile or the information herein by anyone other than the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the facsimile by mail.



U. S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Office of the Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

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✓ to Jim
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me
don

August 30, 1995

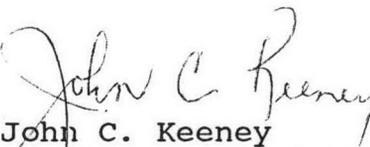
The Honorable Kenneth W. Starr
Office of Independent Counsel
Suite 490-North
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Judge Starr:

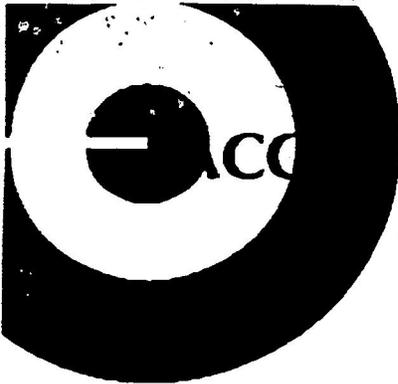
The Associate Deputy Attorney General recently received the enclosed letter from Reed Irvine, Chairman of Accuracy in Media, Inc., concerning a handwriting analysis of the Vincent Foster note. Since this matter appears to fall within your jurisdictional mandate, I am referring the letter to you for whatever action you deem appropriate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide assistance with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,


John C. Keeney
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure



ACCORDACY IN MEDIA, INC.

Reed Irvine
Chairman of the Board

4455 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. • Suite 330 • Washington, D.C. 20008

Phone: (202) 364-4401 • Fax: (202) 364-4098

August 11, 1995

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Murray Baron, *President*
Wilson C. Lucom, *Vice-President*
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Samuel Shepard Jones, Jr.,
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James L. Tyson,
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Mr. David Margolis
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
10th Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Margolis:

Mr. Ben-Veniste, in questioning you yesterday, misstated what Deborah Gorham is supposed to have said about the briefcase being empty. He said that she said there was "nothing left except some yellow scraps of paper." Linda Tripp, Nussbaum's assistant, testified earlier that Gorham had told her that the briefcase was empty except for "some little yellow stickems." This was a reference to the Post-Its which which Gorham said she sometimes put in Foster's briefcase at his request.

I was very impressed by your testimony and I want to call to your attention something about this much discussed note that transcends the question of how it was found and how it was handled. As I'm sure you know, the Justice Department has refused to release photocopies of the actual note, effectively blocking any independent analysis of its authenticity. The Wall Street Journal, which had been unable to obtain a copy under the Freedom of Information Act, was apparently leaked a copy which it published on the editorial page on August 2.

We have had this note subjected to intense analysis, comparing the handwriting with that in the handwritten letter by Vincent Foster dated June 18, 1993 which was used as the exemplar by Sgt. Larry Lockhart of the U.S. Capitol Police, who was asked to determine whether or not the note was actually written by Vincent Foster. Sgt. Lockhart examined the two documents, without magnifying either one. He fully understood who they were both supposed to have been written by. That could have influenced his judgment that both documents were written by Vincent Foster.

On August 6, I interviewed Mr. Lockhart, who is now retired, and showed him enlarged words that were common to both the note and the letter without identifying the documents or in any way connecting them with the Foster case. I asked Mr. Lockhart to tell me if in his professional opinion these words were written by the same hand, and if not, could he tell which were written by party A and which by party B. Mr. Lockhart identified 5 of the words as being written by party A and 7 by party B. He made only one mistake, misplacing the one capital "I" written in cursive script. After he was shown a blowup of the two notes so that he could see the words in context, but with the

- 2 -

documents still not identified, he said that there were clear signs that it was very possible -- and, in fact, probable -- that the two documents were written by different persons, and that he saw evidence that one was an attempt to imitate the handwriting of the other.

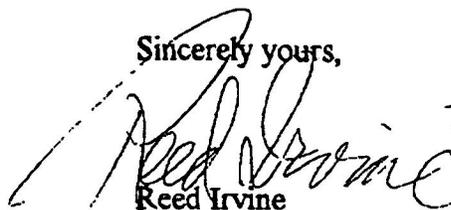
We used this same procedure with another handwriting expert with identical results. We have shown the enlargements of the two documents and of individual words to many people with virtually unanimous and immediate reaction that the handwriting is very different.

Since you appear to be a professional of great integrity, I have no doubt that you will want to take a look at this and have the documents subjected to the same kind of analysis that we have given it. I would be happy to give you a briefing, showing you what we have found. We have spent a fair amount of time doing the enlarging and I think you would find this very instructive.

I understand that the handwriting was also authenticated by the FBI, but I've been told -- what degree of reliability I do not know -- that the exemplar document used by the FBI has been lost. It may be significant that while the exemplar shown to Sgt. Lockhart was reproduced in the hearings published by the Senate Banking Committee, there is nothing in the hearings documents to show how the FBI authentication was done or who did it. If you have any information you could provide me on this I would be grateful to you.

I realize that I am handing you a very hot potato, perhaps too hot for someone who has just undergone heart surgery. The second handwriting expert I mentioned has just informed me that she can't provide the written statement she promised because her husband, who works for the government, doesn't want her to get involved. Perhaps you will have a similar reaction, but I hope you will do what you know is right.

Sincerely yours,



Reed Irvine
Chairman



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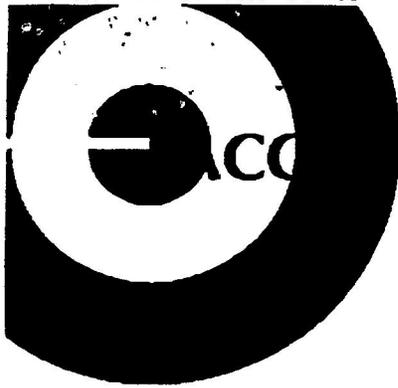
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. Keeney".

John C. Keeney
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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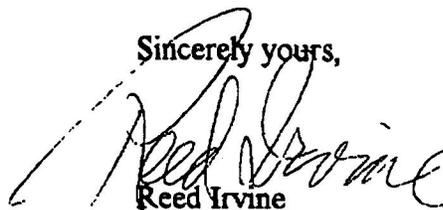
We used this same procedure with another handwriting expert with identical results. We have shown the enlargements of the two documents and of individual words to many people with virtually unanimous and immediate reaction that the handwriting is very different.

Since you appear to be a professional of great integrity, I have no doubt that you will want to take a look at this and have the documents subjected to the same kind of analysis that we have given it. I would be happy to give you a briefing, showing you what we have found. We have spent a fair amount of time doing the enlarging and I think you would find this very instructive.

I understand that the handwriting was also authenticated by the FBI, but I've been told -- what degree of reliability I do not know -- that the exemplar document used by the FBI has been lost. It may be significant that while the exemplar shown to Sgt. Lockhart was reproduced in the hearings published by the Senate Banking Committee, there is nothing in the hearings documents to show how the FBI authentication was done or who did it. If you have any information you could provide me on this I would be grateful to you.

I realize that I am handing you a very hot potato, perhaps too hot for someone who has just undergone heart surgery. The second handwriting expert I mentioned has just informed me that she can't provide the written statement she promised because her husband, who works for the government, doesn't want her to get involved. Perhaps you will have a similar reaction, but I hope you will do what you know is right.

Sincerely yours,



Reed Irvine
Chairman

U.S. Department of Justice

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