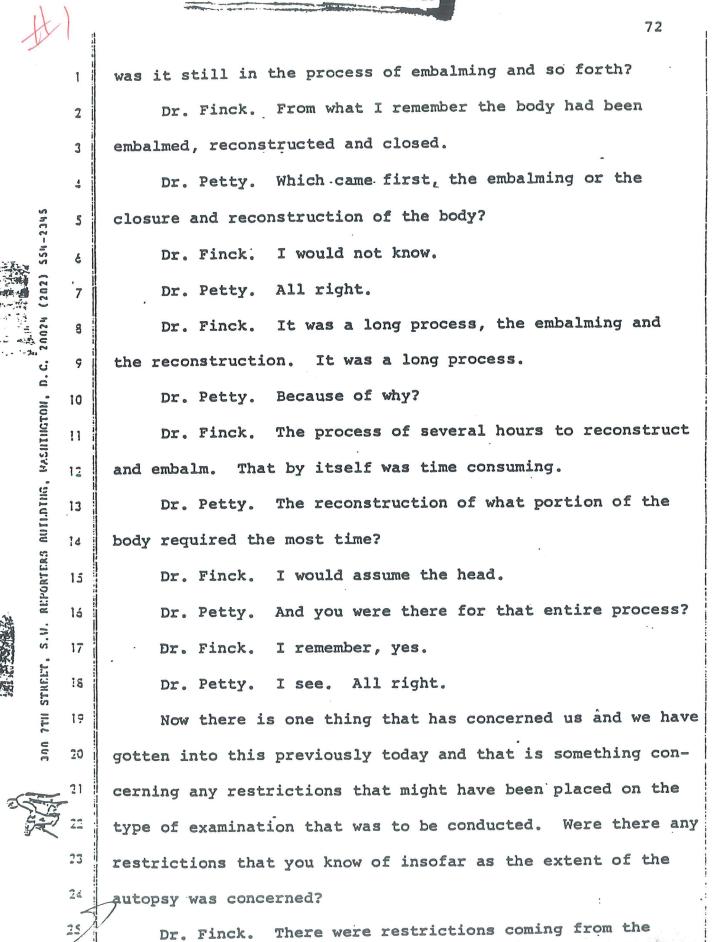
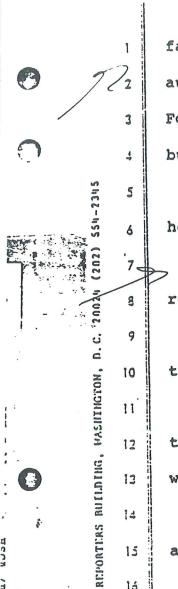
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WOD.	1	AFTER RECESS
SHORT	2	(The meeting reconvened at 1:35 p.m. with the same
	2	participants present that were in the morning session.)
0	4	Mr. Purdy. We will try to conclude by three fifteen.
· /		Dr. Finck will be available tomorrow if we need any further
-		questioning.
	7	Mark, do you want to start with the introduction.
	20024	Mr. Flanagan. This taping session is now in progress.
	'4	The time is 1:36 p.m. The date is March 11, 1978. The
	9 9 10	place is National Archives, Washington, D. C., room 503.
	11107.01	Staff members present are Donald A. Purdy. Mark
4	WASHT	Flanagan, our medical man, is also present. Mr. Thomas
	VING,	Canning from the photographic panel is also present. Archives
	REPORTERS BULLIDING, MASHINGTON,	personnel are Marian Johnson and Mike Lahey. We also have a
• इ	RTF:R5	court reporter here at this time.
	REPO 91	This is a questioning session of Dr. Pierre Finck. We
	· N· S	are now ready to begin. Staff counsel Donald Purdy will
	. KELT.	swear in the witness and begin the session.
	7TII STRELT	Mr. Purdy. Dr. Finck, do you swear the testimony you
	L UUE 20	are about to give is true to the best of your knowledge,
	. 21	information and belief?
	2 12	Dr. Finck. I do.
	23	Mr. Purdy. Please be seated.
INDEX	26	TESTIMONY OF PIERRE A. FINCK
J	4 1	Mr. Purdy. Please state your full name and address.

