

1/20-81

Dear Harold:

The attached is not accurate in all respects. The doctors did NOT work over the President 8 hours. As I recall he was shot around 1030AM, maybe a little later - and I was at Parkland when the two doctors announced his death at about 105PM. I was at the back of Parkland about 30 minutes later and saw Vernon O'Neal drive away with body and Mrs. Kennedy in the O'Neal Fundeal Home hearse. Vernon (a former class-mate of mine in San Antonio high school) placed body in a very expensive casket. He demanded a huge price for it and Washington refused to pay - they shipped casket back to Vernon and the last I heard he still had it on hand. This may be reason for the plain casket mentioned in the attached article. I will also repeat that the doctor said that there was an entry wound in neck at adam's apple. (They pulled a boo boo by using the wound for trach.

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my wife
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STATE

*San Antonio Light
Jan 11 1981*

Book: JFK Body Altered

By United Press International

DALLAS — A book on the assassination of John F. Kennedy says the president's body was altered before his autopsy to make doctors think he had been shot from behind, The Dallas Morning News reported Saturday.

David S. Lifton, author of the 747-page book "Best Evidence," said the assassination was the result of a "plot involving the executive branch of the government to remove Kennedy from office."

"It would hardly be possible to implement the modus operandi described here without the involvement of some Secret Service personnel," he wrote. "And this is just the beginning. Others had to be involved."

Lifton interviewed former personnel at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland who said Kennedy's body arrived there in a plain metal shipping coffin carried by plainclothesmen.

An empty ceremonial coffin, accompanied by Jackie Kennedy, arrived later from Dallas.

After the November 1963 assassination in Dallas, the body reportedly was wrapped in sheets and placed in

the bronze ceremonial casket. When it arrived at Bethesda, Md., however, it was in the inexpensive coffin in a body bag, Paul O'Connor, who helped prepare the body for autopsy, told Lifton.

Lifton's book, published by Mcmillan Publishing Co., is to be released Tuesday at a Washington, D.C., news conference, but The Morning News obtained it when several copies were inadvertently placed on shelves of a Dallas bookstore this week.

Lifton, 40, began his assassination research in 1965 after reading a report by FBI agents that said Kennedy's skull showed signs of surgery when it arrived at Bethesda.

Doctors at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, where Kennedy was taken after the shooting, worked more than eight hours but only on Kennedy's throat, Lifton said.

"If someone had altered the head, the configuration of wounds at Dallas was not the same as at Bethesda," he wrote. "The head was thrust backward (according to a movie made by a bystander) by the impact of the bullet from the front, yet the autopsy performed at Bethesda showed an impact from behind."