

(79) Finding Specter's - the Commission's - skeletons did not require opening all the official graves. Indeed, the bulk alone makes this impossible. The files are estimated to total 300 cubic feet. In files, where millions of words can be contained in a single cubic foot, the total is enormous, incalculable. ^{(unpleasant} The ~~unhappy~~ ^{truth} ~~truth~~ is that, once one learns to skip around the extensive junk, the trivia and the great volume of the irrelevant, it is almost impossible not to stub an investigative toe on a promising stone.

When there is a murder, the autopsy and the medical evidence are, of course, essential evidence.

Harwood preferred to believe there was nothing wrong with the autopsy. He told me this, citing by way of proof what he elected to omit from his story, that "the White House" (meaning in this case the advisors of the late President) had invited the Post to have an observer at the autopsy. Why should the "White House" have invited the Post to have an observer at the autopsy if there were to be wrongdoing ~~here~~?

What Harwood was implying is what nobody ever suggested, that the late President's staff was in some way involved in his murder or its coverup. Certainly none of these officials ever dreamed the autopsy would be a farce. However, had Harwood merely phoned the District of Columbia morgue, as I did, he would have learned that its officials would not have been satisfied with that kind of inquest when investigating the murder of a skid row bum, let alone that of a President.

Harwood also failed to note the presence, in the official party at Bethesda Naval Hospital, of his boss, Managing Editor Benjamin Bradlee.

13 Only because he failed to look into it did Harwood not learn that a "White House" invitation was valueless, that those present at the actual autopsy were limited to military medical personnel, except for the ^{Disputed} Secret

Service and FBI agents, ~~present~~, the former apparently to keep an eye on the corpse and the latter to eye them.

This, in the files, leads inevitably to Specter, what he knew, what he knew and kept out of the record that, as the Commission's lawyer in charge, he was responsible for, and the alleged basis of the FBI's above-quoted reports.

What one finds here is contradictory to what Specter adduced and to the Report, those parts of which Specter presumably drafted for Commission signature.

The reports of FBI Baltimore Office Agents James W. Sibert and Francis X. O'Neill were not printed when the Commission had 26 very large volumes it devoted to what, lacking any appropriate designation, has been termed "evidence". Not in the estimated 10,000,000 words was there space for these accounts of who was present at the autopsy and what was observed there, before and during the examination. The reports are in the Commission's fifth file.

From the official record built by Specter, one would gather that only these agents and Autopsy Surgeons James J. Humes and J. Thornton Boswell of the Navy and Pierre Finck of the Army were present. This is false. Aside from those who entered on various missions, ¹³ ~~thirteen~~ others were there, Sibert and O'Neill, who can be excused their misspelling of names, list these others with the introduction, "The following individuals attended the Autopsy":

"Adm. C. B. HOLLOWAY, U. S. Navy, Commanding Officer
of the U. S. Naval Medical Center, Bethesda;

Adm. BERKLEY, U. S. Navy, the President's personal
physician;

Commander JAMES J. HUMES, Chief Pathologist, Bethesda
Naval Hospital, who conducted autopsy;

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He advised that he had already received instructions from Director ROWLEY as to the presence of Bureau agents. It will be noted that aforementioned Bureau agents, Mr. ROY KELLEHMAN, Mr. WILLIAM GREER and Mr. WILLIAM O'LEARY, Secret Service agents, were the only personnel other than medical personnel present during the autopsy.

The following individuals attended the autopsy:

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- Adm. C. B. HOLLOWAY, U. S. Navy, Commanding Officer of the U. S. Naval Medical Center, Bethesda;
- Adm. BERKLEY, U. S. Navy, the President's personal physician;
- Commander JAMES J. HUMES, Chief Pathologist, Bethesda Naval Hospital, who conducted autopsy;
- Capt. JAMES H. STONER, JR., Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School, Bethesda;
- Mr. JOHN T. STRINGER, JR., Medical photographer;
- JAMES H. PERSOLE;
- LLOYD E. BAHS;
- J. T. BOZWELL;
- J. G. RUDNICKI;
- PAUL K. O'CONNOR;
- J. C. JENKINS;
- JERROL F. CRESTER;
- EDWARD F. REED;
- JAMES METZLER.

