

due to lack of medical expertise it was ruled suicide or accidental. I got a letter from Norfolk not too many days ago, where a lady was very distressed because her father was ruled to have committed suicide and she doubts it. She said even though it might be determined at some future time that the suicide had occurred, the type of investigation which was undertaken could not establish anything. Since she doubts that her father did commit suicide, considering the stigma that attaches to that in this society, she wishes that there was someplace to go to obtain some kind of investigation. This is a state wide problem. It relates to more than just law and order. It relates to the sensitivities of people who remain after somebody who means something to them has been taken from this world. We tried Senator Haberman to mention not just the Ida Fitzgibbons case but others to show that there is a need for this bill and we could give additional cases but we would reach the level of simply being gruesome rather than enlightening. To heap up case after case after case where no particular case adds anything new to our information does not serve a worthwhile purpose. I wish all of the members would remember what this bill is designed to do. It is designed to have investigations of deaths which have questions by people capable of reviewing the evidence at hand and drawing proper medical conclusions. You all have seen Sherlock Holmes pictures on television and Senator Murphy made some reference to an oriental assistant and I hope that he wasn't being derogatory, maybe he meant Charley Chan which by the way is a very derogatory depiction of orientals but nevertheless to tailgate on his example whatever he was trying to make by the point, which he didn't make with me, if a gun discharges very close to the person struck, you know that you look for powder wounds. But a gun can be discharged from a greater distance and all of the powder is never completely burned. So, if within a certain distance, a certain number of feet a gun is discharged then a forensic pathologist would know how to examine the tract made by the wound to detect these unburned grains of powder which are not visible to the naked eye and they do not surround the injury. Many times evidence has been moved, it has been destroyed, it has been lost by well-meaning law enforcement officers who simply do not know how to investigate a homicide. If there is blood they step in it, they might move the body to say that they were trying to determine where the wound was. In some cases deaths have occurred outside in the wintertime and a law enforcement officer would cover the body. By covering the body it does not cool as it would if it were exposed to the elements so they create a difficulty with reference to determining the time that the death occurred. Ordinary things which a forensic pathologist would know but would not occur to an ordinary lay person. We are simply