

Statement of Paul Landis, 11/30/63, 7 pp

Landis is the cat-in-the-hat boy of the agents, one with a memory for detail. His statement begins with detailed recall of the irrelevant, like the color of the coat on the lady who gave Mrs. JFK the roses, the angles of the fence at the airport and the direction in which they turned, etc.

On page 5 another triviality should be noted on the chance it holds future interest: Dave Powers took movies from inside the car. It might be interesting to know how close to Dealey Plaza he took them.

It took three full pages of nothingness to get the Dealey Plaza. However, he does say that ~~xxx~~ he did take in the TSB and that he saw no one standing in any of the windows.

But because he has been giving all this unessential detail, I think that he gives on the timing and location of the first shot may be worthwhile. He says both cars had made the turn and were not yet straightened out when "I heard what sounded like the report of a high-powered rifle from behind me, over my right shoulder." Now first of all, the M-C is NOT "high-powered". And second of all, at that point, over Landis's right shoulder is to the east of the TSB. He again took in the TSB and saw nothing.

Interestingly, and confirming his account is this recollection: that in checking to see if there had been a blowout IN FRONT of him, he could see the right front tire on the Pres's car. This confirms that the cars had not yet straightened out and that the follow-up had to have been further to the right than in a line with the Pres's. And the only reason he couldn't see the right rear is because the followup car was too close.

He calls the third shot the second he heard and describes it as like the sound of a high-powered bullet going into a five-gallon can when it impacted. He saw flying flesh and blood. He felt the shot came from the right front. He scanned the overpass and the area to the right. He saw a well-described Negro running up the knoll before he got under the underpass.

Hill gave the thumbs-down signal, which is ample indication of what he saw. For some reason Hill found this intelligence unworthy of mention in his own story.

Powers also saw the head wound. Someone told Hill to cover the wound(s).

But no account of the dispute over moving the body. Is it within reason that not one of the agents, spontaneously, considered this rather spectacular event worthy of note? Of these statements in the Burkley files, he establishes Landis as the man with the eye for detail and with recall, plus lucidity and a willingness to take time to record things. It seems highly improbable that he on his own omitted this very unpleasant bit. Thus the question of the integrity of the statements is raised, and when it is further considered that they were prepared beginning a week after the tragedy, further suspicion is cast upon the.

He left the 17th floor but once, to give Kellerman a message from Rowley. And he also makes no mention of Burkley's departure from the hospital.

Nor does any one of the agents saw who handled the casket at Bethesda, another seemingly-strange omission the only effect of which could be to make it more difficult to find those who could give first-hand testimony, certainly making it less likely there would be interest in them for such a purpose.