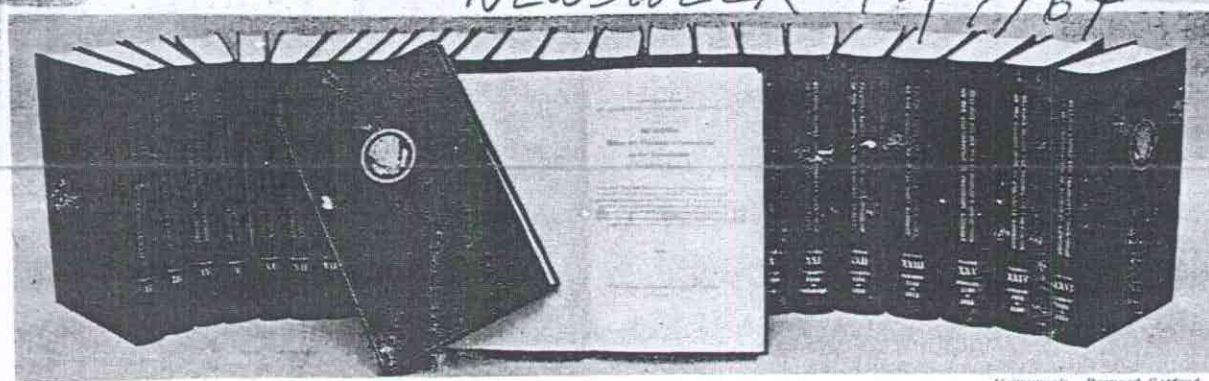


NEWSWEEK 12/7/64



Newsweek—Bernard Gotfryd

In 26 blue-backed volumes, the testimony and evidence collected by the Warren commission in its year-long investigation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy went on sale last week at \$76 the set. The volumes weigh 54 pounds, cover 552 witnesses and 3,154 exhibits. The first printing—2,500 sets—took two months to prepare.

What They Saw That Dreadful Day in Dallas

Two months ago, Earl Warren's Presidential investigating commission delivered its thick and impeccably thorough report to the White House and thus concluded the official accounting of the death of John F. Kennedy. But the assassination in Dallas was too fresh and too momentous an event to be sealed away in a single document; it was a story that would be told and retold as long as there were people to listen. And last week—by sad chance only a day after the first anniversary of Mr. Kennedy's murder—it was told again, in vivid, poignant, and sometimes cruel detail, by those who lived it.

Its verdict rendered, the Warren commission now published the 26 volumes of testimony, reports, documents, photographs, and exhibits it had amassed in the most painstaking murder investigation in history. For historians, novelists, and playwrights of the future, it was an encyclopedia of raw material. For Americans here and now, it was an almost unbearable excursion backward in time to a day of high tragedy.

Suddenly, across 17,814 pages of living history, it was all happening again: the blazing Texas sun (*it was terribly hot, Jacqueline Kennedy recalled, just blinding all of us*) and the triumphal motorcade (*it was, Kenny O'Donnell remembered telling Dave Powers, a fantastic crowd*). The gun in the sixth-floor window (*I seen this pipe thing sticking out, 16-year-old Amos Lee Euins testified*) and the shots (*I heard a noise, Mrs. John Connally said, a frightening noise*). Mr. Kennedy fatally wounded (*the sickening sound of a grapefruit splattering against the side of a wall, Dave Powers recounted*) and Jackie's anguished cries (*My God, they have shot his head off, Secret*

Service agent Clint Hill heard her say, and Jack, Jack, what have they done to you). The mad dash to the hospital (*we just literally jumped out of the goddam road, agent Roy Kellerman said*) and the death of a President on a stretcher cart (*and then, nurse Diana Bowron said, Mrs. Kennedy wanted to be alone with him after the priests left, so we all came out ... and she was alone with him in the trauma room*).

The Break: The commission had not intended that the testimony be put out so soon; it planned to distribute copies to the press last Wednesday for release this week. But on Sunday and Monday, Drew Pearson's assistant and occasional stand-in, Jack Anderson, broke excerpts from a transcript of Mrs. Johnson's statement he said he got from a source "within the Warren commission." With that, the Associated Press—which had been given copies of several volumes—decided to go ahead with the stories it already had in hand. And that left the commission with no choice but to rush the volumes out for immediate use.

The inadvertent timing made the anniversary even more harrowing for Jacqueline Kennedy; "due to the emotional strain of the last ten days," she canceled what was to have been her first public appearance since the funeral—a charity dinner this week in Los Angeles. Threaded through account after account was her haunting presence; the testimony added new dimension to the often-told stories of her public bearing and her private grief. She gave her own moving account to Warren and chief commission counsel J. Lee Rankin in a mercifully short ten-minute session at her old Georgetown home on June 5. She was the central figure in Mrs. Johnson's extraor-

dinary vivid statement; using raw notes she made a bare 36 hours after the assassination, the First Lady dictated that story into a tape recorder over three days starting Nov. 30, "as a form of therapy—to help me get over the shock and horror of the experience."

Mrs. Kennedy could not remember having scrambled out of the back seat onto the trunk of the car after the second, fatal shot ripped into the President's head. But agent Hill recalled vaulting onto the trunk and showing Mrs. Kennedy back into the auto—and he had a chillingly plausible theory as to why she crawled out. "Mrs. Kennedy ... was, it appeared to me, reaching for something coming off the right rear bumper of the car," Hill recounted. "I thought I saw something come off the back, too, but I cannot say that there was. I do know that the next day we found ... [a] portion of the President's head ... in the street."

Picture Proof: For a time, Mrs. Kennedy had been pained by the ungrounded guilt of the bereft: if only she had been looking the President's way, she might have pulled him to safety after the first shot. But the commission's own exhibits revealed that she had tormented herself needlessly. The remarkable film shot by dress manufacturer and amateur cameraman Abraham Zapruder indicates that Mrs. Kennedy was in fact looking toward the President and that she did reach out to him instinctively after the first shot struck.

Mrs. Kennedy had shown a flash of human anger, too. The Anderson column—a letter-perfect reproduction of Mrs. Johnson's statement in every other respect—included a poignant vignette that was missing from the official volumes. In the plane, Mrs. Johnson had

...ged Mrs. Kennedy in vain to change out of her blood-drenched pink dress. "And then," Anderson quoted her as saying, "with something—if you can say a person that gentle, that dignified ... had an element of fierceness ... [Mrs. Kennedy] said, 'I want them to see what they have done to Jack.'" Pressed on the point, Rankin said Mrs. Johnson must have deleted the passage before sending her transcript to the commission; the White House wouldn't comment.

