

Hal - This is a verbatim transcript of Joe Dolan interview with David Stewart who was in attendance at Parkland Hospital. Stewart made a speech before a Rotary Club which appeared in the "New LEADERS DEMOCRAT" (TECHN.) PAPER (MARCH 30, 1967). Stewart, you'll note, is not in the Warren Report & doesn't seem to be mentioned in the Volume 1 - I suggest you contact him & see what else he knows (Stewart's address is at end of transcript)

Joe Dolan, KNOW and Dr. DAVID Stewart, - APRIL 10, 1967
(approx 8:12 AM - 8:28 A.M.)

Best,
Hal

- Dolan: Dr. Stewart
- Stewart: Yes, sir.
- Dolan: Good morning, Dr. Stewart, thank you for being with us.
- Stewart: Good morning to you, Mr. Dolan.
- D: Dr. Stewart, I am surprised that the national media have not picked up the statements that you made in Tennessee about your attendance at the Parkland Hospital when President Kennedy was brought in. Doctor, will you tell us about that please in your own words.
- S: Well I could say briefly that I was in attendance at the time. Primarily my time was spent with Governor Connelly and later with Lee Oswald. A nother group of physicians was taking care of the President on his entry to the emergency room, but of course I am ~~not~~ aware of their findings as such.
- D: In particular, doctor, I'm concerned with is that statement about the shot coming, one of the shots that tore the President's head off, on the side of his head, was coming from the front.
- S: Yes, sir. This was a finding of all the psydians who were in attendance. There was a small wound in the left front of the President's head and there was a quite massive wound of exit at the right brckside of the head and it was felt by all of the psydians at the time to be a wound of entry which went in the front. And this was later corroborated, I think, by the films which showed the President with a rather violent lurch backward. This was in the movie, you will remember.
- D: I remember them well.
- S: And there was blood and brain substance found on one of the policemen riding behind on a motorcycle.
- D: Behind to the left.
- S: Yes. And so we felt that this rather completely substantiated the finding that this was a left frontal entry wound. And we felt, of course, that the lethal wound had come in from the front.
- D: Now, doctor, that would be the right front entry wound?
- S: It came in from the left front and exited at the right back of the head and there was a massive amount of brain damage back there.

- D: Now doctor, this is of course even the layman unfamiliar with rifle shooting knows that ^{if} a bullet goes into a bag it leaves a very very ~~tiny~~ ^{smooth} hole when it comes out the other side. It usually leaves a jagged gash. So this squares with that what we know about a rifle bullet, doesn't it?
- S: ~~Now doctor, you're familiar with the fact that~~ that certainly does.
- D: Now, doctor, you're familiar I presume with Mark Lane's RUSH TO JUDGMENT?
- S: I have not read it, but I'm ^{SOMEWHAT} familiar with it.
- D: Well, doctor, he was one of the first to raise the specter ~~about~~ ⁱⁿ some of the inconsistencies in the accounts about the President's death. And then after the official report, the Warren Commission Report, predicated everything on a single bullet theory. Then, of course, Mark Lane's RUSH TO JUDGMENT looked more ~~and~~ ^{more} accurate. Well, anyway, he talks about the bullet, one of the bullets coming from the front from the grassy knoll. Are you familiar with that theory?
- S: Yes, sir.
- D: And, doctor, would you say that from what you know of the wound it squares with the grassy knoll theory?
- S: Yes, sir. I certainly would. Now, the exact position of the marksman that fired the bullet I would ~~know~~. But I would say that it would be from the bullet and having been of course familiar with ^{THE AREA IN} Dallas, I would say that the most likely place would have been from the grassy knoll.
- D: Now doctor, let me put it to you in a negative fashion. You asserted that positively, let me put it ~~to~~ this way. Would it be virtually impossible from all ^{of} your knowledge of anatomy, ~~the~~ ^{and} the entrance ~~wound~~, ^{and} the exit ~~wound~~ ^{wound} and the splattering of the blood and the brains and the motorcycle policeman ~~to~~ ^{to} the left rear and so on, wouldn't it be virtually impossible for a marksman in the sixth floor book depository to have created that kind of a wound shooting from behind?
- S: Yes, sir. It certainly would. and this is the reason that so many people are now thinking that although almost assuredly Oswald was involved in this thing, the people who know the most doubt seriously that he was the one that fired the lethal bullet.

D: Doctor, ^{CAN YOU} do you have any speculation as to how or why the Warren Commission would have overlooked so obvious AND Substantive a fact as that?

S: The only thing that I can figure is that the motivation behind why the President was assassinated has to be considered. And if this were a case where a single man had become somewhat psychotic and ^{HAD} done it alone I could see no justifiable reason at all to hide any of the facts behind it. However, if this was a conspiratorial affair which it seems to me that it was, then there might be reasons that they would find it necessary, perhaps even for their own protection, to hide certain of ~~some~~ the facts.

D: Well, doctor, I'm not going to draw any further philosophical implications from this about a free people and ^{OUR} knowing the facts. I would like to ask you a few things more - in your special area. Do you hold, ^{WITH THE} well obviously, you cannot hold with the magic bullet theory, that one bullet entering down between the President's shoulder blades came out his throat, into Connally, out of Connally, into his wrist out of his wrist and ended up in his thigh. You don't hold ^{WITH} that theory?

