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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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SUBCOMMITTEE:
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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.

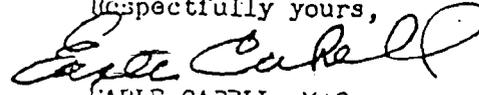
This item has absolutely no more historical significance than does the plastic mattress cover in which the body was encased for shipment from Dallas to Washington, but does have a value for the morbidly curious. And I believe that I am correct in stating that this morbid curiosity is that which we all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

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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

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DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL



Essex

Case of wife H. H. H.

Letter to the Secretary

See through Coffin.

Provisionally was

thought in business

- business be destroyed

GSA has coffin

Private letter to Secretary

Howard M. Donald

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