Profiles in Courage: Mostly, the witnesses remembered Mrs. Kennedy for her numbed horror—and for the incredible poise that concealed it. Doris Mae Nelson, a Parkland Hospital nurse, recalled her walking in beside Mr. Kennedy's stretcher "and the roses that she had been given at the airport were lying on top of the President." Others saw her move tearlessly in and out of the emergency room; Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry heard a hospital staffer suggest that she sit down, "and she said, 'I am all right. Some of your people need to sit down more than I do.'" On the plane trip home, Mr. Kennedy's staffers tried to console her—and quickly found that she was consoling them. "The one impression," Larry O'Brien recalled, "was her great concern for us, really her feeling that we had, as she put it, been with him at the beginning and we were with him at the end ..."

The 26 volumes form an indispensable record for the scholars and controversialists who will seek an ultimate judgment on how well the commission performed its task. They can judge for themselves, for example, how responsible an advocate Mark Lane was for Lee Harvey Oswald's innocence in the light of the New York lawyer's refusal to answer crucial questions. They can see how a fantasist of the far right, Bircher Revilo Oliver, admitted under patient, persevering interrogation that his outlandish theory of the assassination (JFK was aided by fellow Communists) had no firmer basis than news stories and hearsay. They may wonder why the volumes do not include the original summary reports on the assassination by the FBI, the Secret Service, and the State Department—though those reports will be available later in government archives.

Private Thoughts: But such judgments are unlikely to outlast the sheer emotional impact of a tale that is the stuff of folklore. The pages crackle with the electricity of human feeling. Like Mrs. Kennedy, Texas Gov. John Connally had felt a needless twinge of guilt; leading up his testimony, he suddenly confided: "I have often wondered myself why I never had the presence of mind enough—I obviously did say something; I said, 'Oh, no, no, no,' and then I said, 'My God, they are going to kill us ...'"

'Got down in the car, but I didn't ...'

There were petty moments, too, as the commission explored the shadowed background of Lee Harvey Oswald. The assassin's wife, Marina, and mother, Marguerite, traded accusations on the stand. John Edward Pic, Lee's half-brother, doubted that their mother really believed in Oswald's innocence: "It is my own opinion that she is out right now to make as much money as she can on her relationship with Lee Harvey Oswald." And James Martin, cashiered as Marina's business manager nine days before he testified, said she had spoken of the "silly Americans" who sent her money. Actually, he insisted, she was spending her way through some \$70,000 in donations and a pro-

'I was shouting ... with his head in my lap ... it seemed an eternity.'

Jacqueline Kennedy

The Chairman. The commission will be in order. Mrs. Kennedy, the commission would just like to have you say in your own words, in your own way, what happened at the time of the assassination of the President ... And we want it to be brief. We want it to be in your own words and want you to say anything that you feel is appropriate to that occasion. Would you be sworn, please, Mrs. Kennedy? Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you give be-



The Connallys, the Johnsons, JFK: A prayer at breakfast, Nov. 22

jected \$300,000 from her memoirs and memorabilia; with her assent, he said, he had understated that income in public so people would send more.

And there was one of history's fantastic coincidences in the testimony of George S. de Mohrenschildt, 53, a 6-foot-1, Russian-born promoter who knew Jacqueline Kennedy as "a charming little girl" in East Hampton, N.Y., in 1938—and Lee Harvey Oswald as a sometime defector returned to Dallas with his Russian bride a quarter-century later.

And the irony did not end in that link. Once, de Mohrenschildt said, "I mentioned to him [Oswald] that I met Mrs. Kennedy when she was a child, you know, that she was a very strong-willed child, very intelligent and very attractive child, you see, and a very attractive family, and I thought that Kennedy was doing a very good job with regard to the racial problem, you know ... And he also agreed with me, 'yes, yes, yes; I think it is an excellent President, young, full of energy, full of good ideas.' He was the best President Kennedy."

fore the commission will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mrs. Kennedy. I do.

The Chairman. Would you be seated.

Mr. Rankin. State your name for the record.

Mrs. Kennedy. Jacqueline Kennedy.

Q. And you are the widow of the former President Kennedy?

A. That is right ...

Q. Can you go back to the time that you came to Love Field on Nov. 22 and describe what happened there after you landed in the plane?

A. We got off the plane. The then Vice President and Mrs. Johnson were there. They gave us flowers. And then the car was waiting, but there was a big crowd there, all yelling, with banners and everything. And we went to shake hands with them. It was a very hot day. And you went all along a long line. I tried to stay close to my husband and lots of times you get pushed away, you know, people leaning over and pulling your hand. They were very

friendly. And, finally, I don't know how we got back to the car...

Q. And then did you start off on the parade route?

A. Yes.

Q. And were there many people along the route that you waved to?

A. Yes. It was rather scattered going in. Once there was a crowd of people with a sign saying something like "President Kennedy, please get out and shake our hands, our neighbors said you wouldn't."

Q. Did you?

A. And he stopped and got out. That was, you know, like a little suburb and there were not many crowds. But then the crowds got bigger as you went in.

Q. As you got into the main street of Dallas were there very large crowds on the streets?

A. Yes.

Q. And you waved to them and proceeded... with the motorcade?

A. Yes. And in the motorcade, you know, I usually would be waving mostly to the left side and he was waving mostly to the right, which is one reason we are not looking at each other very much. And it was terribly hot. Just sweating all of us.

Q. Now, do you remember as you turned off of the main street onto Houston Street?...

A. Well, I remember whenever it was Governor Connally said, "We will soon be here." We could see a tunnel in front of us. Everything was really slow then. And I remember thinking it would be so hot under that tunnel.

Q. And then do you remember as you turned off of Houston onto Elm... the street that sort of curves as you go down under the underpass.

A. Yes; well, that is when she said to President Kennedy, "You certainly can't say that the people of Dallas haven't given you a nice welcome."

Q. What did he say?

A. I think he said—I don't know if I remember it or I have read it—"No, you certainly can't," or something. And you know then the car was very slow and there weren't many people around. And then—do you want me to tell you what happened?