During the course of the autopsy, Lt. Col. P. FINCK, U. S. Army Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, arrived to assist Commander HUMES in the autopsy. In addition, Lt. Cmdr. SPENCER CROSS and Captain DAVID OSBORNE, Chief of Surgery, entered the autopsy room.

Major General WEHLE, Commanding Officer of U. S. Military District, Washington, D.C., entered the autopsy room to ascertain from the Secret Service arrangements concerning the

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"Capt. JAMES H. STONER, JR., Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School, Bethesda;
 Mr. JOHN T. STRINGER, JR., Medical photographer;
 JAMES H. EBERSOLE;
 LLOYD E. RAIHS;
 J. TO BOZWELL; ~~Li~~, ask about this
 J. G. RUDNICKI;
 PAUL K. O'CONNOR;
 J. C. JENKINS;
 JERROL F. CRESTER;
 EDWARD F. REED;
 JAMES METZLER."

12/2 They specify that others "entered the autopsy room" and note "Lt. Cmdr. Gregg Cross and Captain David Osborne, Chief of Surgery"; "Major General Wehle, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Military District, Washington, D.C."; "AMC Chester H. Boyers, U.S. Navy... to type receipts given by FBI and Secret Service for items obtained" (and do not look for these receipts or the itemizations, for they are suppressed from the Report and the printed evidence); these four employees of Gawler's funeral home, "John Van Heesen, Edwin Stroble, Thomas Robinson and Mr. Hagen"; "Brigadier General Godfrey McHugh, Air Force Aide to the President, was also present, as was Dr. George Bakeman, U. S. Navy".

From this, once it is dredged from the official swamp of the suppressed documents, we know that there were not fewer than 23 additional witnesses at the autopsy.

There remained, after Specter finished adducing testimony, the most basic questions about the autopsy, unresolved conflicts and a considerable

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Transportation of the President's body back to the White House.
DR. CHARLES A. PETERS, U. S. Navy, visited the autopsy room
during the final stages of such to type receipts given by FBI
and Secret Service for items contained.

At the termination of the autopsy, the following personnel
from the President's Funeral Home entered the autopsy room to
prepare the President's body for burial:

JOHN VAN HAESEN
HOWIN STROBLE
THOMAS REEDERSON
DR. HILKA

Major General GODFREY MURPHY, Air Force Military Aide
to the President, was also present, as was Dr. GEORGE BARHAM,
U. S. Navy.

Arrangements were made for the performance of the autopsy
by the U. S. Navy and Secret Service.

The President's body was removed from the casket in which it
had been transported and was placed on the autopsy table, at
which time the complete body was wrapped in a sheet and the
head area contained an additional wrapping which was saturated
with blood. Following the removal of the wrapping, it was
ascertained that the President's clothing had been removed
and it was also apparent that a tracheotomy had been performed,
as well as surgery of the head area, namely, in the top of
the skull. All personnel with the exception of medical
officers needed in the taking of photographs and X-Rays were
requested to leave the autopsy room and remain in an adjacent
room.

Upon completion of X-Rays and photographs, the first incision
was made at 8:15 p.m. X-Rays of the brain area which were
developed and returned to the autopsy room disclosed a path
of a missile which appeared to enter the back of the skull
and the path of the disintegrated fragments could be observed
along the right side of the skull. The largest section of
this missile as portrayed by X-Ray appeared to be behind the
right frontal sinus. The next largest fragment appeared to
be in the rear of the skull at the juncture of the skull base.

The pathologist advised approximately 40 particles of
disintegrated bullet and shrapnel indicated that the projectile
was disintegrated while passing through the skull region.

number of them glossed over. There remained unasked questions and unsought answers, both without justification or excuse.

But not one of these 23^{military} men, almost all with medical backgrounds and competences, was called as a witness.

There remained the official confusion about the location of the non-fatal injury in the rear of the President's body. Here were 23 more experts who could have provided enlightenment and answers.

They were not called, the answers not sought.

This does not encourage belief that they would have testified in consonance with the official account, that this was a neck wound. Nor does it suggest that the omission of the pictures and X-rays of the autopsy is only in deference to the feelings of the survivors. They were expunged from the record, where as in any tank-town legal proceeding they would have been required. ^{anyway} This, the "best evidence" of the autopsy, could have been in evidence and examined but not published.

