

Mr. Belmont

December 13, 1963

A. Rosen

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envelope*

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA
IS - R - CUBA

This is to furnish the results of interviews with Governor Connally and Mrs. Joan Connally by a Special Agent of the San Antonio Office at St. David's Hospital in Austin, Texas, on 12-11-63.

Governor Connally stated that the first thing of an unusual nature which he noted at the time of the assassination was what sounded like a gunshot which he believed came from his right and to the rear of the automobile in which he was riding. (Governor and Mrs. Connally were riding in the same automobile and immediately to the front of President and Mrs. Kennedy. Governor Connally and President Kennedy were on the right side and their wives on their left). He stated that as he instinctively turned to his right to look back he sensed that President Kennedy had been hit. Governor Connally stated that as he turned back to his left he, Governor Connally, was struck by a bullet in his right shoulder just below the shoulder blade and scapula. He stated the bullet came out of his chest on the right side, passed through the right arm about the wrist and lodged in his left leg just above the knee. Governor Connally stated he believed he remarked, "Oh my God, they're going to kill us all." Governor Connally said he then recalled hearing a third shot and he had the feeling it had hit President Kennedy. He stated at about this time he became aware of the fact that the occupants of the car were splattered with what he thought was brain tissue from President Kennedy.

Governor Connally stated that the driver of the automobile, who was a Secret Service man, immediately wheeled the car out of the caravan and rapidly proceeded to the hospital.

With reference to the lapse of time between the shots, Governor Connally stated it was "unbelievably quick." He stated he saw no gunman but he saw a flash from a gun but he looked around him and he "felt" that the shots came from a building behind the caravan. Governor Connally stated that in retrospect he at first felt that the assassin had intended to hit him, but now feels that the shots were fired at President Kennedy in rapid succession and that he, Governor Connally, was hit by accident on the second shot. Governor Connally stated that he has no recollection of ever hearing of Lee Harvey Oswald.

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Casper
(3)

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA

or Jack Ruby prior to the assassination, nor could he recall any action on his part as Secretary of the Navy relative to a discharge for Oswald from the U. S. Marine Corps.

Mrs. Connally recalled that the three shots came from "somewhere to the rear of the car" but she could not place the direction any more accurately. Following the first shot she stated she looked at President Kennedy and saw him slump forward as he raised his hand to his throat. She stated that almost immediately thereafter her husband, Governor Connally, recoiled in the opposite direction from her and she heard him remark, "By God, they're going to kill us all." Mrs. Connally stated she had the feeling that buckshot was falling around them but she realized it was probably brain matter from President Kennedy's head. She stated she had then heard Mrs. Kennedy remark, "They killed Jack, his brains are in my hand."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

YBC-1

~~MFK-3~~

Date December 13, 1963

~~Mrs. YFK~~

Governor JOHN CONNALLY was interviewed by SA H. T. BURK at St. David's Hospital, Room 201-203, Austin, Texas, night of December 11, 1963.

Governor CONNALLY advised the driver and another Secret Service man were in front seat of car, President JOHN F. KENNEDY and Mrs. KENNEDY in rear seat, with Mrs. KENNEDY on the driver's side and President KENNEDY on the right side, Mrs. CONNALLY was on a "jump seat" immediately behind the driver and in front of Mrs. KENNEDY facing the driver with back to Mrs. KENNEDY. Governor CONNALLY was seated on "jump seat" on right side of the car in front of the President with back to him.

The car was going in west or southwest direction in downtown Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963, when the following incident occurred:

Governor CONNALLY stated, "First sense or realization of anything unusual I became conscious of a shot or what sounded like a gun shot, I knew it came from my right rear. I instinctively turned to my right to look back and as I did so I sensed more than I saw, that President KENNEDY was hit.

"As I turned, I realized something was amiss with President KENNEDY and then I turned back to my left a little and as I did so I got hit with a bullet in my right shoulder just below the shoulder blade and arm pit about four inches from my right side. This bullet pierced my chest coming out the right side of my chest slightly below my right nipple. It entered my right arm about the wrist, passed through and then lodged in my left inner leg just above the knee where the bullet apparently split. I believe I remarked, 'Oh my God. They are going to kill us all.

"Realizing I had been hit I crumpled over towards Mrs. CONNALLY and she pulled me over towards her.