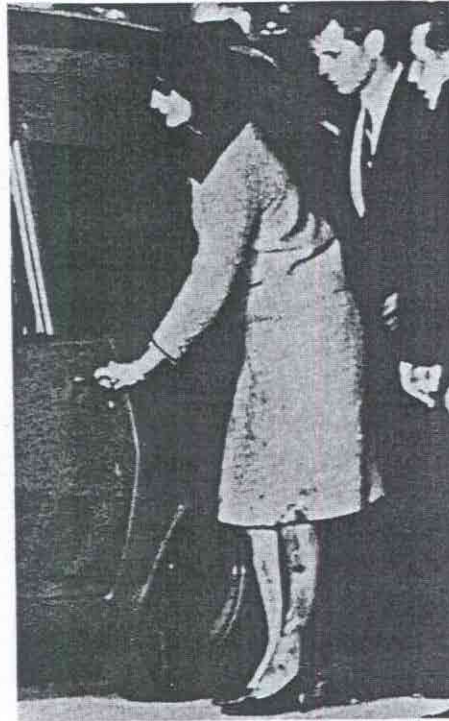
Q. Yes; if you would please.

A. You know, there is always noise in the motorcade and there are always motorcycles beside us, a lot of them backing up. So I was looking to the left. I guess there was a noise, but it didn't seem like any different noise really because there is so much noise, motorcycles and things. But then suddenly Governor Connally was yelling, "Oh, no, no, no."

Q. Did he turn toward you?

A. No; I was looking this way, to the left, and I heard these terrible noises. You know. And my husband never made any sound. So I turned to the right and

all I remember is seeing my husband. He had this sort of quizzical look on his face, and his hand was up, it must have been his left hand. And just as I turned and looked at him, I could see a piece of his skull and I remember it was flesh colored. I remember thinking he just looked as if he had a slight headache. And I just remember seeing that. No blood or anything. And then he sort of did this [indicating] put his hand to his forehead and fell in my lap. And then I just remember falling on him and saying, "Oh, no, no, no," I mean, "Oh, my God, they have shot my husband." And "I



Jackie: 'I want them to see'

love you, Jack," I remember I was shouting. And just being down in the car with his head in my lap. And it just seemed an eternity. You know, then, there were pictures later of me climbing out the back. But I don't remember that at all.

Q. Do you remember [Secret Service agent Clinton] Hill coming to try to help on the car?

A. I don't remember anything. I was just down like that. And finally I remember a voice behind me, or something, and then I remember the people in the front seat, or somebody, finally knew something was wrong, and a voice yelling, which must have been Mr. Hill, "Get to the hospital," or maybe it was [Secret Service agent Roy H.] Kellerman, in the front seat. But someone yelling. I was just down and holding him. [Reference to wounds deleted.]

Q. Do you have any recollection of whether there were one or more shots?

A. Yes; there must have been two

because the one that made the biggest sound around was Governor Connally yelling. And it used to confuse me because first I remembered there were three and I used to think my husband didn't make any sound when he was shot. And Governor Connally screamed. And then I read the other day that it was the same shot that hit them both. But I used to think if I only had been looking to the right I would have seen the first shot hit him, then I could have pulled him down, and then the second shot would not have hit him. But I heard Governor Connally yelling and that made me turn around, and as I turned to the right my husband was doing this [indicating with hand at neck]. He was receiving a bullet. And those are the only two I remember. And I read there was a third shot. But I don't know. Just those two...

Q. And did you stop at any time after the shots...?

A. I don't know, because—I don't think we stopped. But there was such confusion. And I was down in the car and everyone was yelling to get to the hospital and you could hear them on the radio, and then suddenly I remember a sensation of enormous speed, which must have been when we took off.

Q. And then from there you proceeded as rapidly as possible to the hospital, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall anyone saying anything else during the time of the shooting?

A. No; there weren't any words. There was just Governor Connally's. And then I suppose Mrs. Connally was sort of crying and covering her husband. But I don't remember any words...

Mr. Rankin... Anything more?

The Chairman. No; I think not. I think that is the story and that is what came for. We thank you very much, Mrs. Kennedy...

'I don't think I ever saw anyone so much alone... God help us all'

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Johnson submitted a taped recorded statement:

"It all began so beautifully. After a drizzle in the morning, the sun came, bright and beautiful. We were going to Dallas. In the lead car, President John F. Kennedy, John and Nellie [Connally], and then a Secret Service car of men, and then our car—Lyndon, me and Senator Yarborough. The streets were lined with people—lots and lots of people—the children all smiling; people waving, confetti; people waving...

"Then almost at the edge of town on

...re going to have the luncheon, we
 ...rounding a curve, going down a
 ...and suddenly there was a sharp loud
 ...port—a shot. It seemed to me to come
 ...from the right, above my shoulder, from
 ...building. Then a moment and then two
 ...shots in rapid succession. There had
 ...such a gale air that I thought it
 ...st be firecrackers or some sort of cele-
 ...bration. Then, in the lead car, the Secret
 ...Service men were suddenly down. I
 ...rd over the radio system, 'Let's get
 ...of here,' and our Secret Service
 ...who was with us, Bill Youngblood
 ...vaulted over the front seat on top of
 ...Lyndon, threw him to the floor, and said,
 ...'down!'

'It Can't Be'—Senator Yarborough
 ...and I ducked our heads. The car accel-
 ...erated terrifically—faster and faster.
 ...suddenly they put on the brakes
 ...I heard that I wondered if they were
 ...to make it as we wheeled left and
 ...around the corner. We pulled up
 ...building. I looked up and saw it said
 ...spital.' Only then I believe that
 ...might be what it was. Yarborough
 ...on saying in an excited voice, 'Have
 ...shot the President.' I said some-
 ...like, 'No; it can't be.'

As we ground to a halt—we were still
 ...third car—Secret Service men began
 ...bull, lead, guide, and hustle us out. I
 ...one last look over my shoulder and
 ...in the President's car, a bundle of
 ...pink, just like a drift of blossoms, lying on
 ...back seat. I think it was Mrs. Ken-
 ...ly lying over the President's body.
 ...They led us to the left, and
 ...ward into a quiet room in the hospital
 ...very small room. It was lined with
 ...white sheets, I believe.

