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AFFIDAVIT

I, Franc[illegible] X. O'Neill, Jr., a resident of Guilford, Connecticut, being duly sworn, make oath as follows:

I was interviewed on January 10, 1978 in the FBI Office in New Haven, Connecticut by T. Mark Flanagan, Jr., James Kelly, and Donald A. Purdy, Jr. of the staff of the Select Committee on Assassinations. During this interview, I set forth the substance of the information which follows. At this time I reaffirm that this information is accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge.

This statement is made freely, voluntarily, and without threats, promises, assurances, or remuneration from any source.

At the time of the assassination, I was an FBI Agent stationed in the Hyattsville, Maryland Resident Agency and received my orders from the Baltimore Field Office. At approximately 5:30 p.m. on 11/22/63, James W. Sibert, also of the FBI, and I received orders to stay with President John F. Kennedy's (JFK) body as soon as it arrived at Andrews Air Force Base.

When the body arrived at Andrews Air Force Base, it was taken off the Air Force I and placed in an ambulance which Jackie Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) also entered. I rode in the "2nd car of the

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motorcade".

Upon arriving at the National Naval Medical Center of Bethesda, the ambulance stopped at the front entrance where Jackie and RFK disembarked to proceed to the 17th floor. The ambulance then travelled to the rear where Sibert, Bill Greer (Secret Service), and Roy Kellerman (Secret Service), and I placed the casket on a roller and transported it into the autopsy room.

I was present when various persons placed the body on the autopsy table. Doctors then proceeded to remove the sheet covering JFK and to photograph the body. X-rays were also taken at this time. I remained right next to the body, a distance of less than two yards during the entire length of the actual autopsy except for a short period of time when I left to get a sandwich. Sibert, Greer, and Kellerman were also present during the entire length of the autopsy.

During the autopsy, I had lengthy conversations with Greer and Kellerman in which we discussed the entire circumstances of the assassination. When the autopsy doctor appeared to have no idea of where the bullet entering the back may have gone, the doctors began discussing other possible outlets for the bullet.

During the autopsy, I prevented the entry of Major General Wehle, Commander, Military District of Washington, into the room because I did not want anyone in the autopsy room not directly connected with the autopsy or the assassination investigation. Sibert and I had sent around a piece of paper and had everyone enter his name on the list who was in attendance when the autopsy began.

When Humes and Boswell couldn't locate an outlet for the bullet that entered the back, Sibert left to call SA Charles Killion (FBI Laboratory) to determine if any extra bullets existed. He was advised of the finding of a bullet on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and relayed this information to the autopsy surgeons. I know for a fact that when the autopsy was complete, there was no doubt in anyone's mind in attendance at the autopsy that the bullet found on the stretcher in Dallas came out of JFK's body. I understand that Humes did call Parkland on 11/23/63 and learned at that time that a tracheotomy had been performed over a wound in the President's throat.

not what Sibert says

Unless he got his secondhand when Humes phoned Perry he knew. Humes called Perry before 11p 11/22/63

As I understood it, Mrs. Jackie Kennedy gave permission for a partial autopsy and Dr. George Burkley reiterated her remarks. There was no question that Burkley was conveying the wishes of the Kennedy family. On the issue

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of a full vs. a partial autopsy. Admiral Galloway resolved this by ordering a complete autopsy after checking with the FBI and Secret Service Agents in attendance. In reference to the back wound, the doctors "did not cut through into the back of the neck."

I have no recollection of any bullet damage around the trachea.

The autopsy room had a phone and a coffee pot. During the autopsy an FBI Agent and a Secret Service man were always present. I only left once with Kellerman and Air Force General Godfrey McHugh, the Presidential Aide, to obtain a sandwich. Sometime during the autopsy, O'Leary and Hill, both of the Secret Service, entered the room.

If a person wasn't present at the beginning of the autopsy or was listed as having entered later, then he didn't witness any of the autopsy.

I heard Humes say that the bullets entered from a 45-60° angle. Pierre Finck seemed to be more atuned to the angle of the bullets that entered JFK's body.

I recall that the head wound was massive and pointed towards the right side of his head. I saw the doctors remove a piece of the missile from just behind an eye and another one from further back in the head. A Navy man

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entered the room to make a receipt for the two fragments that were removed from the body which Sibert and I signed for. The doctors removed only two fragments and not a full "missile". Sibert and I then transported the two fragments to the FBI Laboratory where they were given to SA Kurt Frazier. The doctors obtained the large fragments; many small fragments were also in the head, but they were not removed. The autopsy doctors felt that the bullet that entered the head struck the center, low portion of the head and exited from the top, right side, towards the front.

I do recall Humes, Boswell, and/or Finck calling out measurements for the wounds. I do remember the doctors measuring the piece of skull that was found in the limousine and brought to Bethesda during the autopsy.

In my opinion, JFK could have had an open casket. The medical illustrator that the Commission employed did not accurately depict the President's wounds.

I do not recall which doctor was taking the notes during the autopsy, but Finck seemed to take over the autopsy when he arrived.

I do not see how the bullets that entered below the shoulder in the back could have come out the front of the throat. During the interview on January 10, 1978, I disagreed with Dr. Boswell's depiction of the location

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of the back (thorax) wound which Dr. Boswell had drawn on a diagram during an interview with this Committee in the Fall of 1977.

I do not recall anything about the tracheotomy incision that indicated a bullet had damaged the area. When shown a tracing of the tracheotomy during the HSCA interview, I had no recollection or comment concerning the apparent bullet wound perimeter. It was and is my opinion that the bullet which entered the back came out the back.

Some discussion did occur concerning the disintegration of the bullet. A general feeling existed during the autopsy that a soft-nosed bullet struck JFK. There was discussion concerning the back wound that the bullet could have been a "plastic" type or an "Ice" bullet, one which dissolves after contact. There was also no real sense either way that the wounds were caused by the same kind of bullet.

The medical people handled the x-rays, the Secret Service the photographs. Roy Kellerman told me that Robert Bouck (Secret Service) would make the photographs taken during the autopsy available to the FBI if desired. The FBI obtained the bullet fragments so that the FBI Laboratory would make a determination as to their composition and if possible caliber.

The general level of activity in the autopsy room was reverent with no kidding around. The doctors appeared

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me to have performed in a workman-like manner.

I did not discuss any autopsy procedures with the embalmers. I last saw the body just prior to the dressing, after the morticians were through.

The tissues and organs taken from JFK were verified and Doctor Humes then assumed care and custody of these materials. I do not recall what subsequently happened to these materials.

On November 27 or 28, 1963, I prepared a memo for the file in the Baltimore Field Office dealing with the partial or full autopsy issue. This memo would have been from me to SAC Baltimore and would have been anywhere from 8-10 lines in length. This memo was separate from our joint reports. To my knowledge, the doctors performed a full autopsy.

All FBI Offices were involved in some aspect of the Kennedy assassination investigation. Although I was interviewed at length by Arlen Specter, an attorney for the Warren Commission, I felt it was odd that I was not called upon to give oral testimony.

I understand that this affidavit may be introduced and received into evidence by the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States House of Representatives, and may lead them to make various findings of fact, and the

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statutes applicable to Congressional investigations, including but not limited to those concerning false statements, obstruction, or misleading, would subject me to criminal penalties for not telling the whole and complete truth in this affidavit.

Francis X. O'Neill, Jr.

Signed and sworn to before me this 8th day of NOVEMBER, 1978.

Jules E. Yarnell
NOTARY PUBLIC

JULES E. YARNELL
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 60-9764725
Qualified in Westchester County
Certificate filed in New York County
Commission Expires March 30, 1980

My Commission Expires:
MARCH 30, 1980

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