

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION

FEB 24 1969

TELETYPE

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FBI NEW ORLS

912PM URGENT 2/24/69 JDM

TO: DIRECTOR 62-109060 AND DALLAS 89-43

FROM: NEW ORLEANS 89-69 8PAGES

Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
DALLAS, TEXAS, NOVEMBER TWENTYTWO, NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE.
.ISC. INFO - CONCERNING - OO: DALLAS...

ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE RED FLASH
EDITION OF THE FEBRUARY TWENTYFOUR INSTANT ISSUE OF THE
NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM NEWSPAPER, THE MORNING SESSION OF
THE CLAY L. SHAW TRIAL COMMENCED ON FEBRUARY TWENTYFOUR
INSTANT WITH THE DEFENSE CALLING AS IT'S WITNEW COL. PIERRE A.
FINCK OF THE U. S. ARMY.

AFTER TESTIFYING AS TO HIS BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE,
HE WAS QUALIFIED AS AN EXPERT IN THE AREAS OF FORENSIC
MEDICINE AND PATHOLOGY.

DR. FINCK TESTIFIED THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF A THREE-
MAN TEAM WHICH PERFORMED THE AUTOPSY ON THE PRESIDENT
FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION. THIS AUTOPSY WAS CONDUCTED
AT THE NAVAL HOSPITAL AT BETHESDA, MARYLAND, DR. FINCK
TESTIFIED HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE CO-AUTHORS OF THE PATHOLOGY
REPORT ON THE PRESIDENTS DEATH.

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PAGE TWO

HE TESTIFIED THAT BY THE TIME HE REACHED THE AUTOPSY ROOM, THE PRESIDENTS BRAIN HAD ALREADY BEEN REMOVED. HE TESTIFIED THAT EXAMINING THE PRESIDENT'S BODY HE FOUND A SMALL WOUND ON THE RIGHT SIDE IN THE BACK OF THE NECK OF THE PRESIDENT. HE TESTIFIED THAT THE REGULAR EDGES OF THIS WOUND WERE PUSHED INWARD AND IN HIS OPINION THIS WAS A WOUND OF ENTRY. HE SAID THIS WOUND WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE TYPE OF WOUND CAUSED BY A BULLET AND THERE WAS NOTHING THAT WAS INCOMPATIBLE OR INCONSISTENT WITH THE WOUND MADE BY A BULLET.

HE TESTIFIED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE AUTOPSY HE OBSERVED IN THE FRONT OF THE NECK OF THE PRESIDENT A TRANSVERSAL INCISION OBVIOUSLY MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF A TRACHEOTOMY.

HE TESTIFIED THAT THE ENTIRE BODY OF THE PRESIDENT INCLUDING THE HEAD HAD BEEN X-RAYED AND NO BULLETS WERE FOUND. HE TESTIFIED THAT X-RAYS OF THE PRESIDENTS HEAD SHOWED ONLY FRAGMENTS OF MISSILE IN THE HEAD.

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HE TESTIFIED THAT THE LOCATION OF THE TRACHEOTOMY INCISION AT THE FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT'S NECK WAS CONSISTENT MEDICALLY WITH ~~THE~~ WOUND IN THE FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT'S NECK. HE TESTIFIED HE HAD EXAMINED THE SHIRT THE PRESIDENT WAS WEARING AND FOUND THERE WAS A SMALL HOLE APPROXIMATELY AT THE LEVEL OF THE COLLAR BUTTON OF THE SHIRT WHICH IN HIS OPINION WAS THE EXIT. THE FIBERS AT THE EDGE OF THE HOLE IN THE SHIRT WERE TURNED OUTWARD INDICATING AN OUTWARD MOVEMENT OF THE PROJECTILE.

THEREAFTER THROUGH SKETCHES DR. FINCK EXHIBITED TO THE JURY THE DIRECTION OF THE PROJECTILE.

HE TESTIFIED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE AUTOPSY, IT COULD NOT BE DETERMINED THE SEQUENCE OF SHOTS WHICH HIT THE PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, AFTER STUDYING THE ZAPRUDER FILM, THE SEQUENCE OF MISSILES COULD BE DETERMINED. HE STATED THAT THE WOUND IN THE PRESIDENT'S NECK WAS DEFINATELY INFLICTED BY A SHOT FROM THE REAR.

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DR. FINCK THEN TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD CONDUCTED AN EXAMINATION OF THE HEAD WOUND OF THE PRESIDENT. HE DESCRIBED HOW HEAD WOUNDS ARE CLASSIFIED AS TO ENTRY OR EXIT OF BULLETS AND THEN DESCRIBED THE WOUND IN THE BACK OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD AS AN ENTRY WOUND. HE TESTIFIED HE EXAMINED THE ENTRY WOUND FROM THE OUTSIDE AND THEN FROM THE INSIDE OF THE SKULL AND FROM THE INSIDE OF THE SKULL SAW A DEFINITE CRATER. THIS CRATER WAS A CERTAIN FACTOR TO IDENTIFY POSITIVELY THE DIRECTION OF A PROJECTILE GOING THROUGH A FLAT BONE SUCH AS GOING THROUGH THE SKULL. HE TESTIFIED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE ENTRY WOUND HE OBSERVED A VERY LARGE WOUND IRREGULAR IN SHAPE APPROXIMATELY FIVE INCHES IN DIAMETER IN THE PRESIDENT'S SKULL. HE TESTIFIED THAT PORTIONS OF BONE RECEIVED FROM DALLAS HAD THE SAME APPEARANCE AS THE GENERAL APPEARANCE OF THE REMAINING PARTS OF THE SKULL OF THE PRESIDENT. ONE OF THESE PORTIONS RECEIVED COULD BE MATCHED INSIDE THE HEAD WOUND. HE TESTIFIED THAT IN THE CASE OF A HIGH VELOCITY BULLET THERE CAN NEVER BE