S: No, sir.

D: Now, doctor, was the bullet, the so-called magic bullet that was discovered in the Parkland Hospital under a stretcher, is that the one that was supposed to have ended up in Connally's thigh?

S: I don't know. We didn't see that bullet. You know that both the President and Governor Connally were, of course, on separate stretchers and I don't remember any of the physicians at Parkland Hospital seeing that particular bullet. Of course, they were much more intent, all of us were, in their wounds rather than ~~in~~ finding the bullet and so I really don't know. The Governor did not have an intact bullet in his thigh. There were only a couple of fragments, metallic fragments from the missile there. And the ^{thigh} was explored surgically to ^{ASCERTAIN} ~~ascertain~~ that there was no ^{MAJOR} ~~major~~ vascular ~~and~~ nerve damage in that thigh and there was not any. But the bullet itself may or may not ... really I can't comment on that because ~~we~~ didn't see it. I only know that these are relatively small fragments that were present in the Governor's thigh.

- D: Well, doctor. Wouldn't you say sir on the basis of your medical knowledge without being a ballistic expert, unless you are, that a bullet ~~could~~^{could} create seven wounds, which the magic bullet was supposed to have done ... In and out President Kennedy, in and out Connolly, in and out his wrist and into his thigh. Would you expect such a bullet to be in its pristine original condition.
- S: Well, no. In the fact that there were several fragments present in the thigh completely ~~does~~^{does} away with this pristine theory, because the bullet~~s~~ lying on the stretcher might have been ^{LET'S SAY} the bullet that did all of this. But it could not have been pris ~~extine~~^{extine} if there were several fragments left in the Governor's ~~THIGH~~^{THIGH}.
- D: Doctor, there's a direct contradiction because that bullet was almost intact.
- S: Yes, that's what I understand, but I know no one personally who say the bullet and so I would hate to comment on that particular thing. I would like to have seen it myself before I ~~make~~^{make} would make a definite statement on that.
- D: Doctor Stewart. I have a question now which really goes to the ^{VERY} ^{THE} essence of the Warren Commission Report on the assassination of the President. That is this, sir. The throat wound. Do you feel, what was the talk among you doctors. Was that an entrance or an exit wound?
- S: It couldn't be told for sure ^{THAT IT WAS} It couldn't be told with near the certainty that the head wound could. It was a relatively small wound and so it was conjectured that this was an entry but it was by no means definite like the head wound. And so this one is sort of hanging fire, I am afraid.
- D: Alright, now doctor, let me put this to you, please. Let me ask you first. The entrance wound in the back. From the rifle ~~on~~^{on} the sixth floor of the depository, as it's alleged. That went into the President's rear back area at what point as far as you know?
- S: This was not seen. The President ~~was~~^{was} never ^{was} taken from his lying down position. This was ^{JUST} due to the extremity of the wound and his desperate condition. And so the only wounds ^{WHICH} were seen by the physicians at Parkland was the one in the front of the neck, the one in the left front of the head and ~~this~~^{this} massive ~~exit~~^{exit} wound in the right backside of his head. And so we only saw three wounds and ~~where~~^{where} wound at the back might have been, it was not seen and, of course, the autopsy was not permitted to be done at Parkland although the law ~~of~~^{of} the state of Texas required that it be ~~done~~^{done} there.

S (cont'd) And to be have photographs and such to ~~substantiate~~ substantiate even the things that were seen by the physicians that were there. Of course the autopsy was done ~~at Bethesda~~ ^{AT BETHESDA} ~~where the President's~~ ^{HERE} body was taken and ~~we have~~ ^{we have} a very incomplete set of autopsy records ~~from the~~ ^{from the} ~~Bethesda~~ ^{BETHESDA} examining physician.

D: ^{Doctor} Could you hold on ~~for a moment~~ ^{FOR JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE - IF YOU WOULD PLEASE - I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION FOR YOU. ---}
(NEWS BREAK)

D. Doctor Stewart, ^{NOW DR-STEWART} from what you know from looking through the Warren Commission Report, the exhibits and so on, what is your information as to where the bullet ~~was~~ went in ~~the~~ the back. Was it in the ~~maxk~~ neck? Or was it down near between the shoulder blades?

S: Having no definite information of my own I could do nothing more than accept what the Warren Commission said that it went between the shoulder blades. Because as I said none of us ever saw a wound at the back and this was simply because the President was never taken from his position where he was lying down on the stretcher while he was ^{IN} the emergency room at Parkland.