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family and we were told at the time of autopsy that the autopsy should be limited to certain parts of the body. For example, autopsy limited to the head and modest extension but there were restrictions.

Dr. Petty. The autopsy was limited then at least to the head as far as you begin with.

Dr. Finck. For example, from what I remember we did not remove the organs of the neck because of the restrictions.

Dr. Petty. Was an examination of the organs in the thoracic area permitted?

Dr. Finck. Yes, because there was an extension after those preliminary restrictions were mentioned. The lungs were removed.

Dr. Petty. Were the organs of the abdominal cavity also removed?

That I don't remember because I was really Dr. Finck. focusing and concentrating on the aspect of the wounds. It was my mission in that autopsy room, and my main mission was to study the wounds so I cannot elaborate on the abdominal organs.

Dr. Petty. Do you recall what sort of primary incision was used to expose the organs?

That should be in the autopsy report. I Dr. Finck. cannot recall now. I would say it is in the autopsy report. Dr. Petty. Perhaps I might modify the question. Were

the organs of the abdominal cavity exposed by means of the 1 primary incision? 2 Dr. Finck. I don't remember. 3 Dr. Petty. All right. Now if I understand you correctly, 4 54-2345 then there was a restriction; that is, that the organs of the S h-ad or the head only should be examined, is that correct? ó [202] · Dr. Finck. At the beginning there was that restriction. 7 As a matter of fact, when I reached the hospital, as far as 3 I can remember, the brain had been removed. 9 i ċ Dr. Petty. All right. And then you say that this WASHINGTON. 10 restriction was at least partially limited so as to permit 11 other examinations, is that correct? 12 BULLING. Dr. Finck. Yes. 13 Dr. Petty. Now is it your knowledge then or concept 14 REPORTINS that someone must have been in communication with the family 15 so that these restrictions could be altered as it became lá S.W. necessary? 17 STREE'C. Dr. Finck. It is difficult for me to answer that ques-18 11LL tion because we did what we were told and it is hard for me 19 UUU 20 to say -- well, the sequence is difficult for me to establish. 21 Dr. Petty. All right. Does anybody want to add anything 4.0 in this regard? 23 Dr. Finck. Maybe I can help you here. Maybe Admiral 26

Galloway who was in charge of the center, as I remember --

he was the one as far as I can remember communicating those

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			75						
		1	restrictions to us.						
BUCLDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024 (202) 554-2345		2	Dr. Petty. I see. And the restrictions were modified,						
		з	however.						
		+	Dr. Finck. Yes.						
	5 11 2	(Y	Dr. Petty. As you went on.						
	5 N - 2	6	Dr. Finck. Yes.						
	202)	7	Dr. Petty. Does anyone want to add or ask further in						
	02% (8	this particular area?						
	C. 20	9	Mr. Purdy. Did you indicate why the restrictions were						
		10	modified?						
	INGTO	!1	Dr. Finck. I don't know but I don't know. I was						
	UASI	12	not the one making those restrictions so it is hard for me to						
	DING.	13	explain them except it came from the family.						
		14	Dr. Wecht. Pierre, in your subsequent testimony in the						
	I:PORTERS	15	trial I believe you were asked about the bullet wound in the						
	0.1:1 N	١á	back and in the neck and why it had not been dissected out						
	S.W.	17	and you stated that all of you had been ordered and that your						
	TREET.	18	recollection was that it was an Army General whose name you						
	7TH STRFET	19	did not recall.						
	1 000	20	Dr. Finck. And I still don't remember his name. I read						
		2V	my notes and I found in my notes an Army General and I don't						
	X	22	know who it was.						

Dr. Wecht. I was just saying with regard to what Charlie is asking you now, then you certainly remembered that somebody did give you orders not to do certain things.

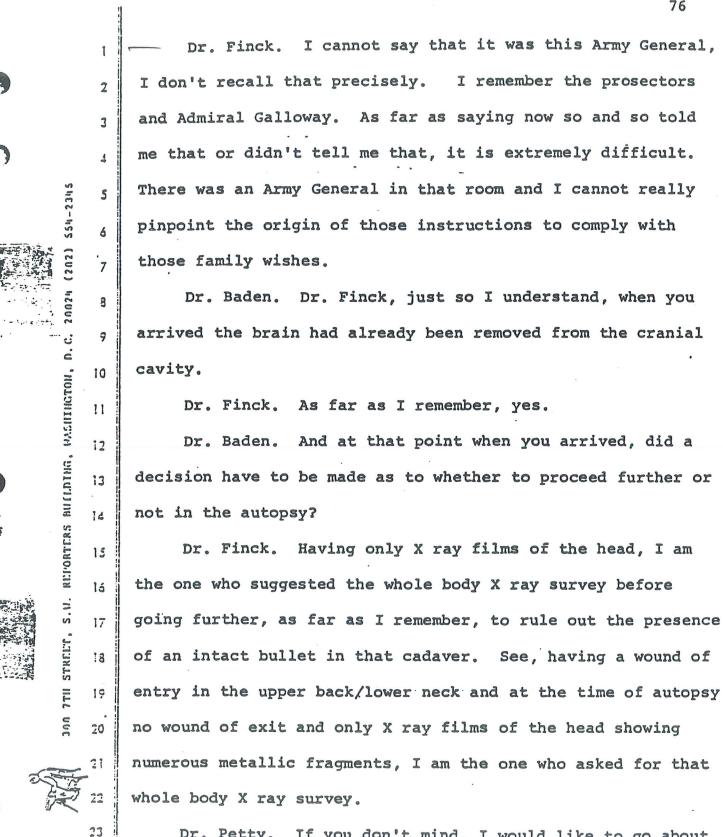
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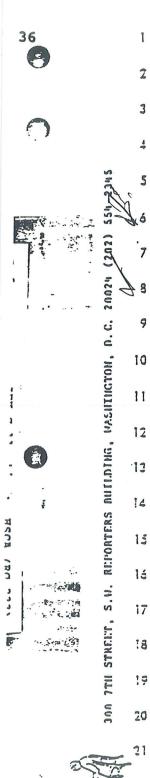
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Dr. Petty. If you don't mind, I would like to go about this orderly if I may.

Dr. Finck. I think I answered your question why was it

level of the external extreme protuberance that you just 1 pointed to, Dr. Finck? 2 Dr. Finck. Could you please repeat the question. 3 Dr. Baden. Approximately how far above the level of 4 the external extreme protuberance did you just point to on 551-2315 5 Dr. Wecht's head? 6 Dr. Finck. We said slightly above it. I can't --7 One centimeter, is that in the ball park Dr. Baden. 3 of where you pointed? 9 ċ Dr. Finck. I think we have photographs to go by for STREET, S.W. REPORTERS MULLDING, WAEHINGTOM, 10 that. 11 We sure do. Dr. Petty. 12 Mr. Purdy. Dr. Finck, do you recall that measurement 13 from your memory, from the autopsy or from some other source? 14 I read my notes before coming. Dr. Finck. 15 Mr. Purdy. When did you write your notes that you gave lá the location of the wound? 17 Dr. Finck. After the autopsy because -- I take it back, 18 correction. During the autopsy I took measurements but all TTI 13 my notes were turned over to Dr. Humes, and after the autopsy UUC 20 I also wrote notes but the notes I wrote at the time of the 21 autopsy were turned over to Dr. Humes. 22 That includes all measurements? Mr. Purdy. Dr. Finck. Yes. 24 Mr. Purdy. Did you make all measurements of the 25



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Dr. Finck. I am impressed by his background experience. He has combat experience. He was a combat surgeon. I am impressed by the thoroughness of his work. My comment on what he wrote regarding the anatomic location of wounds stating that on the basis of the photographs such a wound seems to be higher than described in the autopsy report, my opinion is that the man who can see the wound itself on the dead body is in the best position to establish an anatomic location as compared to others who refer to drawings, photographs, X ray films. Again we need those, that is the only thing left, but when you have the choice in those various types of evidence my first choice is the examination of the wounds in place on the dead body to see where they are.

Dr. Davis. One follow up question that may have been touched on already, I might have missed it in the previous questions, but I believe that neither you nor the other two pathologists who participated in the autopsy were ever afforded an opportunity to review the photographs that were taken at the autopsy until long after the written autopsy report had been prepared, is that correct?

Dr. Finck. That is correct.

Dr. Davis. All right.

Dr. Finck. The photographs taken at the time of autopsy were turned over to the U.S. Secret Service and we did not see the photographs before writing our autopsy report which

I remind you we signed 36 hours after the autopsy, it is a 1 short time. We signed that report on some date, the 24th 2 of November 1963. The first time I saw those photographs of 3 the autopsy was in January 1967 when we were asked to review 4 them at the Archives. I was specifically brought back from -2345 5 Vietnam for that purpose. 6 And as far as the photographs taken at the Dr. Davis. 202 7 autopsy, do you recall whether or not any of the other 2002% 3 pathologists made a request to anyone to have an opportunity : : 9 to see these photographs prior to the completion of the ċ 10 WASHINGTON . autopsy report prior to having to having to sign your name 11 to the report? Do you know if that request was ever made of 12 7TH STREET, S.W. REPORTERS BULLDING. anyone? 13 I don't know. Dr. Finck. 14 Did you ever make such a request? Dr. Petty. 15 I don't remember. Dr. Finck. lá You did not yourself? Dr. Petty. 17 I do not remember. Dr. Finck. 19 Did anybody offer, Pierre, to show them to Dr. Wecht. 19 you when you went to give testimony before the Commission in UUU 20 ARCH arch of 1964? 21 The Warren Commission? Dr. Finck. 22 Yes, or any member of the staff. Dr. Wecht. 27 We were told at the time by I believe Arlen Dr. Finck. 24 Specter who was a counsel for the Warren Commission that 25

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Robert Kennedy, Attorney General, did not want the X ray films and photographs introduced in the hearings of the Warren Commission.

Dr. Wecht. Pierre, I would like to, unless somebody has another question --

Dr. Finck. There is a question mark here. Is it Arlen Specter or somebody else? From what I remember in March 1964 at the time of my testimony before the Warren Commission, we did not have the X ray films and the photographs taken at the time of autopsy. We did not in March 1964.

Dr. Wecht. Pierre, you will recall that you along with Dr. Humes and Dr. Boswell conducted a supplemental examinatio of a normal and fixed brain on December 6, 1963, which would have been just about exactly two weeks after the autopsy. Th last sentence in there states something like, Cranial sectior of the brain are not made in order to preserve the specimen.

That is pretty close, I imagine.

Dr. Finck. Yes, I remember the spirit.

Dr. Wecht. Who suggested or requested or ordered that the brain not be sectioned and in what context was the preservation concept used -- to be preserved for whom, for what purpose?

Dr. Finck. I don't remember who said that no sections should be made. I don't recall the purpose. I think I remember: The sting that a neuropathologist of the AFIP be

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duties as well where I performed autopsies of gunshot wounds
before 1959.
Dr. Baden. In your course as a general pathologist?
Dr. Finck. Yes.

Dr. Baden. As a general pathologist.

Dr. Finck. Yes, and interested in forensic pathology; I always was.

Dr. Baden. When the cases were sent to you for review, would you have occasion to review it for accuracy or what dic the review encompass? Your review of the cases, were they sent to you to review it?

Dr. Finck. To send an opinion to the contributor wheth we agree or we don't agree or we need additional information

Dr. Baden. Would there be many times in which you woul disagree with what the contributor's contribution was? The reason I am asking you is relative to your point about the prosector having the best opinion as to the Wounds Ballistic Dr. Finck. I see. It would be hard to say in what way I disagreed and for what reasons. There are difficult poin in that question.

