

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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: :
HAROLD WEISBERG, : :
: :
Plaintiff, : :
: :
v. : Civil Action No. 75-0226
: :
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, : :
et al., : :
: :
Defendants : :
: :
.....

AFFIDAVIT OF CHARLES JAMES CARRICO

I, Charles James Carrico, being first duly sworn, depose as follows:

1. I presently reside at Seattle, Washington. I am a physician and surgeon on the staff of the School of Medicine of the University of Washington.

2. When President Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, I was a licensed physician and senior surgical resident at Parkland Hospital.

3. By the date President Kennedy was assassinated I had had experience with approximately 150 to 200 cases of gunshot wounds.

4. When President Kennedy was shot I was on duty at the Parkland Hospital emergency room, having been called there to evaluate a patient for admission to the hospital. I was notified that President Kennedy had been shot and was en route to Parkland about two minutes before he reached the hospital. I was the first doctor to see President Kennedy. I saw him while he was being wheeled into Trauma Room One on an emergency cart.

5. On or about December 1, 1971, Mr. Harold Weisberg interviewed me in Dallas, Texas. At that time I was a member of the surgery staff at Parkland. Mr. Weisberg asked me about several

parts of my testimony before the Warren Commission on Monday, March 30, 1964, when Dr. Malcolm Perry and I both testified. This testimony is in Volume III of the Warren Commission's Hearings, beginning on page 357.

6. At one point during the proceedings Warren Commission member Allen Dulles interrupted the questioning by Commission counsel Arlen Specter to ask me about the wound in the front of the President's neck: "Will you show us where it was?" I showed him by placing my hand on my own neck, after which Mr. Dulles said, "And you put your hand right above where your tie is," which is correct. (Vol. III, pp. 361-362)

7. At several points I was asked questions relating to the removal of the President's clothing. I testified that in the initial examination "I had opened his shirt and coat," after which "the nurses removed his clothing as is the usual procedure." (Vol. III, p. 359) I also testified that "in the emergency situation the nurses removed the clothing after we had initially unbuttoned enough" for the initial emergency examination and that "as the routine is set up the nurses removed the clothing." (Vol. III, p. 363)

8. The Warren Commission did not ask me to explain how the nurses removed the President's clothing or what the "routine" is in such emergencies.

9. In such emergencies time is precious to life and the doctor's chances of saving life. This requires both speed and carefulness. In the interest of speed, the clothing is cut off. With President Kennedy, I initially unbuttoned his shirt collar and the buttons immediately below it so I could listen to his chest. After this, nurses Diana Bowron and Margaret Henchcliffe cut the off the President's clothing to the extent necessary for the emergency procedures that followed. With a necktie it is the

routine to cut it off where there is but a single thickness, not through the knot. This enables the rapid removal of the tie without unknitting it. This procedure is performed with greatest rapidity and safety by holding the visible part of the tie with one hand and cutting through it while it is held away from the body at a part of the tie close to the knot. This is the procedure we employed with President Kennedy's tie.

10. President Kennedy was prone and on his back when I first saw him and during my examinations of him. In addition to the emergency procedures referred to above which were begun prior to Dr. Perry's arrival in Trauma Room One, I also ran my hands down both sides of President Kennedy's back to determine whether there was evidence of any injury not apparent from the front.

11. I observed no damage to either the tie or the shirt collar before the tie and shirt were cut off, in my presence, by the nurses.

12. I did observe that the wound in the front of the neck was above the collar.

13. As a result of my personal observations of the wound in the front of the President's neck, and having seen his shirt and tie prior to their being cut off by the nurses, it is apparent to me that the President's anterior neck wound was caused by a bullet that did not cause any visible damage to either the knot of the President's tie or his shirtcollar.

CHARLES JAMES CARRICO

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of
_____, 1977.

NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

My Commission expires _____.