ference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Francis 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

ference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

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

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

nce copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

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

rence copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

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

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

rence copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

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 9th 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

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES