

July 18, 1978

Mr. Melvin Spence
59 Watrous Avenue
Mystic, Connecticut 06355

Dear Mr. Spence:

Your letter of June 26, 1978 arrived while I was out of town, and I am only now able to reply.

I must say that I am somewhat puzzled that you would be asking for the results of our "investigation" now with respect to Wally's death. It was my understanding May 11, 1978 in my office that you did want us to make our own inquiry. Then Friday evening, May 12, 1978, you told Dr. Scott you did not want us to investigate, but that you wanted to know from me through him by midnight, Sunday, May 14, 1978, only whether or not we would turn over to the civil authorities the material you had gathered, setting a deadline of Monday, May 15, 1978, by which such a transmission was to occur. I enclose a copy of Dr. Scott's memorandum of July 17, 1978 pertaining to this question.

I hope that you will understand that Marquette has been foreclosed by the pending official inquest from further pursuit of its own inquiries about the case. The civil authorities are free to call anyone to testify as to the circumstances surrounding Wally's death. The University and its staff have absolutely nothing to hide in this matter - there is no "cover-up" as you seem to think. We are prepared to cooperate fully with and accept the verdict of the civil authorities.

In closing, I wish to assure you that you and your family continue to be in my prayers. I hope the good Lord will give you the strong faith to bear this loss and to realize that, despite our best efforts to understand, many things in life remain unknown to us and inexplicable.

Sincerely yours,

John P. Raynor, S.J.
President



Enclosure

JPR:hh

bcc: Dr. Quentin L. Quade (w/copy of JHS 7/17 memo)
✓ Dr. James H. Scott
Mr. Ray J. Aiken (w/copy of JHS 7/17 memo)