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by SA H. T. BURK/dtc CR-100 Date dictated 12/12/63

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"Mrs. CONNALLY said, 'No be still, you are going to be all right.'

"With my head against her shoulder my knees naturally fell towards the right door of the car.

"I was conscious of a third shot and heard it. I had a feeling the third shot hit President KENNEDY but did not see it actually strike his body. I was conscious of the fact that the third shot had not hit NELLIE, my wife. About this time I became conscious of the fact we were all splattered with what I thought was brain tissue from President KENNEDY.

"The Secret Service man in front of me had turned to look back and also the driver. The Secret Service man in front of me remarked, 'Let's get out of here,' and I recall the Secret Service man talking on the radio in the car to the effect 'Get to a hospital quick.'

"I was conscious of the car wheeling out of line of the caravan and rapidly picking up speed and then I was unconscious until the car began stopping at the hospital when I regained consciousness and realized I must get out of the way so President KENNEDY could be removed from the car, and I made some movement trying to get out of the car.

"I recall being carried on a stretcher into the hospital and remarking, 'Oh my God, it hurts, it hurts.' I also recall after hearing the third shot Mrs. KENNEDY said, 'Oh my God, they have shot my husband, JACK, JACK.'"

When Governor CONNALLY was asked about the elapsed time between the first and last shot he remarked, "Fast, my God, it was fast. It seemed like a split second."

"Just that quick," and he snapped his fingers three times rapidly to illustrate the time and said, "unbelievably quick."

He saw no flash from a gun and did not see a gun. He stated he was not conscious of anything that went on outside the car itself.

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SA 89-67

However, upon hearing the first shot and turning to his right he looked up above eye level and seemed to feel at the time the shot came from a building behind them. He recalls seeing three buildings in his vision at that time-- one, the School Book Depository Building, another building in the center of the three, and then a third building he feels possibly was "the old records building."

He has no recollection of ever hearing of LEE HARVEY OSWALD or JACK RUBY before this incident nor can he recall any action on his part as Secretary of Navy relative to a discharge for OSWALD from the U. S. Marine Corps. He can think of no other incidents in his official capacity that might have any bearing upon this assassination.

Governor CONNALLY added, "My impression at the moment it happened was I had been hit by a stray bullet."

"In retrospect I felt the assassin had intended to hit me, but, do not now honestly feel he intended to hit me." Governor CONNALLY felt the shots were fired so fast the assassin had hit him by accident on the second shot. He never heard President KENNEDY utter or say a word after the first shot.

His impression was that after the third shot President KENNEDY had probably been fatally wounded.

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Date December 12, 1963

Mrs. JOHN CONNALLY was interviewed by SA H. T. BURK with Governor JOHN CONNALLY at St. David's Hospital, Room 201-203, Austin, Texas, night of December 11, 1963.

Mrs. CONNALLY recalled the same sitting arrangement within the car as Governor CONNALLY and of having distinctly heard three shots fired but was not conscious first startling noise was a gun shot until two others followed.

She was facing the front of the car when the first shot was fired and turned to her right towards President KENNEDY and saw him with his hand at his throat and then slump down as if to slouch on the seat. He had no facial reaction at all.

She felt in her mind the President had been shot and almost immediately Governor CONNALLY recoiled in the opposite direction from her and was heard to remark, "My God, they are going to kill us all."

She had feelings that buck shot was falling all around them and then she realized it was probably brain matter from President KENNEDY's head.

About this time Mrs. KENNEDY remarked, "They killed JACK, his brains are in my hand." She heard the Secret Service man say, "Let's pull out of the caravan and go straight to the hospital."

En route to the hospital she recalls Governor CONNALLY moving a little but did not speak.

When asked about the lapse of time between the first and last gun shots she replied, "About like saying crack, crack, crack." She sensed that Governor CONNALLY had been hit when she heard the second shot and she turned to hold him.

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On 12/11/63 at Austin, Texas File # SA 89-67
 by SA H. T. BURK/dtc Date dictated 12/12/63

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The direction of all shots were from somewhere to the rear of the car but she could not place the direction anymore accurately.

Mrs. CONNALLY drew a penciled chart of the seating arrangement within the car of all six occupants.

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