

DATE 7/17/10

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Early
Evidence*

*Box
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NARA
Folger
4/3/64*

Mr. Conrad

R. H. Jevons

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

Set I

On 4/3/64, SA Paul M. Stombaugh, Hairs and Fibers Unit, FBI Laboratory, testified before the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy, beginning at 9:05 a.m. and ending at 12:20 p.m. Chief Justice Earl Warren was present from 9:05 a.m., until 10:00 a.m. at which time he left for duties at the Supreme Court. At 10:00 a.m., Mr. Allen Dulles replaced Mr. Warren and remained until the completion of SA Stombaugh's testimony. Mr. Melvin Eisenberg was also present and elicited the testimony.

The testimony concerned the receipt in the Laboratory of the blanket from Mrs. Paine's garage, the assassination rifle, homemade paper bag found near the rifle and the shirt Oswald was wearing at the time of the apprehension and subsequent examinations for hairs and fibers.

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With regard to the blanket (in which the assassination rifle may have been wrapped) the Commission was interested in knowing how the blanket was folded when received. This was demonstrated through the use of a small piece of paper taken to the hearing and folded in a similar manner to that which the blanket had been folded. At the time of the examination of the blanket in the Laboratory, a small "hump" approximately 10" in length was observed and noted. Inasmuch as the length of this "hump" approximated the length and size of the telescopic sight of the rifle, the approximate location of this hump was noted on the paper used in the demonstration, although the "hump" could not definitely be attributed to the sight or to any other part of the gun. The blanket also had a metal safety pin attached to one end and a short length of twine had been tied to this end. A small safety pin was inserted into the paper at the approximate location of the larger pin as it had appeared in the blanket. The Commission was also interested in the type of knots used in tying the twine around the blanket and this was demonstrated with a separate piece of twine. The knots actually used on the blanket were a granny knot (very common) and a double bowknot (the type used in tying shoe laces). The paper, safety pin and twine were then entered into evidence. A folded paper similar to that introduced into evidence during the testimony is attached for record.

Enclosure

62-109060

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Rogge

PMS:fch:NOB (10)

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

The Commission was then interested in the various hairs found adhering to the blanket. Testimony was given regarding the fact that limb hairs and pubic hairs found on the blanket matched those of Oswald in all observable microscopic characteristics. The Commission was shown, through the use of previously prepared charts, how the Laboratory determined the origin of hairs as to race, and the microscopic characteristics present in the hairs removed from the blanket. Photomicrographs were then shown of these hairs as compared with known hairs from Oswald. It was pointed out to the Commission that the Laboratory could not state definitely that the hairs originated from Oswald to the exclusion of all other Caucasian persons inasmuch as hairs do not exhibit enough individual microscopic characteristics to permit this to be done.

The homemade bag (paper bag) was introduced and testimony given regarding how a single brown viscose fiber and several light green fibers matched similar fibers found in the composition of the blanket and the conclusion that these fibers could have originated from this blanket. A previously prepared chart was used to demonstrate the differences that exist among woolen, cotton and viscose fibers of which the blanket was composed. With regard to the remaining contents of the debris removed from this bag, which consisted of a small particle of wax and a minute fragment of woody material, it was pointed out that the wax was examined and compared spectrographically with a large quantity of wax found adhering to the front of Oswald's shirt and found to be dissimilar. The woody material was too limited in size for identification purposes.

Testimony was then brought out regarding the small tuft of cotton fibers found adhering to a jagged edge on the butt plate of the rifle. A description of these fibers was given regarding their type and colors and the fact that they were compared with the cotton fibers composing Oswald's shirt and found to match microscopically. Color photomicrographs were used to show these comparisons wherein the conclusion was reached that these fibers could have originated from Oswald's shirt. Mr. Eisenberg attempted to obtain mathematical probabilities from SA Stombaugh as to two persons having identical hair or of fibers originating from a particular shirt to the exclusion of all other shirts. SA Stombaugh stated that such probabilities could not be determined in view of the numerous unknown factors which exist in such cases.

The charts prepared by SA Stombaugh, photographs of which were attached to my memorandum of 4/2/64, were all entered into evidence. Upon completion of his testimony, SA Stombaugh was complimented upon his testimony by Mr. Dulles and thanked for his appearance before the Commission.

ACTION: For information.

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