'People came and ... There was
 ...about where we could go—back to
 ...Washington, to the plane, to our house.
 ...People spoke of ... widespread this
 ...y be. Through ... Lyndon was re-
 ...markably calm and quiet. Every face
 ...that came in, you could feel the an-
 ...ters you must know. I think the face I
 ...at seeing it on ... the face of Kenny
 ...O'Donnell, who loved him so much.'

'Help Us': 'It was ... Lyndon as usual
 ...no thought of it first, although I wasn't
 ...going to leave without doing it. He said,
 ...'You had better try to see if you can see
 ...Jackie and Nellie.' We didn't know what
 ...had happened to John. I asked the Se-
 ...cret Service men if ... could be taken to
 ...m. They began to lead me up one
 ...ridor, back stairs and down another.
 ...Suddenly I found myself face to face
 ...with Jackie in a small hall. I think it was
 ...at outside the operating room. You al-
 ...ways think of her—or someone like her—
 ...being insulated, protected; she was
 ...ite alone. I don't think I ever saw any-
 ...one so much alone in my life. I went up
 ...to her, put my arms around her, and said
 ...something to her ... something like, 'God
 ...help us all because my face is so red.'

were too tumultuous to put into words.
 And then I went in to see Nellie.
 There it was different because Nellie
 and I have gone through so many things
 ... I hugged her tight and we both cried
 and I said, 'Nellie, it's going to be all
 right.' And Nellie said, 'Yes; John's
 going to be all right. Among her many
 other fine qualities, she is also tough.
 "Then I turned and went back to the
 small white room where Lyndon was.
 [White House press aide Mac] Kilduff
 and Kenny O'Donnell were coming and
 going. I think it was from Kenny's face
 and Kenny's voice that I first heard the
 words, 'The President is dead.' Mr. Kil-
 duff entered and said to Lyndon, 'Mr.
 President.'
 "It was decided that we would go im-
 mediately to the airport ... It was Lyn-

she was called to come in a hurry.
 Mrs. Kennedy had arrived by this
 time and the coffin, and there—in the
 very narrow confines of the plane with
 Jackie on his left with her hair falling in
 her face, but very composed, and then
 Lyndon, and I was on his right, Judge
 Hughes with the Bible in front of her
 and a cluster of Secret Service people
 and Congressmen we had known for a
 long time—Lyndon took the oath ...
Compassion: It's odd at a time like
 that the little things that come to your
 mind and a moment of deep compassion
 you have for people who are really not
 at the center of the tragedy. I heard a
 Secret Service man say in the most deso-
 late voice, and I hurt for him, 'We never
 lost a President in the Service.' And then
 Police Chief Curry of Dallas, came



Homebound: 'And now, dear God, it's come to this'

Lyndon who said we ... go to the plane
 in unmarked cars ... out of the
 hospital into the ... was one of the
 swiftest walks I have ever made. We got
 in. Lyndon said ... the sirens. We
 drove along as fast as we could. I looked
 up at a building, and there already was
 a flag at half mast. I think that is when
 the enormity of what had happened first
 struck me.
 "When we got to the airplane, we en-
 tered airplane ... the first time.
 There was a TV set on, and the com-
 mentator was saying, 'Lyndon B. John-
 son, now President of the United States
 ...' On the plane all the shades were
 lowered. Lyndon said that we were
 going to wait for Mrs. Kennedy and the
 coffin ... It was decided that he should
 be sworn in in Dallas quickly as possible
 because of international implications, and
 because we did not know how wide-
 spread this incident was as to intended
 victims. Judge Sarah Hughes, a Federal
 judge in Dallas, and I am glad it was

the plane and ... to Mrs. Kennedy,
 'Mrs. Kennedy, believe me, we did
 everything we possibly could.'
 "We all sat around the plane. We had
 at first been sheltered in the main private
 Presidential ... on the plane—but
 Lyndon quickly said, 'No, no,' and im-
 mediately led us out of there; we felt
 that is where Mrs. Kennedy should be.
 The casket was in the hall. I went in to
 see Mrs. Kennedy, and, though it was a
 very hard thing to do, she made it as
 easy as possible. She said things like
 'Oh, Lady Bird, it's good that we've
 always liked you two so much.' She
 said, 'Oh, what if I had not been there,
 I'm so glad I was there.'
 "I looked at her. Mrs. Kennedy's dress
 was stained with blood. Her right glove
 was caked—that immaculate woman—
 it was caked with blood, her husband's
 very blood. She always wore gloves like
 she was used to them, I never could. Some-
 how that was one of the most poignant
 sights I ever saw. I don't
 recall that he even commented

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friendly. And, finally, I don't know how we got back to the car...

Q. And then did you start off on the parade route?

A. Yes.

Q. And were there many people along the route that you waved to?

A. Yes. It was rather scattered going on. Once there was a crowd of people with a sign saying something like "President Kennedy, please get out and shake our hands, our neighbors said you wouldn't."

Q. Did you?

A. And he stopped and got out. That was, you know, like a little suburb and there were not many crowds. But then the crowds got bigger as you went in.

Q. As you got into the main street of Dallas were there very large crowds on the streets?

A. Yes.

Q. And you waved to them and provided... with the motorcade?

A. Yes. And in the motorcade, you know, I usually would be waving mostly to the left side and he was waving mostly to the right, which is one reason we are not looking at each other very much. And it was terribly hot. Just sweating all of us.

Q. Now, do you remember as you turned off of the main street onto Houston Street?

A. Well, I remember whenever it was Mrs. Connally said, "We will soon be there." We could see a tunnel in front of us. Everything was really slow then. And I remember thinking it would be so slow under that tunnel.

Q. And then do you remember as you turned off of Houston onto Elm... the street that sort of curves as you go down under the underpass.

A. Yes; well, that is when she said to President Kennedy, "You certainly can't say that the people of Dallas haven't given you a nice welcome."

Q. What did he say?

A. I think he said—I don't know if I remember it or I have read it—"No, you certainly can't," or something. And you know then the car was very slow and there weren't many people around. And then—do you want me to tell you what happened?

