

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Admiral Calvin B. Galloway Date May 17 '78 Time _____

Address 1926 Carrollton Road Place _____

Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Tel: 301/ 757-2643

Interview: I spoke to Admiral Galloway by telephone on May 17, 1978 concerning his presence at the autopsy of President Kennedy. Galloway currently resides at 1926 Carrollton Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Galloway said that he was present throughout the autopsy. He recalled that three pathologists performed the autopsy. Also present were the Surgeon General of the Navy and various senior staff members of the President. Galloway stated that his official position in November 1963 was Commanding Officer of the Naval Medical Center.

Galloway stated that various enlisted men took photographs and X-rays throughout the autopsy.

During the autopsy Galloway said that no orders were being sent in from outside the autopsy room either by phone or by person. He recalled that Pierre Finck, the pathologist with the greatest expertise, seemed to be the person exercising authority. Galloway felt that occasionally some people such as the senior staff members of the President were entering and exiting the autopsy room.

Galloway said that Jackie Kennedy and the remainder

Interviewer Signature Mark Flanagan

Typed Signature Mark Flanagan

Date transcribed May 24, 1978

By: ROSS Form _____

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

of the family remained in Tower 18 during the performance of the autopsy.

Galloway could only recall one primary discussion among the pathologists. This focused on determining where the missile that entered the back could have exited. Galloway said this problem remained ambiguous until Dr. Humes called Parkland Hospital on Saturday morning and ascertained that a doctor had performed a tracheotomy directly through the missile track thus obliterating it. Galloway said the doctors actually suspected this during the autopsy, but couldn't prove it.

Galloway said that the pathologists examined the brain and all of the internal organs and structures. These included the liver, heart, lung, spleen, kidney, and adrenal glands. After the pathologists removed the brain and organ specimens at the autopsy to retain for microscopic examination, Galloway did not know what happened to them. He said that following the autopsy such materials would normally be kept in the morgue under lock and key until thoroughly fixed. He then speculated that following the microscopic examination these materials were placed in the file at Bethesda or submitted to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Galloway was not present for the microscopic examination which Dr. Humes performed at Bethesda.

Galloway said that pathologists concluded the President was stuck from behind with two shots.

Galloway also mentioned that one or two staff members of the Warren Commission visited him at Bethesda concerning the autopsy.

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CENTRAL RECORD AUTHORIZATION FOR POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION

In the event authorization for post-mortem examination is obtained by letter, telegram, or mechanically recorded telephone call, paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be completed by hospital authorities and the letter, telegram, or memorandum confirming telephone call of authorization attached to this form for permanent file.

Name and location of hospital: U.S. Naval Hospital, Etc. DATE: 22 November 1963

You are hereby authorized to perform a complete post-mortem examination on the remains of John F. Kennedy (Name of deceased)

Authority is also granted for the preservation and study of any and all tissues which may be removed. This authority shall be limited only by the conditions expressly stated below:

Signature of witness: [Signature] Signature: (Mrs) JOHN F. KENNEDY (Person authorized to consent) Address: White House, Washington, D.C. Authority to consent: Wife

The performance of the autopsy specified above is approved.

Signature: R.O. CANADA CAPT MC USN Title: Commanding Officer Date: 22 November 1963

PATIENT'S IDENTIFICATION (For typed or written entries give: Name—last, first, middle; grade; date; hospital or medical facility) REGISTER NO. WARD NO. AUTHORIZATION FOR POST-MORTEM Standard Form 623

From the official archive of a president's murder, this is the clearest copy available of the autopsy authorization. Line 2 should read: "You are hereby authorized to perform a complete post-mortem examination on the remains of..." This authorization destroys many of the official myths. Clearly, if the authorization is to be part of the "permanent file" and "authority is also granted for the preservation" of all tissue removed for study, then the photographs and x-rays taken during the autopsy, government property, are also to be a part of the permanent file and not subject to claims of ownership by the family of the deceased. See pp. 101-2. Also, if the authorization includes "a complete" autopsy, there can be no excuse for the failure to dissect the putative bullet path through the neck. Dr. Finck's apology for this fundamental failure is thus rendered invalid. See pp. 235-6.

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