In his testimony, Dr. Humes said that although it was "redundant", he did not really know that a tracheotomy had been performed in Dallas and that he phoned Dr. Perry the morning of November 23 - not the night of November 22 while he was conducting the autopsy examination- to find out (WHITEWASH 180).

Sibert and O'Neill also were never called as witnesses. If there was no other reason for it - and there were many, all of which could have made the official verdict more difficult, if not impossible, to render - this language, from the third page of their report, had to be suppressed or the question of perjury had to be faced:

"Following the removal of the wrapping (of the President's body), it was ascertained that a tracheotomy had been performed, as well as surgery of the head area, namely, in the top of the skull".

(80) The question of this "surgery of the head area", nowhere mentioned in the testimony, may remain a mystery. It is not a mystery that these agents, unable to spell proper names, knew that "a tracheotomy had been performed". That, and the correct spelling of the uncommon medical term, they could have learned only from the doctors.

Harwood's sources in the Department of Justice palmed off on him, and he and the Post accepted, a false explanation of the discrepancies between the FBI reports of December 9 and January 13 and the autopsy protocol. They blamed it on the absence of the FBI agents from the autopsy room and called what was accurately reported and observed "hearsay". This is the source of the still-accepted fiction.

The "first incision" of the autopsy was made at 8:15. The phone call reporting the finding of the whole bullet was made at 9:00 p.m. But it was not until "the latter stages of the Autopsy" that "Dr. Humes located an opening which appeared to be a bullet hole which was below the shoulders and two inches to the right of the middle line of the spinal column. This opening was probed by Dr. HUMES with the finger, at which time it was determined that the trajectory of the missile entering at this point had entered at a downward position of 45 to 60 degrees. Further probing determined ^{that the} ~~at~~ this distance travelled by this missile was a short distance inasmuch as the end of the opening could be felt with the finger. Inasmuch ~~as~~ no bullet could be located in the back or any other area of the body ...and inspection revealing there was no point of exit, the individuals performing the autopsy were at a loss to explain why they could find no bullets."

After the agents told Humes of the finding of a bullet at the hospital, he "advised" that "it ~~was entirely possible that~~ ^{it} since ^{external} cardiac massage had been performed at Parkland Hospital, it was entirely possible

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During the autopsy inspection of the area of the brain, two fragments of metal were removed by Dr. HUMES, namely, one fragment measuring 7 x 2 millimeters, which was removed from the right side of the brain. An additional fragment of metal measuring 1 x 3 millimeters was also removed from this area, both of which were placed in a glass jar containing a black metal top which were thereafter marked for identification and following the signing of a proper receipt were transported by Bureau agents to the FBI Laboratory.

During the latter stages of this autopsy, Dr. HUMES located an opening which appeared to be a bullet hole which was below the shoulders and two inches to the right of the middle line of the spinal column.

This opening was probed by Dr. HUMES with the finger, at which time it was determined that the trajectory of the missile entering at this point had entered at a downward position of 45 to 60 degrees. Further probing determined that the distance travelled by this missile was a short distance inasmuch as the end of the opening could be felt with the finger.

Inasmuch as no complete bullet of any size could be located in the brain area and likewise no bullet could be located in the back or any other area of the body as determined by total body X-Rays and inspection revealing there was no point of exit, the individuals performing the autopsy were at a loss to explain why they could find no bullets.

A call was made by Bureau agents to the Firearms Section of the FBI Laboratory, at which time SA CHARLES L. KILLION advised that the Laboratory had received through Secret Service Agent RICHARD JOHNSON a bullet which had reportedly been found on a stretcher in the emergency room of Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas. This stretcher had also contained a stethoscope and pair of rubber gloves. Agent JOHNSON had advised the Laboratory that it had not been ascertained whether or not this was the stretcher which had been used to transport the body of President KENNEDY. Agent KILLION further described this bullet as pertaining to a 6.5 millimeter rifle which would be approximately a 25 caliber rifle and that this bullet consisted of a copper alloy full jacket.

