

Dallas Doctors Tell Of Desperate Fight For Kennedy's Life

NY-1125

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 24 (AP) — Physicians writing in the Texas State Journal of Medicine told today how President Kennedy died despite a desperate half hour of treatment by seven doctors.

All agreed that the president's injuries were too great for survival.

There was a faint beat but no pulse or blood pressure when he was brought to Parkland Hospital in Dallas about 12:30 P.M. Nov. 22. The Journal said that it had

asked the attending physicians to record their separate impressions soon after the shooting because "it was felt that the impressions of the individual participating physicians, written in a period of strain, without consideration of rhetoric, was perhaps of greatest value to medical history."

Some of the separate accounts prepared by the doctors follow:

One was by Dr. Charles J. Carrico, 28-year-old resident at Parkland, who was the first physician to see the President.

"When the patient entered the emergency room on an ambulance carriage he had slow agonal respiratory efforts and occasional cardiac beats," the doctor said. "Two external wounds were noted, one in the neck and the other a massive head and brain injury."

"No pulse or blood pressure were present," the doctor continued. "Pupils were dilated and fixed." A tube was inserted below the ragged neck wound and respiration began. Fluids were introduced into his veins in the right leg and the left arm. Respiration also was started with an anesthesia machine. "Despite those measures blood pressure never returned. Only brief electro-cardiographic evidence of cardiac activity was obtained."

Another of the physicians was Dr. Charles R. Baxter, 34, Parkland resident and assistant professor of surgery at Southwestern Medical School, Dallas.

"The pupils were fixed and deviated laterally and were dilated," Dr. Baxter wrote. "No pulse was detectable and infrequent respirations were being assisted. When all of these measures were complete, no heart beat could be detected. Due to the extensive and irreparable brain damage which existed and since there were no signs of life, no further attempts were made at resuscitation."

Dr. Robert N. McClelland, 34, Parkland resident, wrote that "the President was comatose from a massive gunshot wound of the head with a fragment wound of the trachea."

"The cause of death was the massive head and brain injury from a gunshot wound of the right side of the head," Dr. McClelland said.

Dr. William Kemp Clark, 38, Parkland resident and chairman of the division of neurosurgery at Southwestern Medical School, where he has done research on head injuries, wrote:

"The President had bled profusely from the back of the head. There was a large amount of cerebral tissue protruding from the [emergency room]. Much of the right posterior skull, at brief examination appeared gone. The President was pronounced dead at 1 P.M."