Dr. Wecht. Pierre, what is your best recollection as to the time, the circumstances under which you and your colleagues Humes and Boswell first learned about the fact that the tracheotomy wound that you had seen in the Navy autopsy had been superimposed upon a bullet wound in the ne

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1	۱	Dr. Finck. From what I remember it was a phone call
0	2	from Dr. Humes to Dallas and that was after the autopsy.
	3	Does that answer your question?
0	-1	Dr. Wecht. Well, when you say after the autopsy, would
2 h E 2 -	s	that be sometime on Saturday, November 23?
	6	Dr. Finck. This is someone Stop the tape. I will
202)	7	look for it.
hZUUZ	8	Dr. Wecht. If I may tell you what you said, I know you
D. C. 2002	9	said, "I think on Saturday morning or sometime Saturday, the
	10	23rd." If you want to find it, go ahead. I just wanted to
JUDITUIS	11	save you some time.
K Col	12	Dr. Finck. Would it be satisfactory to say it was
• NOLDHINSVA • SWITTING	13	probably I know the phone call was made by Dr. Humes and
	14	we signed the report on Sunday and I would say that phone
SATTNOTA	15	call was probably made on Saturday, the 23rd probably. Do
(RO	lá	you want me to look for it?
233) 233)	17	Dr. Wecht. If you have it here and it is not too much
STUERT	18	trouble.
7711 S	19	Mr. Purdy. I am not certain that for these purposes
U C C	20	that is particularly important. We can have him check it
	21	after the taping section.
	22	Dr. Wecht. All right.
	23	Mr. Purdy. But on the issue that that relates to I
	24	wonder if you could go into a little more detail. You say
. •	25	you were primarily there to examine the wounds. What area
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did you do in probing the area and what did you find from doing that?

Dr. Finck. The probing was unsuccessful.

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Dr. Wecht. Could you describe in a little more detail what "unsuccessful" means?

Dr. Finck. Well, you cannot go into a track when -you know, this is difficult to explain. You can make an artificial track if you push hard enough with an instrument so you go gently to see that there is a track, and the fact that you don't find a track with a probe may be because of contraction of muscles after death.

Dr. Wecht. Was the probe done with a metal probe? Dr. Finck. That is why I said probing was unsuccessful. Mr. Purdy. How far into the body did the probe go before you were afraid it might create an artificial track? Dr. Finck. I don't know.

Mr. Purdy. What was your confusion that you had said -I am not sure that you used the word "confusion." I think you used a word to describe the state of mind when you could not find the track and you could not find an exit wound and you could not find evidence of a bullet. How did you resolv that confusion that night during the autopsy?

Dr. Finck. By asking for the X ray films.

Mr. Purdy. And what was the answer?

Dr. Finek. There was no bullet remaining in the cadave

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Mr. Purdy. What did you conclude about where the bullet must have gone?

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Dr. Finck. I don't know when that news came regarding the wound of exit in the front of the throat. Part of the tracheotomy decision, I don't know.

Mr. Purdy. Our previous testimony before the Warren Commission indicates that it was the next day, it was Saturday, November 23, when the phone call was made which was, as you said, after the autopsy which means, is it not correct, that you did not know when the autopsy was finished that there was a wound of exit in the front of the throat? Dr. Finck. Probably not. That sounds all right.

Mr. Purdy. When the autopsy was concluded, then what did you think could have happened to the bullet if it was not in the body and didn't exit the front of the body?

Dr. Finck. It is hard to say now but I don't know. With no bullet shown on X ray films, a wound of entry in the back, I don't know.

Mr. Purdy. Do you recall a phone call to Dallas during the autopsy?

Dr. Finck. I don't know if there was a phone call to Dallas during the autopsy.

Mr. Purdy. Did you recall any information during the
 autopsy that you received about a bullet being found in
 Parkland Hospital?

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Dr. Finck. There was confusion along that line because someone said it was on the stretcher of Kennedy and someone else said it was on the stretcher of Governor Connolly so here we are with confusion, but I don't know when that news came.