Immediately following receipt of this information, this was made available to Dr. HUMES who advised that in his opinion this accounted for no bullet being located which had entered

that through such movement the bullet had worked its way back out, ^{of} the point of entry..." From this, "Dr. HUMES stated that the pattern was clear that the ^{one} bullet had entered the President's back and had worked its way out of the body during external cardiac massage..."

Fractured as this FBI syntax is, it does not stand alone. Other documents to be cited and what I have already printed (especially in WHITEWASH, "The Doctors and the Autopsy", particularly 1851; and WHITEWASH II, "Strange Inquest") are corroborative. It is not really addressed ~~to~~ by the official explanations the press prefers to accept, and it does disprove the official explanation of the murder. It is abundantly substantiated by the testimony of Secret Service Agents Roy H. Kellerman and William R. Greer (Specter took no sworn testimony from Sibert and O'Neill although he did interview them, very briefly).

It is not hearsay, but is the personal observation of the agents, confirmed in detail by those others present who were called as witnesses. It cannot be dismissed, as the FBI persuaded Harwood, the Washington Post and those who have since retailed it, by the false statement that the agents were out of the room making a phone call. It is, in fact, the conclusion that followed that phone call. Because the agents were present throughout the proceedings, from before the arrival of the corpse until the body left at almost 4 a.m., there was no part of the autopsy they did not observe and ask questions about.

The angle of the wound was never commented on by those officials seeking to persuade that the agents were wrong. There is, therefore, nothing to dispute this "45 to 60 degrees" angle of entry, which would eliminate the possibility that the same bullet caused any of Connally's wounds as it would make impossible the causing of the President's front neck wound by the same projectile. This alone can explain its strange omission in the FBI report. If this bullet did not account for it, that

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the back region and that since external cardiac massage had been performed at Parkland Hospital, it was entirely possible that through such movement the bullet had worked its way back out of the point of entry and had fallen on the stretcher.

Also during the latter stages of the autopsy, a piece of the skull measuring 10 x 6.5 centimeters was brought to Dr. HUMES who was instructed that this had been removed from the President's skull. Immediately this section of skull was X-Rayed, at which time it was determined by Dr. HUMES that one corner of this section revealed minute metal particles and inspection of this same area disclosed a chipping of the top portion of this piece, both of which indicated that this had been the point of exit of the bullet entering the skull region.

On the basis of the latter two developments, Dr. HUMES stated that the pattern was clear that the one bullet had entered the President's back and had worked its way out of the body during external cardiac massage and that a second high velocity bullet had entered the rear of the skull and had fragmentized prior to exit through the top of the skull. He further pointed out that X-Rays had disclosed numerous fractures in the cranial area which he attributed to the force generated by the impact of the bullet in its passage through the brain area. He attributed the death of the President to a gunshot wound in the head.

The following is a complete listing of photographs and X-Rays taken by the medical authorities of the President's body. They were turned over to Mr. ROY KELLERMAN of the Secret Service. X-Rays were developed by the hospital, however, the photographs were delivered to Secret Service undeveloped:

- 11 X-Rays
- 22 4 x 5 color photographs
- 18 4 x 5 black and white photographs
- 1 roll of 120 film containing five exposures

Mr. KELLERMAN stated these items could be made available to the FBI upon request. The portion of the skull measuring 10 x 6.5 centimeters was maintained in the custody of Dr. HUMES who stated that it also could be made available for further examination. The two metal fragments removed from the brain area were hand carried by SAs SIBERT and O'NEILL to the FBI Laboratory immediately following the autopsy and were turned over to SA KURT FRAZIER.

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 meant another bullet - and another assassin. If this evidence is wrong, it was Specter's responsibility to bring it up and prove it wrong. It was not his responsibility to ignore and try to bury it, which is what happened.

If the doctors performed any examination that in any way refuted this observation, it is unreported.

(81) Also ignored by the official and unofficial apologists - and abundantly substantiated elsewhere - is the location of this wound - not in the neck but "below the shoulders and two inches to the right of the middle line midline of the spinal column". This, too, was personal observation, not "hearsay". And this required no medical degrees for competent observation and understanding. Were it true that the agents were out of the autopsy room part of the time and that some of what they reported was "hearsay" (which, in every other case, the Commission found acceptable evidence), it was not hearsay when they saw the wound and its location.