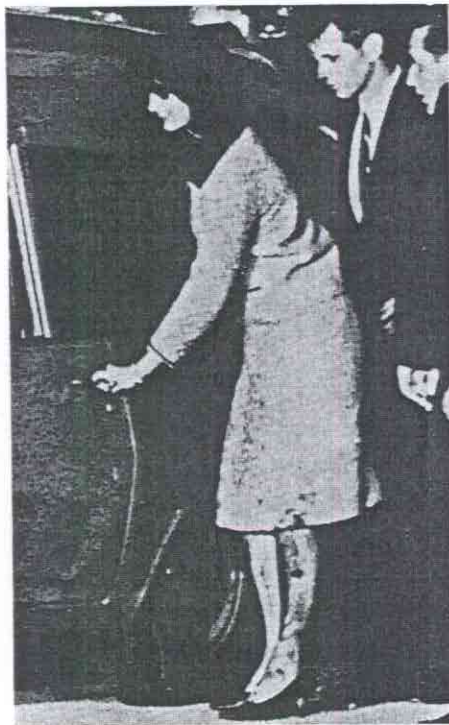
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Q. Did he turn toward you?

A. No; I was looking this way, to the left, and I heard these terrible noises. You know. And my husband never made any sound. So I turned to the right and

all I remember is seeing [my husband]. He had this sort of quizzical look on his face, and his hand was up, it must have been his left hand. And just as I turned and looked at him, I could see a piece of his skull and I remember it was flesh colored. I remember thinking he just looked as if he had a slight headache. And I just remember seeing that. No blood or anything. And then he sort of did this [indicating] put his hand to his forehead and fell in my lap. And then I just remember falling on him and saying, "Oh, no, no, no," I mean, "Oh, my God, they have shot my husband." And "I



Jackie: 'I want them to see'

love you, Jack," I remember I was shouting. And just being down in the car with his head in my lap. And it just seemed an eternity. You know, then, there were pictures later of me climbing out the back. But I don't remember that at all.

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Q. And then from there you proceeded as rapidly as possible to the hospital, is that right?

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Q. Do you recall anyone saying anything else during the time of the shooting?

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Mr. Rankin... Anything more?

The Chairman. No; I think not. I think that is the story and that is what we came for. We thank you very much, Mrs. Kennedy...

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Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

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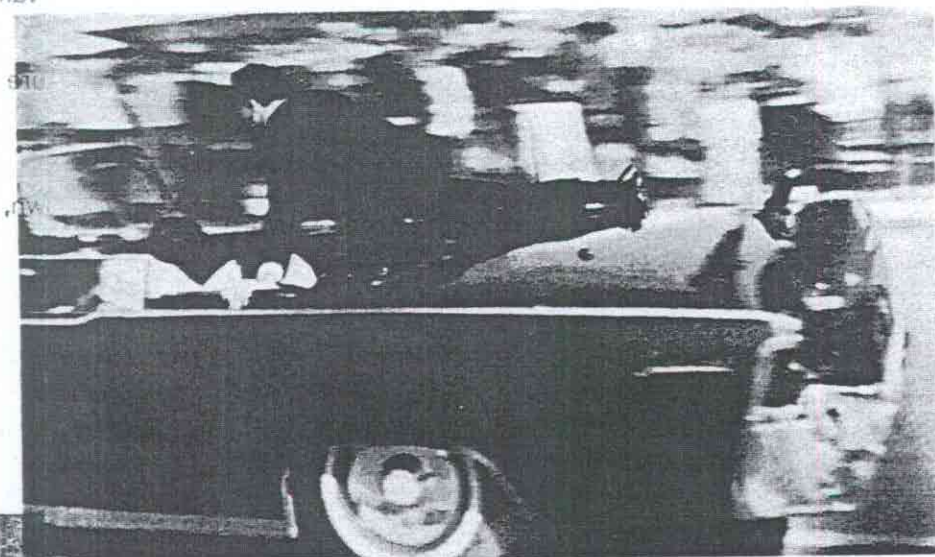
"Then almost at the edge of town, on our way to the hospital, the car

matter of whether the oath of office as President should be administered to me immediately or after we returned to Washington, and that he would call back.

"I thereafter talked with McGeorge Bundy and Walter Jenkins, both of whom urged that the return to Washington should not be delayed. I told them I was waiting for Mrs. Kennedy and for the ... body to be placed on the plane, and would not return prior to that time."

The Oath: "As I remember, our conversation was interrupted to allow the Attorney General to come back on the line. He said that the oath should be administered immediately, before taking off ... and that it should be administered by a judicial officer of the United States. Shortly thereafter, the Deputy Attorney General, Mr. [Nicholas] Katzenbach, dictated the form of oath to one of the secretaries aboard the plane.

"I thought of Sarah Hughes, an old friend who is judge of the U.S. district court in Dallas. We telephoned ... She was not there, but she returned the call in a few minutes and said she would be at the airplane in ten minutes ...



Associated Press

As Hill vaults in, Jackie cried: 'Jack, what have they done to you?'

"A few minutes later Mrs. Kennedy and the President's coffin arrived. Mrs. Johnson and I spoke to her. We tried to comfort her, but our words seemed inadequate. She went into the private quarters of the plane. I estimate that Mrs. Kennedy and the coffin arrived about a half hour after we entered the plane—just after 2 o'clock.

"About a half hour later, I asked someone to find out if Mrs. Kennedy would stand with us during the administration of the oath. Mrs. Johnson went back to be with her. Mrs. Kennedy came and stood with us during the moments that the oath was being administered.

"I shall never forget her bravery, nobility, and dignity.

"I'm told that the oath was administered at 2:40 p.m. Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kennedy were at my side as Judge Hughes administered the oath of office.

"The plane took off promptly after the swearing-in ceremonies. I then called President Kennedy's mother, Mrs. Rose Kennedy. She had previously been advised of the assassination. I told her of our grief and of our sorrow for her. I gave the telephone to Mrs. Johnson, who also tried to bring a word of comfort to the President's mother. I then called Nellie Connally, the governor's wife, and told her of our concern for her and John, and tried to give her some comfort.

"I then asked General Clifton, the military aide to the President, to call McGeorge Bundy in Washington to instruct him to ask the Cabinet members who were on their way to Japan to return immediately.

"When we landed at the Andrews Air Force Base, I made a short statement for the press, radio, and television. In my heart, I asked for God's help that I should not prove unworthy of the responsibility which fate had thrust upon me."

'I saw the third shot hit ... such a perfect shot—I remember I blessed myself'

**Kenneth O'Donnell,
Presidential Assistant**

[O'Donnell testified that he and another White House staffer, David Powers, were riding in the Secret Service follow-up car behind the President's limousine.]

Q. Tell us what occurred then as you made that turn away from the crowded downtown Dallas area and headed toward the plaza area.