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⁴ Mr. Flanagan. Excuse me. I will have to interrupt to change tape.

Dr. Wecht. Pierre, if I may ask that one question as a corrollary to Andy's, Mr. Purdy's last question, a sequel, do you recall -- not necessarily directly to you, by phone or even directly to you, but somebody addressing you about just some information that came to be accepted among the team in the autopsy room that evening that the bullet found around the stretcher back at Parkland Hospital earlier in the day, that information then relayed somehow that evening that that bullet had in some way fallen out or been forced out of the President's back by some pressure that might have been applied to his anterior chest for external cardiac massage?

Dr. Finck. I recall vaguely the conceptk yes, but now after being completed it is immaterial.

Mr. Purdy. When you learned that on the morning of November 23 that there was evidence of a wound of exit in the Front of the neck, did that in any way conflict with the Conclusions you had reached during the autopsy?

Dr. Pinek. No, because it was a wound of exit corres-SALHONY TANOILAN HAL IN GEORGONGEN ponding to the wound of entry. I had positively identified in the upper back/lower neck so that made a bullet track with an entry and an exit and I was satisfied.

Mr. Purdy. If you had known during the autopsy that there was a wound of exit in the front of the throat, would you have taken or exercised any different autopsy procedures than you did do?

Dr. Finck. The interpretation would have been less difficult at the time. I can't say what I would have done if I had seen -- I would have asked for a whole body X ray films anyway -- anyway -- to answer your question.

Mr. Purdy. Would you have done more extensive work in the area of the trachea?

Dr. Finck. From what I remember there were restriction: and this was the reason for not working in that area.

Mr. Purdy. Did you ask that you should be permitted to examine the trachea more than you were permitted? Dr. Finck. We were told to do certain things. I don't recall if someone asked for permission to. I don't recall that.

Dr. Spitz. May I ask something.

Pierre, do you remember seeing bruising of the pleurity pleura at the dome?

Dr. Finck. On the right side?

Dr. Spitz. Yes.

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Dr. Finck. How can you measure something which is not sharp?

Dr. Petty. Dr. Weston has a final question.

Dr. Weston. I just wanted to ask a final question, Pierre. At the time this examination was done there was a possibility that there was going to be a criminal prosecution What is your practice as a forensic pathologist to stop short of doing a short medical legal autopsy in face of criminal prosecution notwithstanding the wishes of anybody else?

Dr. Finck. What you are saying, we should not have listened to the recommendations --

Dr. Weston. No, I am not saying anything. I am asking you if it is not accepted medical legal practice when you anticipate a criminal prosecution to do a complete examination?

Dr. Finck. Yes.

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Dr. Weston. Okay. Then the reason that you did not do a complete examination was that you were ordered not to, is that correct?

Dr. Finck. Yes, restrictions from the family as the reason for limiting our actions.

Dr. Weston. But do you really believe that the family has -- is this not physical evidence which belongs to the state notwithstanding the wishes of the family when there is a suspected criminal prosecution?

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Dr. Finck. Of course it is ideal. In those circumstances you are told to do certain things. There are people telling you to do certain things. It is unfortunate.

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Dr. Weston. The last question. What do you consider would be the personal consequences of you or any of the other members of the team had you chosen to withdraw from the examination and not complete the examination or sign your name to it in view of the restrictions placed upon you? Did you consider that at that time?

Dr. Finck. No. It is a delicate situation to say the least.

Dr. Weston. I understand that but it is still a delicate situation.

Dr. Finck. We were handicapped by those restrictions. Dr. Weston. Okay. Those restrictions you mentioned were, as you remember now, Admiral Galloway?

Dr. Finck. Who passed them on to us as I remember so he should be consulted and asked who asked to have those restrictions.

Dr. Petty. Pierre, we want to thank you so very much for coming by. You are among lots of good friends. It is good to see you again.

Mr. Flanagan. Concluding this tape at 3:24. (Whereupon, at 3:24 p.m., the meeting was concluded.)

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