

H 5400

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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by acting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) Under the authority of subsection (a) (1) (B) (1), the Secretary shall provide for demonstration projects, in at least three States and at least one of which is located in a rural area, which relate to the provision of preventive health services (including basic health screening, referral, and health education) to the elderly throughout the State through traveling health care practitioners (other than physicians, but including public health nurses) who provide such services in or through different public and private nonprofit facilities (including churches, schools, and senior citizen centers). The Secretary shall report to Congress on the results of such demonstration projects not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this paragraph."

UNAUTHORIZED EXAMINATION OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS MATERIALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Stokes) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, recent newspaper and other media accounts have carried the story that materials in the possession of the former Select Committee on Assassinations were examined in an unauthorized fashion last summer. As the former chairman of the select committee, I am making these remarks to report to my colleagues the facts of the matter.

The Select Committee on Assassinations faced an important and complex task. The House mandated the committee to look into the facts and circumstances surrounding the deaths of two of our Nation's greatest leaders, President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Death is not a pleasant subject, and its details can be gruesome. One of the least pleasant of the tasks that faced the committee was the examination of the photographs made during the autopsies of these two men. Anyone who knew them in life would be disturbed viewing their photographs in death.

The photographs that were made in connection with the autopsies of President Kennedy and Dr. King have never been made public. Good taste dictates that they never be. The Warren Commission that examined President Kennedy's death in 1964 did not publish them, and the select committee's final report on the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King will also not make the photographs of either of them public.

Mr. Speaker, the Select Committee on Assassinations took extraordinary care that the autopsy photographs were not used in an unauthorized fashion.

There are segments of the press that are so lacking in good taste that they might well have published them if they could have obtained access to them. The select committee made every effort to employ only the most trustworthy persons, but even then, only those with a need to use the autopsy photographs in their work were given access to them.

The autopsy materials were kept in a separate safe in the security room of the offices of the select committee. The

committee's classified files were kept in the same room, but in separate safes. The general files of the committee were housed in another area entirely. It was necessary to sign in and out on a logbook to secure access to classified files. Access to the autopsy materials could only be secured by the personal permission of the chief counsel given separately every time access was sought.

Each notebook that contained a set of the autopsy photographs was separately numbered and the use of each book was recorded on a log every time it was examined.

In July of last year the staff of the select committee discovered that a Central Intelligence Agency employee had obtained unauthorized access to the autopsy photographs of President Kennedy. The staff made this discovery with the assistance of the District of Columbia Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Central Intelligence Agency. The facts are as follows:

A researcher on the Assassinations Committee staff secured permission of the chief counsel to get access to the Kennedy autopsy materials. Access was obtained in the morning. The materials were taken from the safe, and the safe door was closed but not locked. They were to be used in another room by the committee's medical artist to prepare drawings of the President's wounds.

When he returned later that day to return the photographs, he found that the safe had been opened and another notebook had been taken out of the safe. One photograph of the President that was enclosed in a plastic cover had been ripped out of the notebook and the photograph taken out of its cover.

The chief counsel of the committee was immediately notified and he ordered the staff to undertake an investigation to determine who had obtained unauthorized access to the materials. The fingerprints of each member of the staff who had authorized access to the safe were matched against fingerprints that were lifted from the books that had been removed from the safe, the plastic covers in the books, and the inside of the safe door. None of the staff fingerprints matched the lifted fingerprints. The fingerprints of a Central Intelligence Agency employee were then matched to the lifted prints.

The match was made by the District of Columbia Police and double checked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Speaker, this matter was handled by the District of Columbia Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in a competent and confidential fashion and the committee is grateful to them for their assistance.

To understand how the Central Intelligence Agency employee obtained access to the safe it is necessary to understand the role he played with the committee. The select committee had access at the Central Intelligence Agency to the agency's classified files. Notes were taken by the staff on the files. Those notes were brought by an agency courier under seal to a special area in the committee's offices where they were locked in a safe to which only the Central Intelligence Agency had the combination. Nothing else was kept in that room. An agency employee was available during working hours in the room to give the staff access to the notes. The safe could only be opened in the presence of the Agency employee and a staff member. If it was necessary to use the Agency notes in connection with a regular file of the committee, the regular file was brought to the special area. If it was necessary to use the committee's classified files in connection with the staff notes either the classified file would be brought to the special area or the staff notes were brought to the classified files in the security room. The Agency employee always accompanied the staff notes if they were removed from the special area. But the Agency employee was not authorized to be out of the special area unless he was accompanied by a staff member. He was not authorized to have access to the autopsy materials.

When the Agency employee's fingerprints were matched to the lifted fingerprints, permission was obtained from the Agency to interview the Agency employee. The employee's permission was obtained to record the interview. The employee denied having access to the autopsy materials when he was interviewed on one day. He was then interviewed a second time on a succeeding day. He did not admit any wrongdoing. He refused to be interviewed any more.

The Central Intelligence Agency conducted an investigation of the matter. Its investigation began after the committee asked permission to talk to the employee and before the committee brought the details of the unauthorized action, including the fingerprints, to the Agency's attention. The Agency's investigation included interviews and the use of photographs.

Additional photographs were taken after the details of the committee's investigation were brought to the attention of the Agency. The committee was given access to everything that the Agency obtained in its investigation and certain additional materials that the committee requested.

The committee staff members who conducted the investigation are satisfied that there was no evidence uncovered that the Agency directed the employee to obtain access to the autopsy materials. They also believe on the basis of what they know that the Agency did not direct the activity of the Agency employee in this regard. The Agency employees who conducted the Agency's investigation are satisfied that the motive for obtaining unauthorized access was mere curiosity. The committee staff members are not satisfied that the motive has been established; they believe mere curiosity is not consistent with the fingerprint evidence. But in the absence of a full and truthful confession by the Agency employee or the others, if any, who were in league with him—or substantial new evidence all recognize that the matter of motive cannot be ultimately resolved.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to emphasize several points:

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