A. Well, I sat down. I remember say-

ing to Dave Powers that it was a terrific crowd. He agreed. We turned. I remember the overpass. And then the shots occurred—which, at that time, I did not know were shots. My first impression was it was a firecracker. And then either somebody said, "He has been hit," or I noticed the slump—he had been waving out of the right side of the car, and I noticed him slump over toward Mrs. Kennedy, and I realized then that there had been shots. But as fast as that realization occurred, I saw the third shot hit. It was such a perfect shot—I remember I blessed myself. I was rather convinced that was a fatal blow ...

Q. What reaction did you observe as to Mrs. Kennedy during the shots?

A. Well, he slumped on her. She appeared to be immediately aware that something had happened. She turned toward him ... She turned, looking at the backup car. Meanwhile agent Hill had gotten off the [backup] car and started running up. She was clambering toward the back, and reached his hand, and he was on the car ...

Q. About how long did it take for the motorcade to get to the hospital?

A. I would guess five to ten minutes ... We got out of the car. David Powers got out of the car, went over to the President, and was not visible to me, and was crying, he laid on him. And then they came and took the President ...

Q. What did you do next, Mr. O'Donnell?

A. I went into the hospital and went right to Mrs. Kennedy. She was seated right outside the room where they had placed the President. I would say she was in a total daze, and as yet not knowing whether there was any hope or not.

Q. What were your activities in the period of time immediately following that moment?

A. Well, I stayed with her for a few minutes, and then no one seemed to be able to get any conclusive answer as to the President's condition ... The first thing I had done—I asked them to get a priest, which they did immediately and went into the room. There were four or five doctors there ... And I said, "I think we better get a definite answer one way or another—is there any hope at all?" I was unable to get a conclusive answer. But I think I got the answer I needed. I don't know how Mrs. Kennedy was finally told. I may have told her about it at that moment. Between the time and the time I knew definitely, I went to see the Vice President ...

Q. And what conversations ... did you have with ... Vice President Johnson?

A. I told him it looked very, very serious, and in my opinion that it was probably fatal ... I would let him know as soon as it was definite—but it looked pretty black. I then left him. I don't recollect that he even commented. I left

...to help her... and she said, 'Oh, no. Perhaps later.' I asked Mary Gallagher, but not right now.

"I tried to express something of how I felt. I said, 'Oh, God, Kennedy, you know we never even wanted to be Vice President and now... God, it's come to this.' I would have done anything to help her, but there was nothing I could do to help her, so I quickly left and went back to the main part of the airplane where everyone was seated.

"The ride to Washington was silent, strained—each with his own thoughts. One of mine was something I had said about Lyndon a long time ago—that he's a good man in a tight spot. I even remember one little thing he said in that hospital room, 'Tell the children to get a Secret Service man with them.'

"Finally, we got to Washington, with a cluster of people waiting. Many bright lights. The casket went off first; then Mrs. Kennedy. The family had come to join them, and they followed. Lyndon made a very brief and very brief and think—strong, to the folks there. Only about four... I think. We got in cars; we drove him off at the White House, and... me."

could not believe now that he was... I was shocked and stunned'

President Johnson

The President submitted a statement July 10:

"After we had... a short way down Elm Street, I heard a sharp report. The crowd at that point had become somewhat spotty.

"The Vice President's car was then about three car lengths behind President Kennedy's car, with... Presidential follow-up car intervening.

"I was startled by the sharp report or explosion, but I had no time to speculate as to its origin because agent Youngblood turned in a flash, immediately after the first explosion, hitting me on the shoulder, and shouted to all of us in the back seat to get down. I was washed down by agent Youngblood.

"Almost in the same moment in which I was hit or pushed... vaulted over the back seat and sat on me. I was bent over under the weight of agent Youngblood's body, toward Mrs. Johnson and Senator Yarborough.

"I remember attempting to turn my head to make sure that Mrs. Johnson had bent down. Both she and Senator Yarborough had crouched down at agent Youngblood's command.

"At some time... sequence of events... explosion... it

...was impossible... from which... explosions came.

"I felt the... sharply accelerated, and in a moment blood released... I ascertained that Mrs. Johnson... Senator Yarborough were all right. I... agent Youngblood speaking over... transmitter. I asked him what... happened. He said that he was not... but that he had learned that the... was going to the hospital.

"I did not see... that was going on in... the... automobile."

Stay Close:... we arrived at the hospital, agent... told me to get out of the... into the building, not to stop, and to stay close to him and the other agents... the car came to



Agent Youngblood: 'Get down!'

a stop, a cordon... formed around me, and we... rapidly into the hospital and... into a room there... I did not... the Presidential car or any of the... in it.

"In the hospital... to which Mrs. Johnson and... taken, the shades were drawn—I... agent Youngblood. In addition... him, two or three other agents were...

"As I remember... got our first specific report from... Roberts, one of the agents from... White House detail. He told us that... Kennedy had been very badly... and that his condition was quite poor. He said that he thought we should make plans to get back to Washington immediately.

"I asked about Governor Connally and was told that he, too, had been shot, but that his... was not serious. I...

...Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kennedy were uninjured and that no one else had been hurt.

"Mrs. Johnson and I asked if we could see Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Connally. Agent Youngblood told me that I should not leave the... and I followed his direction.

"Mrs. Johnson... allowed to leave for this purpose.

"It was... Connally who, at 1:20 p.m., told... the President had died. I think... precise words 'He's gone.'... Connally said that I should return... Washington and that I should take the... President's plane...

"I found it... to believe that had happened... whole thing seemed unreal—unbelievable. A few hours later, I had breakfast with John Kennedy. He was alive, strong, vigorous. I did not believe now that he was dead. I was shocked and sickened.

Return: "When... O'Donnell told me to get on the plane and go back to... Washington, I asked... Mrs. Kennedy. Mrs. O'Donnell told me... [she] would leave the hospital... the President's body, and... in that we... Air Force I and... return to Washington. I did not... to go and leave Mrs. Kennedy in this situation. I said... I agreed that we would board the plane and wait... Mrs. Kennedy, the President's... were to board the plane.

"It is, of course, difficult to convey an accurate impression of the period of that we were... in the hospital room were all stunned... suppose we were in a state of shock... there was no time to wear... sufficiently so that the magnitude of our personal loss... great man and... hand could express itself in words... surface feelings.

"I suppose... that the only relief for the... shock had merged was our... painful, and concern and sorrow for Mrs. Kennedy.