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A COMPLETE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WOUND OF EXIT BECAUSE OF THE EXPLOSIVE AND SHATTERING FORCE OF THE WOUND OF EXIT SINCE THE WOUND OF EXIT NORMALLY IS VERY IRREGULAR. HE TESTIFIED THAT THERE WERE NO FRAGMENTS OF THE SKULL THAT WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH A DETERMINATION THAT THE BULLET WHICH HIT PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN THE HEAD WAS FIRED FROM THE REAR. HE TESTIFIED THAT BASED UPON HIS EXAMINATION, AS WELL AS X-RAYS OF THE SKULL, METALLIC FRAGMENTS ON THE X-RAY FILM OF THE HEAD OF THE PRESIDENT AS METALLIC FRAGMENTS ON THE BONE FRAGMENTS RECEIVED FROM DALLAS.

HE WAS OF THE FIRM OPINION THAT THE BULLET WHICH STRUCK THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD ENTERED FROM THE BACK OF THE HEAD AND EXITED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE TOP OF THE HEAD PRODUCING A LARGE WOUND. HE TESTIFIED BASED ON HIS EXAMINATION, HE WAS OF THE FIRM OPINION THAT THE BULLET WHICH STRUCK THE PRESIDENT IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD DISINTEGRATED, WHICH IS OFTEN THE CASE WHEN A HIGH VELOCITY BULLET GOES THROUGH BONE AND THUS PRODUCED NUMEROUS

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METALLIC FRAGMENTS WHICH WERE OBSERVED ON THE X-RAYS. HE TESTIFIED THAT THERE WERE NO OTHER WOUNDS IN THE BODY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT.

DR. FINCK THEN WITH SKETCHES EXPLAINED TO THE JURY THE DIRECTION OF THE BULLET WHICH HAD HIT THE PRESIDENT IN THE SKULL. HE TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD FORMED AN OPINION AS TO THE DIRECTION THAT THE PROJECTILES THAT HIT THE PRESIDENT WERE TRAVELING AT THE TIME HE SIGNED THE AUTOPSY REPORT. HE TESTIFIED HE DID NOT KNOW THE SEQUENCE OF SHOTS AT THIS TIME BUT HAD A FIRM OPINION THAT BOTH BULLETS HAD STRUCK THE PRESIDENT FROM THE REAR. HE TESTIFIED THAT HIS OPINIONS WERE "HONEST, PROFESSIONAL OPINIONS."

UPON CROSS-EXAMINATION BY THE PROSECUTION, DR. FINCK TESTIFIED THAT HE AND THE OTHER MEMBERS WHO HAD CONDUCTED THE AUTOPSY OF THE PRESIDENT WERE IN AGREEMENT REGARDING THEIR FINDINGS.

THE PROSECUTION THEN ASKED DR. FINCK AS TO WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE AUTOPSY AND DR. FINCK REPLIED THAT DR.

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HUME WAS IN CHARGE. DR. FINCK TESTIFIED THAT THERE WERE NUMEROUS PERSONS PRESENT DURING THE AUTOPSY INCLUDING MILITARY OFFICIALS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

THE PROSECUTION THEN ASKED NUMEROUS QUESTION REGARDING THE AUTOPSY.

DR. FINCK TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO DISCUSS THE AUTOPSY WITHOUT COORDINATING WITH THE U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL.

DR. FINCK TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD NOT OBSERVED AUTOPSY PHOTOGRAPHS PRIOR TO WRITING THE AUTOPSY REPORT IN NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE THE AUTOPSY PHOTOGRAPHS AND X-RAYS WERE EVER DISPLAYED TO THE WARREN COMMISSION. HE TESTIFIED THAT WHEN HE APPEARED BEFORE THE WARREN COMMISSION MARCH, NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR, THE X-RAY AND AUTOPSY PHOTOS WERE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PREPARATION OF HIS TESTIMONY. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THIS MATERIAL WAS NOT AVAILABLE BUT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS MATERIAL NOT BE MADE

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PUBLIC BY THE LATE ROBERT KENNEDY. DR. FINCK WAS THEN
FURTHER QUESTIONED RE SKETCHES WHICH HAD BEEN INTRODUCED
BY THE DEFENSE.

THE TRIAL WAS THEN RECESSED FOR LUNCH.

NO LHM BEING SUBMITTED.

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