

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad *JWC*

DATE: 4/2/64

FROM : R. H. Jevons *RHJ*

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY; 11/22/63; DALLAS, TEXAS

Tolson	
Belmont	
Mohr	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
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Sullivan	
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On 4/1/64, SA Cortlandt Cunningham, Firearms Unit, FBI Laboratory, testified before the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy, beginning at 9:05 a. m. and ending at 3:10 p. m. Various members of the Commission were present at different times during the day. Chief Justice Earl Warren was present for approximately one hour. Representative Gerald R. Ford (Republican - Michigan) was present during the testimony and Representative Hale Boggs (Democrat - Louisiana) was present for a short time. In the afternoon session of the testimony, Allen W. Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, was also present.

The testimony given concerned the firearms aspect of the slaying of Officer J. D. Tippit by Lee Harvey Oswald on 11/22/63, especially the identification of the cartridge cases found in the area of the slaying.

Testimony was also given concerning the revolver which was taken from Oswald at the time of his arrest by the Dallas Police Department, as well as the results of the Laboratory examination of the four bullets removed from Officer Tippit's body. Three of the bullets were caliber .38 Special copper-coated lead bullets of Winchester-Western manufacture which were fired from a barrel rifled with five lands and grooves, right twist. The fourth bullet is a caliber .38 Special lead bullet of Remington-Peters manufacture which was fired from a barrel rifled with five lands and grooves right twist. One of the copper-coated lead bullets was so mutilated that no microscopic marks of value for identification purposes were remaining on its surface. Although microscopic marks remain on the other three bullets for comparison purposes, no conclusion could be reached as to whether or not these bullets were fired from the same weapon or whether or not they were fired from Oswald's revolver. In addition, it was found that even

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Enclosure

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1-Mr. Belmont - Enclosure

1-Mr. Sullivan - Enclosure

1-Mr. Rosen - Enclosure

1-Mr. Malley - Enclosure

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*APR 6 1964*  
*ENCLOSURE*  
*APR 20 1964*

*EX 101*  
*EX 101*

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**Memorandum to Mr. Conrad**  
**Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F.**  
**KENNEDY; 11/22/63; DALLAS, TEXAS**  
**62-109060**

consecutive .38 Special bullets test fired from this revolver could not be identified with each other. Smith and Wesson revolvers such as Oswald's revolver, are among the weapons producing general rifling characteristics of the type found on these bullets. Mr. Cunningham also testified in detail as to the probable causes of the inconsistent microscopic characteristics on these bullets.

The results of the paraffin tests conducted by the Firearms Unit, as set forth in my memorandum of 3/31/64, as well as the limitations of these tests, were testified to by Mr. Cunningham. At the specific request of Melvin Eisenberg, Staff Attorney, the testimony given by SA Robert A. Frazier, Firearms Unit, regarding the bullet removed from General Walker's residence was essentially repeated by Mr. Cunningham. Oswald is alleged to have fired this bullet on 4/10/63. While the bullet was extremely mutilated and lacked identifying markings, it was found to bear rifling characteristics of the type produced by the assassination rifle and was similar to the type of ammunition used in the assassination.

During the luncheon break and after the completion of Mr. Cunningham's testimony, Mr. Cunningham received very complimentary remarks from the members of the President's Commission as well as members of Mr. J. Lee Rankin's staff. The comments were in reference to the smoothness and manner of presentation of his testimony.

As a matter of record, ~~Mr. Joseph D. Nicol~~, Superintendent, Criminal Identification and Investigation, Illinois Department of Public Safety, Springfield, Illinois, intimated, during a break in Mr. Cunningham's testimony, that he had also identified the bullet and bullet fragments from the assassination as well as the cartridge cases from the scene of Officer Tippit's slaying. Mr. Nicol volunteered this information and it was in no way solicited by SA Cunningham. These are the same identifications made by the Bureau.

Details of Mr. Cunningham's testimony are set forth on the attached pages.

**ACTION:**

~~FOR INFORMATION~~  
For information.

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JWC