Specter's suppression of this evidence and his failure to call these agents - or any of the other 23 competent witnesses not called - leaves this FBI report intact, its evidence muted but viable, and ~~xxx~~ raises the obvious questions about the alleged fact of the autopsy that is neither factual nor sensible and about the integrity of everyone involved - ^{those} who participated or ^{who} knew and ^{was} silent.

(It is this sort of behavior that makes particularly appropriate the title of Sylvia Meagher's book, "Accessories after the Fact".)

This suppression, of the witnesses and the report, in itself is enough to warrant doubt about the official proceedings, of the Commission and of the autopsy.

As we shall see, it need not stand by itself.

This Sibert-O'Neill report also punctures the FBI balloon that the autopsy data was withheld ^h from it until after it made its December 9 report.

After "the" complete listing of photographs and X-rays taken", "11 X-rays, 22 4x5 color photographs, 18 4x5 black and white photographs, ~~and~~ 1 roll of 120 film containing five exposures", the report states, "Mr. Kellerman stated these items could be made available to the FBI upon request."

So, if the FBI, which was, at the time of its December 9 summary report, in charge of the investigation of the President's murder, did not have the autopsy evidence, it is not an explanation of excusable error but a self-indictment warranting something other than the official and journalistic silence of assent.

This FBI report, as well as the too-many other related documents, indicts everyone involved, the Commission and its staff, the investigative agencies and the complacent, conveniently blind and mute press. Much more does it indict the FBI, which rendered "definitive" reports in which the assassination is minor and a tissue-thin, prosecution case against Oswald is major.

To account for the assassination - its entire description - on the first of the three brief pages in the December 9 report is this paragraph:

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From page 18 of this same document, where the evidence against Oswald is being mustered:

Lil, use the photocopy

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 When the flimsy excuse that the FBI had not seen the autopsy evidence - on January 23, 1964, after there was a record of FBI possession of a copy of the autopsy protocol - Hoover included this language in his supplementary report:

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If there is no solace in the FBI's reporting of the fact of the assassination or its solution, may we not take comfort from the neatness of its packages, the wide margins to the large typing and the beautiful plastic bindings?

Before these reports were drafted, the FBI knew what the Dallas police "general offense report" said of the crime as it related to Governor Connally. It also knew that this was utterly destructive of its own account as it would be of the Commission's. That would seek to make the FBI's unacceptable one more acceptable, to preserve a basis, no matter how tenuous, for calling Oswald the lone assassin. Here are the appropriate sentences of that "general offense report":

"Mr. Connally sustained a gunshot wound with the point of entry located in the posterior of the right shoulder; ranging downward thru the chest, exiting on the right chest just below right nipple. The bullet continued, striking the right wrist, palmside, exiting 2 inches from the wrist joint. A fragment continued, entered the interior portion of the left thigh causing a flesh wound."

There can be no doubt of the police source. It had to be the doctors. This, for example, is exactly the medical explanation offered by Dr. Robert R. Shaw when Arlen Specter took his deposition in Dallas on March 3, 1964 (6H83ff)z

"Dr. SHAW: I have always felt that the wounds of Governor Connally could be explained by the passage of one missile through his chest, striking his wrist and a fragment of it going on into his left thigh. I had never entertained the idea that he had been struck by a second missile.

Mr. SPECTER. Well, focusing for just a minute on the limited question of the physical characteristics of the wounds on the wrist, if you had that and nothing more in this case to go on, what would your opinion be as to which point was entry and which point was exit?

Dr. SHAW. Ordinarily, we usually find the wound of entrance is smaller than the wound of exit. In the Governor's wound on the wrist, however, if the wound on the dorsum of the wrist is the wound of entrance, and this large missile passed directly through his radius, I'm not clear as to why there was not a larger wound of exit than there was.

Mr. SPECTER. You mean on the volar aspect?