"Despite my... of the report for Mr. O'Donnell... assistance—in what I think he was... one or more of the Secret Service... that we... Dallas, and... Washington... delay, I was convinced that we... not return Mrs. Kennedy... ready, and that we would carry... President's body with us if she..."

Bobby: "Shortly after we boarded the plane, I called... Kennedy... I knew... grief-stricken... and I would like to say something... would comfort him. Despite his... shock, he discussed practical problems... at hand—problems of special urgency because we did not at that time have any information as to the motivation of the assassination or its possible implications. The Attorney General... that the... would be..."

him and went back to Mrs. Kennedy, and within a very few minutes they confirmed ... that the President was dead.

Q. What did you do next?

A. [After informing Mr. Johnson] I then went back to Mrs. Kennedy, who was in a very understandably distraught condition ... I tried to in some way imply that she might leave and come with us, at least to get her out of that room. She was covered with blood ...

Q. What was her response to you?

A. Her response to me was she would not leave her husband's body. At that point, I realized that she would not. The doctor had continually attempted to get her to take some form of sedation. And she had consistently refused, and told me she would not take anything, that she was going to stay with her husband ... And so, therefore, the only alternative I could see was that we move the President ... It seems to me it wasn't more than half an hour that they arrived with the casket. I remember just before they arrived I got Dave Powers and said there was a little room in the back that we ought to just take Mrs. Kennedy under some subterfuge, and talk to her in the room while we brought the casket in, because I thought that might be the final blow. And we did, and—but she knew what was going on. She came out and said, "No, I want to watch it all." And she stood in the doorway, and thanked us for our attempt at being compassionate. And then they took it in, and put the body in the casket. We were then all prepared to go ... We—the casket was brought out about halfway, and a gentleman arrived who said that we would not be allowed to remove the body ... until the necessary papers had been signed.

Q. Do you know who he was?

A. I don't recollect ... I think he was maybe from the coroner's office ... we waited about ten or fifteen minutes ... Then a gentleman did arrive who has later been identified for me as a Judge Brown ... If my recollection is clear, he said something to the effect that as of now this was just a homicide case, and there were certain things that had to be carried out, one of which I interpreted as an autopsy ... I realized we were talking not about hours, but perhaps even days, which was an impossible situation for Mrs. Kennedy ... I in my own mind determined that we had no alternative but to just depart ... We went in and took the body out. Mrs. Kennedy stood right behind it ... We pushed the casket out through the hall. This first gentleman that had come in, who, I presume, was from the coroner's office, shouted very loudly, "You can't do that, you can't leave here now." Nobody paid any attention to him. We pushed out ...

Q. On the return flight to Washington, where did you sit?

A. I sat with Mrs. Kennedy almost all the way ... The President called me up on one or two occasions and asked me to stay up in the cabin, wanted to talk to me, but I felt I had to stay with Mrs. Kennedy ...

Q. What did you talk about?

A. We reminisced.

Q. Did she have anything to eat on the trip back?

A. No; I think we both had a drink. I tried to get her to take a good strong drink. I had not much luck.

Q. She drank part but not all?

A. As I recollect, she just wanted to talk. She talked all the way.

[O'Donnell said he had discussed Presidential safety with Mr. Kennedy that very morning, in Fort Worth.]

Q. And tell us, as nearly as you can recollect, exactly what he said at that time, please.

A. Well ... he said that if anybody really wanted to shoot the President of

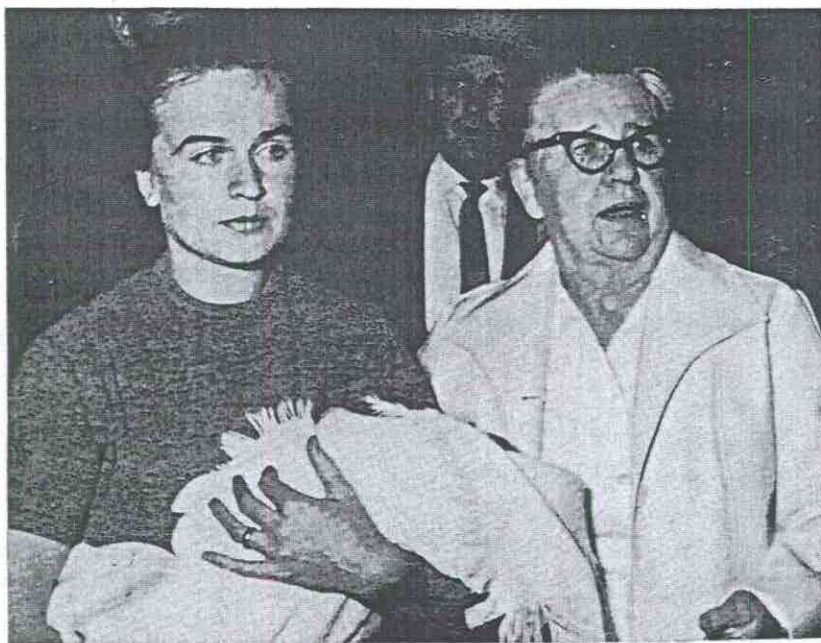
President and I were discussing a forthcoming trip to the West Coast, and he had asked her if she would come, and she said she would be delighted to come, and she would like to go from now on. The President was delighted. We were all delighted ...

'It's incomprehensible to me ... I think that Lee had a sick imagination'

Marina Oswald

Q. Did he ever say anything about President Kennedy?

A. No. At least—I was always interested in President Kennedy and had asked him many times to translate articles in a newspaper or magazine for me ... He translated it, but never did comment on it. At least in Lee's behavior—from Lee's behavior I cannot conclude that he was against the President, and



Associated Press

Marina and Marguerite Oswald: Must Mama share the blame?

the United States, it was not a very difficult job—all one had to do was get a high building some day with a telescopic rifle, and there was nothing anybody could do to defend against such an attempt on the President's life.

Q. What was Mrs. Kennedy's reaction to that philosophy?

A. I think—I think she had not quite thought of this at all ... But I think the general tenor of the conversation was that she agreed that this was—in this democracy, this is inherent.

Q. What had her reaction been to the trip to Texas up to that point?

A. She had enjoyed it. She had not been a girl who had loved campaigning. And I thought at the moment, at that very minute, that for the first time—the

therefore the thing is incomprehensible to me. Perhaps he hid it from me. He said that after twenty years he would be prime minister. I think that he had a sick imagination ... at times. I always tried to point out to him that he was a man like any others who were around us. But he simply could not understand ...