D: Well, doctor ~~Stewart~~, actually the Warren Commission Report says that the back entrance wound was at the neckline approximately, the neck. ~~But, but,~~ the pictures from the ~~BETHESDA~~ ^{BETHESDA} hospital, rather than sketches, show the wound approximately between the shoulder blades, where you would put your thumb, if you put it up behind your back right now. And secondly, although this is not in the Warren Commission Report, but is in the exhibits ^{IN} the report itself, the 26 volumes, you will find that the President's coat and suit ^{when they} were laid out, had the bullet hole in exactly the same spot that the doctor sketched in at ~~BETHESDA~~ ^{BETHESDA}, namely between ~~the~~ ^{THE} shoulder blades. Now doctor, my question to you is this? If a bullet went in, going down now from a 35 degree angle from the back depository and entered ~~the~~ between the shoulder blades, how could it come out ~~of~~ the neck and then go back down through Governor Connally's back?

S: It would be pretty hard. The, of course, the President would have to be leaning forward considerably for a wound to enter lower in the back and then come out through the neck. That would be conceivable, but how the Governor would be positioned ~~for~~ ^{ed} for it to allow it escapes me.

D: Well, doctor, it's totally inconsistent actually with the Warren Commission report. Now, sir, may I ask you this please and I'll let you get back to your busy practice. That question is this, can you explain how at the ~~BETHESDA~~ Naval Hospital, the property of the people of the United States of America concerning the crime of the century, namely the autopsy reports, the original notes could have been burned?

S: Well, it's inconceivable to me and if there was intent in trying to hide the facts behind the President's Assassination, I suppose that this might have been known earlier and this is the reason why the autopsy was not performed at Parkland, because I am confident in my own mind that had the autopsy been done at Parkland there would have been an immediate and full disclosure of all the facts concerning the autopsy. And so perhaps since there was something to be hidden about the assassination it had to be done in a government hospital where the physicians were under the control of the Government, and they certainly would hexxx at Bethesda.

D: Well, doctor, can you account for the fact that the Warren Commission admits that ~~the~~ ^{they} did not look at the X-rays and photographs?

S: I would personally think that it's ~~incredible~~ that they would not.

D: Doctor, I want to thank you very very much. Is there any one last thought that you ~~would~~ like to give us about this Warren Commission Report?

S: Well, the only thought in my own mind is to, of course, hopefully to get a full disclosure. I would hope very much that there would be more attention given to the motivation. There is occasionally discussion about a conspiratorial angle to it. I would think that people should consider the possible benefits that ~~is~~ A conspiracy might have gained. ~~AND~~ If this was a Communist conspiracy, which it seems that it was, Oswald was a Communist, by his own admission and by the findings of the FBI and such, I think the people should go into the possibility that the Communists had a great deal to gain by the President's assassination and once that is fully understood I think that it would serve a good purpose, ~~AND~~ ^{AND} it would frighten ~~and~~ ^{AWFUL} of people, but I think we would be bringing home on the true facts of the assassination if this were learned.

- D: Well doctor, inasmuch as the President was seeking a detente, or an understanding with the Soviet Union, it doesn't seem reasonable to me to suppose that the Communists would knock him off and risk nuclear war.
- S: One thing that they ~~did~~ did do, though, is that he had a very devout anti-communist who was ~~opposing~~ ^{opposing} him in that particular campaign. And there was a great deal of feelings that he had a good chance of winning. Of course, by the time that ~~he~~ ^{that} ~~he~~ ^{he} went off ~~he~~ he no longer had I think the slightest chance ~~for~~ politically. And ~~the~~ ^{the} anti-gun legislation got started then and they were quite interested in that. They were also interested in a good bit of the new frontier legislation that was ~~being~~ ^{being} down and ~~of course that passed~~ ^{of course that passed} quite rapidly after the assassination and has even been accelerated under the Great Society so I think there were a number of things that they were interested in that might well explain a conspiratorial motive in the assassination.
- D: Doctor, how could J. Edgar Hoover and others in our government who were fanatically anti-communist, how could they let such a possibility escape the notice of the public, public disclosure?
- S: J. Edgar Hoover has publicly stated that the man was a communist. ~~Of course~~ ^{Of course} the best that he can do is to ~~relate~~ ^{relate} his information to the justice department and relate if they feel, or are unwilling for any reason to disclose their findings then this is the end of what he is able to do. But he has publicly announced that the man was a communist.
- D: Yes, but doctor, you could no more hold the communist party of this country responsible for the aberrant act of one man, than you can hold the Republicans or THE Democrats responsible for the execution of one politician, could you?
- S: Perhaps not, but I think the possibility should at least be considered more strongly.
- D: Well I cannot understand why the Warren Commission Report did not do a better job. But doctor Stewart I want to thank you very very much for being with us this morning and I am going to turn you back to my producer to give you a proper farewell. ~~---~~
- HOW ON PLEASE, AND THANKS A MILLION. DR. STEWART, THANK YOU. YOU'VE JUST HEARD FROM ~~DR. STEWART~~
 Dr. David Stewart, A Gallatin, Tennessee, PHYSICIAN WHO WAS AN ATTENDING PHYSICIAN
 WHEN CONNALLY AND KENNEDY WERE BROUGHT INTO THE PARKLAND HOSPITAL ON THAT TRAGIC DAY OF
 (Hal - address given on Ted. additional broadcast for Dr. STEWART
 Stewart was 301 1/2 Water St., in Gallatin. I could be wrong
 as this is from memory.) *→ this is correct address*
 NOVEMBER 22, 1963