Dr. SHAW, Yes; if a whole bullet hit here ----" (6H91)

Specter had little interest in Dr. Shaw's competent medical opinion that there was no "single-bullet theory" (which Specter was then developing), that the Governor's thigh wound was caused by a fragment, not a whole bullet. He had no more interest a month later, when he questioned this same Dr. Shaw about the same evidence before the Commission. (In that strange way of the Commission, this April 21 testimony, taken a month later, is printed two volumes earlier, (4H101ff), Specter ignored it.

When it was his responsibility to present the medical evidence to the members of the Commission for their consideration and assessment, it was essential for them to know, as Dr. Shaw had already told him under oath, that he believed it had been caused "by a fragment" of the bullet "going into his left thigh". Dr. Shaw, plainly, aborted the single-bullet theory during gestation. By ignoring Dr. Shaw's testimony, Specter willed his stillborn baby into existence and had the birth certificate signed by the members of the Commission.

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 There can be no doubt that Specter knew of this medical opinion that rendered his theory invalid, as there can be none that he should have known of the police "general offense report" saying exactly the same thing. That was his job, his function and responsibility. Here again the solution was not confronting evidence but suppressing it. That police report is not in the Commission's Report nor, to the best of my recollection, in any of the 10,000,000 words in its 26 printed volumes.

There is more th^at Specter knew and that he should have known about the autopsy and ^{about} the knowledge of the FBI and its agents ^{of} the autopsy and its examination. In the Commission's fifth file, folio 149 is headed "RESULTS OF AUTOPSY ON JOHN F. KENNEDY". Rightly or wrongly, it says not ^{what} that the FBI agents reported but that the "autopsy revealed one bullet hole located just below shoulders..."

We can take comfort from neither the possibility of the FBI's error nor the fact that, ~~it~~ right or wrong, it was suppressed from the evidence - left to plague the future either way. That the FBI would or could make such a gross error when investigating and reporting the murder of a President - if it is error - is as unacceptable as its perpetuation by Arlen Specter and others on the Commission staff who could and should have raised and answered the question when it was their solemn responsibility to do just that.

The concluding sentence presents another and equally inexcusable perplexity: "The above information was received by communication from the Baltimore office, dated November 23, 1963".

Written by the Dallas office, this clearly and unequivocally says that there was a "communication" that was ~~"dated"~~ "dated" the day after the assassination; a communication, not a verbal message, dated the earliest it could have been, for Sibert and O'Neill were at Naval Hospital until about 4:00 a.m. that day, November 23.

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RESULTS OF AUTOPSY ON JOHN F. KENNEDY

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On November 23, 1963, an autopsy was performed on the body of former President JOHN F. KENNEDY at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland. A total body X-ray and autopsy revealed one bullet hole located just below shoulders to right of spinal column and hand-probing indicated trajectory at angle of 45 to 60 degrees downward and hole of short depth with no point of exit. No bullet located in body.

A second bullet entered back of head and thereafter emerged through top of skull. Two metal fragments removed from cranium area, the first 7 x 2 millimeters and the other 3 by 1 millimeters in size.

The above two metal fragments were turned over to Agents of the FBI for delivery to the FBI Laboratory.

A piece of skull measuring 10 by 6.5 centimeters had been flown in to Bethesda from Dallas hospital and this discloses minute metal fragments where bullet emerged from skull.

With respect to the bullet hole located in the back, pathologist at National Naval Medical Center was of the opinion this bullet worked its way out of the victim's back during emergency surgery performed at Dallas hospital prior to transportation of body to Washington.

With respect to this situation, it is noted that Secret Service Agent RICHARD JOHNSON turned over to the FBI Laboratory one 6.5 millimeter rifle bullet (approximately .25 caliber), copper alloy, full jacket, which he advised was found on a stretcher in the emergency room of the Dallas hospital to which the victim was taken. JOHNSON was unable to advise whether stretcher on which this bullet was found had been used for the President.

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The above information was received by communication from the Baltimore Office, dated November 23, 1963.

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That, too, is suppressed from the evidence.

More, it is entirely missing from the files. When my own search disclosed no such "communication", I made an official request for it. The official response is that the Archivist could not find it.