Q. Can you tell us what you observed about him that caused you to think he was different?

A. At least his imagination, his fantasy, which was quite unfounded, as to the fact that he was an outstanding man. And then the fact that he was very much interested, exceedingly so, in autobiographical works of outstanding statesmen of the U.S. and others ... I think that he compared himself to these peo-

ple whose autobiographies he read.

Q. What motive would you ascribe to your husband in killing [Mr. Kennedy]?

A. As I saw the documents that were being read to me, I came to the conclusion that he wanted in any-by any means, good or bad, to get into history ... I think that there was some political foundation to it, a foundation of which I am not aware.

Q. By that, do you mean that your husband, acted in concert with somebody else?

A. No, only alone ...

Q. Did you consider your husband a Communist?

A. He told me when we were in New

President lean over and grab himself.

Q. He was sitting upright in the car and you heard the shot and you saw the President slump over?

A. Leaning-leaning toward the side of Jacqueline. For a moment I thought it was, you know, like you say, "Oh, he got me," when you hear a shot-you've heard these expressions and then I saw-I don't believe the President is going to make jokes like this, but before I had a chance to organize my mind, I heard a second shot and then I saw his head opened up and the blood and everything came out and I started-I can hardly talk about it (the witness crying).

Q. That's all right, Mr. Zapruder ...

A. Oh, I think this was beyond our prerogative completely. I think as we pronounced the President dead, those in attendance who were there just sort of melted away, well, I guess "melted" is the wrong word, but we felt like we were intruders and left ... the facts were we knew he had a fatal wound, and I think my own ... feeling was that this was-would have been meddling on anybody's part after death to have done any further search ...

When we saw the two priests who arrived in the corridor outside the emergency room ... I went to the door and asked one... what is the proper time to declare one dead. That is, I am not a

| REGISTRATION OF PATIENTS | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|-----|------|------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| DALLAS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT - EMERGENCY ROOM | | | | | | | | | |
| DATE | | A.M. | | P.M. | | DISPOSITION | | FINAL DIAGNOSIS | |
| TIME | E.R. NUMBER | NAME OF PATIENT | AGE | SEX | RACE | CHIEF COMPLAINT | ADMITTED | TRANSFERRED | ADMITTED |
| 12:31 | 247 39 | Cool, Hubert | 14 | M | W | Respir. T. Cray | S | | |
| 12:38 | 247 40 | Kennedy, John F. | 43 | M | W | 650 - | S | | Expired |
| | 247 41 | Furphy, John | 53 | M | W | Blinding mark | S | | |
| 1:28 | 247 42 | Berkham, Ida | 17 | F | W | Chd. pain | S | | |
| 4:40 | 247 43 | Connolly, John | | M | W | Ca S.C. | S | | 220 |
| 12:54 | 247 44 | Fullen, Donald | 26 | M | W | Ca S.C. | S | | |

Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Nov. 22: 'And then Mrs. Kennedy wanted to be alone with him'

Orleans that he was a Communist, but I didn't believe him, because I said, "What kind of a Communist are you if you don't like the Communists in Russia?"

Q. ... Did you consider him mentally sound?

A. Yes; he was smart and capable. Only he did not use his capabilities in the proper direction. He was not ... a man deprived of reason ...

Q. Will you describe ... your relationship with your mother-in-law now?

A. ... In view of the fact of everything that happened ... her appearances in the radio, in the press, I do not think that she is a very sound thinking woman, and I think that part of the guilt is hers. I do not accuse her, but I think that part of the guilt in connection with what happened with Lee lies with her because he did not perhaps receive the education he should have during his childhood, and he did not have any correct leadership on her part, guidance.

Then the doctor gave two roses to the President's widow

Abraham Zapruder, amateur photographer who took assassination films:

Q. (by assistant commission counsel Wesley J. Liebeler). Tell us what happened as you took these pictures.

A. Well, as the car came into line ... I heard the first shot and I saw the

Why don't you step out and have a drink of water?

A. I'm sorry-I'm ashamed of myself really, but I couldn't help it.

Q. Nobody should ever be ashamed of feeling that way, Mr. Zapruder. I feel the same way myself. It was a terrible thing ...

Secret Service agent Paul E. Landis Jr.:

"[Outside the hospital] I immediately ran to the left rear side of the President's car, reached over and tried to help Mrs. Kennedy up by taking hold of her shoulders. She did not want to let go of President Kennedy whose head she held in her lap and she was bending over him. She said something like, 'No, I want to stay with him!'

"Agent [Clinton] Hill ... stepped inside and took Mrs. Kennedy by the arm. She released the President and someone said, 'Cover up his head.' Agent Hill took off his suit coat and covered up the President's head. I also remember Mr. Powers leaning in the car and saying, 'Oh, no! Mr. President! Mr. President!'

"... At one point [inside] someone else came out of the President's room ... and said he was still breathing. Mrs. Kennedy stood up and said, 'Do you mean he may live?' No one answered ..."

Dr. Marion Thomas Jenkins, anesthesiologist, Parkland Hospital:

Q. Why was ... [Mr. Kennedy's body] not turned over, Dr. Jenkins?

Catholic and I was not sure of the time for the last rites. As I remember now, he said, "The time that the soul leaves the body-is not at exactly the time that medical testimony might say that death was declared." There would be a period of time and so if we wished to declare him dead at that time they would still have the final rites ... I was still there as the rites were performed and a prayer was said.

Adm. George G. Burkley, physician to Mr. Kennedy:

"I told Mrs. Kennedy that the President was dead. She walked to the table, touched the foot and kissed the instep, then walked to the side of the table and felt his hand ... A priest ... anointed the President and gave the last rites. I asked him to recite the prayers for the dead, which he did and the response was made by Mrs. Kennedy and me ...

"[As the body was wheeled out] I again examined the room and they had cleaned the room. The roses which had been in the car with the President were in the wastebasket, however, and two roses which had broken off were lying on the floor. I picked them up and put them in my pocket ... On the way to the plane, we rode in silence for awhile. I then reached into the pocket and took out the roses I had gotten from the floor and gave them to Mrs. Kennedy ... She took them, put them in her jacket pocket, smiled, and thanked me ..."

END