

NORTHERN ARIZONA FORENSIC LABORATORY

James L. "John" Hale, Jr. - Examiner of Questioned Documents
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Verby

*Charles
A. Keating*

August 17, 1990

Mr. Kent Demaret
People Weekly Magazine
16945 Northchase Drive - Suite 140
Houston, Texas 77060

Re: 90-129

Dear Mr. Demaret:

On August 15, 1990, you accompanied Mr. Joe H. West as he, at your behest, hand-delivered certain documents to my laboratory, where the undertaking of a forensic document analysis was requested. A description of the documents follows:

QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS:

Items A(1-3) - Three original sheets of approximately 5" x 7-7/8" paper, each bearing a typewritten inscription regarding "Navy Int."

Items B(1-2) - Two sheets of clear plastic acetate material of approximate .0008" thickness utilized as a "laminate" to encase Items A(1-3).

EXAMINATION REQUESTED:

Pursuant to any non-destructive scientific techniques, determine authenticity of Items A(1-3).

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS:

Examination and comparison of Items A(1-3) and B(1-2) resulted in the following conclusions and observations:

1. The paper is an inexpensive newsprint, such as found in sketch-pads. One edge of each sheet is torn from a pad, rather than from a roll.
2. The typewritten texts of Items A(1-3) were produced on an aged, worn, unserviced manual instrument using a 10-character-per-inch Pica style font, probably of Royal, SCM, or L.C. Smith origin. The texts were produced on a very light pressure setting, thus negating detailed analysis of the character. The ink is from a worn cloth ribbon containing a carbonaceous ink formula which responds the same throughout the infrared filtration range.

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS (CONTINUED):

3. There are no indicia of the pyrogenic phenomena which would indicate the evidence had ever been involved in a conflagration.
4. It is apparent the texts of Items A(1-3) were produced by a "romantic" novice typist, considering the chosen lexicon, the use of the capital letter "I" instead of the lower case "i" to represent the numeral "1" in the headings of each document, the misspelling of the word "forgein" (foreign), and the use of the redundant phrase "Reply back if not understood". It is also apparent the "coded" lexicon is so clearly understandable, it is intended to convey to the average reader the sinister nature of the "messages".
5. With the permission of Mr. Demaret, the messages were examined by a retired Naval Intelligence Officer who denied the genuineness of Items A(1-3), stating the Naval Intelligence Service communicated with its personnel with CRYPTO-encoded telegrams via Western Union. He stated public telephone lines were used for plain-language communication. He also indicated the use of the headings and of the Marine Service number was inane.
6. Items A(1-3) were "laminated" or encased between the two sheets of plastic acetate material using a flexible adhesive, such as rubber cement. The acetate is a material generally manufactured for automobile convertible rear windows and for camping tent windows. It was not manufactured with an adhesive backing.. Items A(1-3) were purposely encased between Items B(1-2), either to "protect" them, or to hinder certain details of analysis. In either case, the latter succeeded.
7. Based on these findings, I have concluded Items A(1-3) are not genuine, but are the enabling products of a potential hoax.

Until I can be of further assistance, I remain

Sincerely yours,

James L. Hale, Jr.
Examiner of Questioned Documents

JLH/cjh

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James L. "John" Hale, Jr. - Examiner of Questioned Documents
P.O. Box 411 - Chino Valley, Arizona 86323
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August 20, 1990

Mr. Kent Demaret
People Weekly Magazine
16945 Northchase Drive - Suite 140
Houston, Texas 77060

Re: 90-129SUP (Supplemental Report)

Dear Mr. Demaret:

On August 15, 1990, you accompanied Mr. Joe H. West as he, at your behest, hand-delivered certain documents to my laboratory, where the undertaking of a forensic document analysis was requested. A description of the documents follows:

QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS:

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Items B(1-2) - Two sheets of clear plastic acetate material of approximate .0008" thickness utilized as a "laminate" to encase Items A(1-3).

EXAMINATION REQUESTED:

Pursuant to any non-destructive scientific techniques, determine authenticity of Items A(1-3).

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS:

Firstly, in cases such as this wherein a "startling" discovery of unusual documents supporting a particularly exotic theory is purported, a "story" is often proffered. The story accompanying this evidence as postulated by Mr. Ricky Don White, the son of Roscoe "Rocky" White, follows:

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS (CONTINUED):

Roscoe White was a former U.S. Marine, who ultimately became a Dallas Policeman, and was killed in 1971 in an accident. At the time of his death, Roscoe White was no longer a Dallas Policeman. According to Ricky White, Roscoe White was employed, following his stint in the U.S. Marines, as an undercover assassin for the C.I.A., and was only working for the Dallas Police Department as a plant to facilitate his role in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Ricky White states he discovered the evidence described in this report as Items A(1-3) and B(1-2), in a closed metallic cylinder in the ~~attic of his grandparents' home~~ a residence which had suffered damage by an internal fire. Ricky White stated he was searching for the documents because he had read his father's Journal, which was subsequently stolen, regarding the receipt of his C.I.A. assignments. Roscoe White reportedly obtained his instructions via the U.S. Naval Intelligence Service to mask his C.I.A. connections. He was able to "connect" with his C.I.A. superiors by attaching a small instrument to the telephone lines. He would then activate the instrument which would type a message of instruction or orders onto a special paper it contained, and which it then emitted into Roscoe White's hands.

Examination and comparison of Items A(1-3) and B(1-2) resulted in the following conclusions and observations:

1. Regarding the paper comprising Items A(1-3):

- a. The paper is not "special". It is inexpensive newsprint, evidently removed from a 5" X 8" unruled note-pad of the style normally used as sketch-pads and as grade school scratch paper. Each sheet varies slightly in length due to its bound (glued) edge being torn from the pad. This quality of paper is often not strong enough to overcome the strength of the binding substance, and tears rather than pulls from the glue.
- b. Based upon the "story", the small receiving instrument would most likely have contained a roll of paper, rather than sheets. ~~After the message was produced, it would have been torn off against a serrated- or knife-edge in a consistent manner.~~ Each of Items A(1-3) have three sharply defined straight edges and one roughly torn edge. The torn edges are neither serrated nor knife-cut. Items A1 and A3 display torn edges at the top of the page, while Item A2 is torn at

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS (CONTINUED):

the bottom. This demonstrates an internal inconsistency of the evidence, and is simultaneously inconsistent with the paper-roll theory.

2. Regarding the texts of Items A(1-3):

- a. The texts of Items A(1-3) were produced on the same typewriter, utilizing a 10-character-per-inch Pica font and six-line-per-vertical-inch escapement.
- b. Based on the varying degrees of darkness and pressure displayed in the characters comprising the various texts, combined with several misalignments, it was concluded the typewriter was a non-electric key-strike machine which was set at a very light strike pressure.
- c. The inked impressions were produced by a worn cloth ribbon. The ink remains visible throughout the range of infrared filtration, indicative of a simple carbonaceous formula. Certain type-characters are dirty and filled with debris. These phenomena are indicative of an aged, worn, unserviced manual instrument.
- d. The type-style was not positively identified due to the extremely poor typewritten impressions, but is reminiscent of Pica styles found on old Royal, SCM, and L.C. Smith machines. Certainly the texts were not produced on a sophisticated forerunner of a FAX machine.

3. The faintness of the texts of Items A(1-3) appears to be deliberate, perhaps caused by either an attempt to manufacture a facsimile of a thermally-produced message, or simply to create documents with a mysterious, hard-to-trace nature. In any case, the pressure was set so light the keys did not indent the very soft newsprint paper, excepting the "periods", which require very little pressure to cause indentations.
4. The "laminating" of Items A(1-3) was performed using the type of .0008" acetate often used in automobile convertible rear windows and camping tent windows. It was not manufactured to be used as laminate, and had no adhesive backing. The two sheets of acetate material, Items B(1-2), were bonded using a flexible adhesive such as rubber cement. The lamination of Items A(1-3) was a deliberate act, performed either to "protect" items A(1-3), or to prevent certain details of

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS (CONTINUED):

analysis. Whichever the case, the latter succeeded.

5. Regarding the nature and condition of the evidence relative to the burning of the house in which it was found:
 - a. A color photocopy of the cylindrical canister displayed no indicia of conflagration.
 - b. While it is generally accepted that documents will not burn in the oxygen-starved atmosphere of a tightly closed container, certainly the attic of a burned house would have become so super-heated as to melt the plastic acetate, Items B(1-2), and to affect the elasticity of the bonding adhesive.
 - c. No such pyrogenic phenomena are observable. The plastic is not melted, the adhesive is still flexible and tacky, and the paper is not seared or browned by the heat of a fire.
6. Regarding the lexicon and "coded" data of the messages displayed on Items A(1-3):
 - a. It becomes apparent to the reader, the typist was a "romantic" novice who wished to insure the messages clearly regarded President Kennedy and his widely-publicized itinerary.
 - b. The use of the letter "I" for a numeral "1", the inclusion of Roscoe White's Marine Service number "1666106", and such entries as the misspelled "forgein" (foreign) and the redundant "Reply back if not understood" certainly bespeak an ill-trained "C.I.A. superior".
 - c. An associate, who is a retired Naval Intelligence Officer, viewed Items A(1-3). He was most entertained by the heading of each message and the use of the Marine Service number. When queried regarding the small telephone-line instrument-cum-printer apparatus, he stated it was obvious such a small instrument did not exist in 1963, when computers were huge and the digital-access telephone technology which can now be used to activate miniaturized computer printers and fax machines, was not publicly available. When asked what class of technology he was familiar with, he stated Naval Intelligence utilized CRYPTO-encoded messages sent via Western Union!! He explained if public telephone lines were

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RESULTS OF ANALYSIS (CONTINUED):

used, the information was of a declassified nature, and contained plain language.

7. Based upon research and analysis, the undersigned must aver the evidence does not support its accompanying "story", which is, in my opinion, refuted.

I apologize for the loquacious nature of this report. Mr. Demaret requested a detailed narrative of the scientific research and findings.

Until I can be of further assistance, I remain

Sincerely yours,

James L. Hale, Jr.
Examiner of Questioned Documents

JLH/cjh