

Telephone call and lunch, Kenneth Goodall, Monday 1/22/68

Ken phoned to ask if I knew of a Professor Forman, anthropologist, of Wisconsin State University, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Like Dr. Nicols of Kansas U. Medical Center, Kansas City, Forman has been working on the problem of trajectories, using skeletons, and has concluded that the first shot in JFK's back ("back of neck") could not have come from the 6th floor window but had to come from street level, leaving a straight horizontal trajectory.

His reasoning, illustrated by skeleton, is that there are only three sites for entrance of a bullet that struck no bones but exited at the Adam's apple. In each case, there would be a sharp right-to-left trajectory, on a flat horizontal path: ergo, the exiting bullet could not possibly have struck Connally and since it did not hit Mrs. Connally, it went out of the car and lodged in the grassy turf on the left of the car.

Connally, he reasons, was hit by a separate bullet, not as Thompson theorizes from the County Records Building but from the 6th floor window. (He does not deal with the head shot or shots nor dispute Thompson's findings.) Therefore, there had to be at least two assassins (perhaps more than two), firing from separate locations.

(Some time ago, before Six Seconds in Dallas was written, Forman took these findings to LIFE, which expressed some interest but did nothing; and sent the present article, submitted to The Reporter, to the National Observer, which was not interested.)

Forman does dispute Thompson on the anterior neck wound; he accepts the WR finding that it was an exit wound of a whole bullet.

Forman further claims to account for the discrepancy with respect to the position of the entrance wound in the back ("back of neck"): He claims that in a prone position, with the neck compressed, the wound would measure $5\frac{1}{2}$ " below the right mastoid process; but that in an erect position, the same wound would measure 7 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ " below the right mastoid process.

Objections to this postulate: What looked like 6" below the neck to Clinton Hill would look more like $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8" below the neck--not higher--had the body been raised to a sitting position. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2" displacement of the flesh and muscle in the shoulder/back area has to be corroborated by competent persons (Wecht; Helpert). No one has mentioned such a phenomenon. What about the alleged 45 to 60 degree downward path described by Sibert/O'Neill? What about the whole body of evidence that anterior neck wound was entrance, not exit (of bullet or fragment of bone or metal)?
Reminder: Check Castellano file re Royce Skelton and allegedly lodged bullet in turf.

The virtue of Forman's determination that there had to be a horizontal trajectory is that if and when the autopsy photos are produced and authenticated, and they show the back wound in the higher position, the WR and the single-missile theory are still invalidated because there could not have been a downward trajectory nor ANY hit of Connally--much less a hit at the right armpit. (It also adds to the massive existing evidence vs the single-missile theory.)