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FBI WASH DC

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

FEB 25 1969

TELETYPE

REC-96

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

FBI NEW ORLS

11:18AM 2-25-69 URGENT 6 PGS. LAB
TO DIRECTOR 62-109060 AND DALLAS 89-43
FROM NEW ORLEANS 89-69

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
DALLAS, TEXAS, NOVEMBER TWENTYTWO, NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE.
MISC. - INFO CONCERNING. 00: DALLAS.

ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE NEW ORLEANS
TIMES-PICAYUNE NEWSPAPER FOR FEBURARY TWENTYFIVE INSTANT,
THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE CLAY L. SHAW TRIAL FOR FEBRUARY
TWENTYFOUR LAST COMMENCED WITH COL. PIERRE A. FINCK CONTINUING
TO BE CROSS-EXAMINED BY THE PROSECUTION. FINCK IS ONE OF
THREE MILITARY PATHOLOGISTS WHO CONDUCTED THE AUTOPSY ON THE
PRESIDENT.

DURING HIS TESTIMONY, DR. FINCK STATED THAT AS LATE AS
JANUARY, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, THE AUTOPSY REPORT MAY HAVE NOT
BEEN COMPLETE. MUCH OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE PROSECUTION
RELATED TO DR. FINCK'S PART DURING THE AUTOPSY.

DR. FINCK TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD NOT EXAMINED ANY OF THE
LEFT SIDE OF THE PRESIDENT'S BRAIN AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
FEASIBLE TO EXAMINE THIS AREA BUT THE BRAIN HAD BEEN REMOVED

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Handwritten notes:
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AND WAS BEING PRESERVED FOR FURTHER SECTIONING.

HE TESTIFIED HE DID NOT KNOW IF METAL FRAGMENTS HAD BEEN FOUND IN THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BRAIN BECAUSE HE HAD NOT SEEN X-RAYS TAKEN.

HE TESTIFIED THAT THE WORK PERFORMED BY ^{HIM} HE AND THE OTHER TWO PATHOLOGISTS ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER TWENTYTWO NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE DID NOT REPRESENT A COMPLETE AUTOPSY AND THAT THE AUTOPSY REPORT WAS NOT COMPLETE ON NOVEMBER TWENTYFOUR NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE WHEN THEY HAD SUBMITTED THEIR INITIAL REPORT.

DR. FINCK STATED THAT THERE WAS A SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY ONE OF THE OTHER PATHOLOGISTS THAT INCLUDED ADDITIONAL STUDIES AND THEN IN JANUARY, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, ANOTHER AUTOPSY REPORT WAS SUBMITTED. HE TESTIFIED THE PURPOSE OF THE JANUARY, SIXTYSEVEN, REPORT WAS TO CORRELATE THE AUTOPSY REPORT WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING THE AUTOPSY.

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DURING MOST OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION, THE PROSECUTION IN GREAT DETAIL ASKED DR. FINCK REGARDING HIS EXAMINATION OF THE NECK WOUND OF THE PRESIDENT. HE TESTIFIED THAT HE DID NOT REMOVE THE ORGANS FROM THE NECK OF THE PRESIDENT BECAUSE HE WAS TOLD NOT TO DO SO BUT HE COULD NOT RECALL WHO HAD ISSUED THIS INSTRUCTION TO HIM. HE TESTIFIED HE DID NOT OBSERVE ANY METALLIC FRAGMENTS IN THE NECK WOUND AND THAT THE ONLY WOUND IN THE FRONT OF THE NECK HE HAD OBSERVED WAS THE SURGICAL INCISION MADE IN DALLAS FOR THE TRACHEOTOMY. HE SAID IN AN EXAMINATION OF THE INCISION IN THE FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT'S NECK HE DID NOT SEE THE SMALL WOUND DESCRIBED BY THE DOCTORS IN DALLAS AS THE BULLET WOUND. HE TESTIFIED HOWEVER HE SAW THE EXIT HOLE IN THE SHIRT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS WEARING THAT DAY.

HE TESTIFIED THAT THE NECK WOUND LOCATION ON THE AUTOPSY DESCRIPTIVE SHEET MADE THE WOUND APPEAR LOWER THAN IT ACTUALLY WAS. HE TESTIFIED HE DID NOT OBSERVE THIS DISCREPANCY UNTIL

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JANUARY, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, WHEN HE COMPARED THE AUTOPSY'S
DESCRIPTIVE SHEET AND THE DIAGRAM SUBMITTED TO THE WARREN
COMMISSION.

DR. FINCK TESTIFIED HE WOULD APPROXIMATE THE ANGLE OF
ENTRY OF THE BULLET ENTERING THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD TO BE WITHIN
FORTYFIVE DEGREES, BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT THE
ACTUAL DEGREES BECAUSE THE EXIT WOUND IN THE HEAD WAS VERY
LARGE.

ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE DURING THE AFTERNOON SESSION,
DR. FINCK WAS QUESTIONED EXTENSIVELY AS TO WHO TOOK NOTES
DURING THE AUTOPSY AND TO WHO HAD PREPARED THE AUTOPSY
WORKSHEET. HE WAS ALSO QUESTIONED EXTENSIVELY REGARDING HIS
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WARREN COMMISSION.

IN REGARDS TO FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NECK WOUND,
DR. FINCK TESTIFIED THAT HE DID NOT TRACE THE TRACK OF THIS
WOUND BECAUSE HE WAS TOLD NOT TO DO SO. HE TESTIFIED HE
ATTEMPTED TO PROBE THE WOUND IN THE BACK OF THE NECK^K BUT WAS
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NOT SUCCESSFUL PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE CONTRACTION OF THE NECK MUSCLES. HE TESTIFIED THAT FROM X-RAYS IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE BULLET WHICH ENTERED THE BACK OF THE PRESIDENT'S NECK AND CAME OUT THE FRONT HAD NOT STRUCK ANY MAJOR BONES.

HE TESTIFIED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE AUTOPSY HE WAS PUZZLED THAT ALTHOUGH HE COULD FIND ANY ENTRY WOUND IN THE BACK OF NECK HE COULD FIND NO EXIT WOUND, BUT THAT ^THIS WAS CLEARED UP IN A CONVERSATION WITH DOCTORS AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL, DALLAS, WHO INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SMALL WOUND IN THE FRONT OF THE NECK OF ^{THE} PRESIDENT PRIOR TO THE TRACHEOTOMY.

DR. FINCK WAS ALSO QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER HE BELIEVED THAT THE NEARLY INTACT BULLET, WARREN COMMISSION EXHIBIT THREE NINE NINE COULD HAVE CAUSED ^ETHE DAMAGE TO THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD. DR. FINCK REPLIED IT COULD NOT HAVE BECAUSE ^THE BULLET THAT STRUCK THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD DISINTEGRATED INTO NUMEROUS

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FRAGMENTS UPON CONTACT.

ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS OF THE TRIAL ON FEBRUARY TWENTYFOUR INSTANT, MARKED ANOTHER DAY WHEN THE NAME OF CLAY L. SHAW WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE COURTROOM DURING QUESTIONING.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION WAS RECESSED AND IT WAS INDICATED THAT DR. FINCK WOULD RETURN TO THE STAND ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY TWENTYFIVE INSTANT FOR FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION BY THE PROSECUTION.

NO LHM BEING SUBMITTED.

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