THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
and
THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

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TO: Committee, DNA Technology in Forensic Science

FROM: Victor A. McKusick, M.D. VAM

RE: Final report and related matters

1. I am sending each of you, by Federal Express, a copy of the latest version of the Report. This incorporates the overwhelming majority of the points made by each of you and includes a relatively major revision of Chapter 3 on the basis of criticisms of it that have come along in recent weeks. (Chapter 3 needs to have references to recent work and opinions. I am working on that.) I would like to have your response to the newest draft just as soon as possible; no later than Monday, November 18.

2. A "leak" of an earlier draft of Chapter 3 occurred through some mechanism because the committee has obtained a criticism of it from two sources: one, a prosecutor in Cleveland, Ohio, and the other John W. Hicks of the FBI. The leak of the document is an impropriety contrary to the unfettered function of our committee. Be that as it may, we cannot disregard the criticisms given. I am sending you, with the new draft, copies of the letters from the prosecutor and from Hicks.

3. I am also sending you copies of the responses of Caskey, Ferrara and Sensabaugh to indicate their positions on Chapter 3, inasmuch as they were unwilling to sign off on the earlier draft because of Chapter 3. You should review their arguments as well as those of the two unsolicited commentators. Does the present draft satisfy those arguments satisfactorily and is everyone prepared to sign off?