That there need have remained no question about the observations of the FBI agents at the autopsy we know from Specter himself. Although he did not call them or any of the other 23 uncalled witnesses of whose existence and competence he knew, he did, personally, interview Sibert and O'Neill. He summoned them to his office on March 12, 1964. His questioning was unduly brief. It lasted from "approximately 10:00 a.m to 10:45 a.m". He spent the 15 minutes beginning an hour later dictating a memorandum to Commission General Counsel J. Lee Rankin.

For this memorandum on "Interview of FBI Agents Present at Autopsy", a mere six paragraphs that could have fit on a single printed page among those many thousands in the 26 volumes holding the estimated 10,000,000 words that were printed, there was no space. It, too, is suppressed from the evidence. This is consistent with Specter's failure to summon these agents or any of the other 23 men he knew were present and take testimony from them.

From it we cannot know what Specter asked them and how they responded. We can know only what he chose to record. That is enough to invalidate the explanation given Harwood and since repeated as the given word by the press that the FBI agents could have known about the search for the bullet that caused the rear non-fatal wound only from hearsay and that they were both absent from the autopsy at the crucial moments. One can understand Specter's subsequent silence, when this false report was broadcast throughout the world, if one need not sympathize with or approve this silence when lies were being told about the investigation of a President's murder and he knew they were lies.

"SA O'Neill and SA Sibert advised that the autopsy surgeons made substantial efforts to determine if there was a missile in President Kennedy's body to explain what happened to the bullet which apparently entered the back of his body. They stated that the opinion was expressed by both Commander Humes and Lt. Col. Finck that the bullet might have been forced out of the back of the President's body upon application of external heart massage. They stated that this theory was advanced after SA Sibert called the FBI laboratory and talked to SA Killion who advised that a bullet had been found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital. SA Sibert relayed that information to the doctors."

Thus, as Specter knew, the agents' knowledge was personal, for they gave the doctors the information from which the doctors developed their explanation. This early, as we shall see, Specter was building his case, not really seeking all the fact. Examination of this memo shows Specter was interested in none of the evidence that could have been adduced from the agents, only arguments. For example, could the doctors have advanced the belief that external cardiac massage caused the bullet to have worked its way out? Specter's representation of this is that, while the agents recalled no discussion of it prior to their reporting of the finding of the bullet, "however, neither agent could conclusively rule out the possibility." This and the accepted assurance of the agents that they made few notes and then destroyed those constitute the first half of Specter's memorandum.

This reflects a strange lack of interest in what went on at the autopsy, in the written report of these agents and its sensational information in violent opposition to what Specter himself was later to adduce for the record. That was consistent with his "theory" of the assassination. We can get no help or information from what remains, which is devoted to

Kennedy, John F.
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MEMORANDUM

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March 12, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
FROM: Azalea Cooper

SUBJECT: Interview of FBI Agents Present at Autopsy

On March 12, 1964, I interviewed Special Agents Francis X. O'Neill and James W. Sibert in my office from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

SA O'Neill and SA Sibert advised that the autopsy surgeons made substantial efforts to determine if there was a missile in President Kennedy's body to explain what happened to the bullet which apparently entered the back of his body. They stated that the opinion was expressed by both Commander Humes and Lt. Col. Finck that the bullet might have been forced out of the back of the President's body upon application of external heart massage. They stated that this theory was advanced after SA Sibert called the FBI laboratory and talked to SA Killian who advised that a bullet had been found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital. SA Sibert relayed that information to the doctors.

SA O'Neill and Sibert advised that they did not recall any discussion of the theory that the bullet might have been forced out of the body by external cardiac massage until after SA Sibert reported the finding of the bullet on the stretcher; however, neither agent could conclusively rule out the possibility that such a hypothesis was advanced prior to that time, but each expressed the opinion that he thought that theory was expressed after information was obtained about the bullet on the stretcher. SA Sibert advised that he made no notes during the autopsy. SA O'Neill stated that he made only a few notes, which he destroyed after his report was dictated. SA O'Neill advised that he is sure that his notes would not have shown when the Doctors expressed the thought that the bullet might have been forced out by external heart massage, in relation to the time that they learned of the presence of the bullet on the Parkland Hospital stretcher.

I also questioned SA Sibert and SA O'Neill about their interviews of ASAC Kelleman and SA Greer on the portions of the FBI report which Kelleman and Greer have repudiated.

SAs Sibert and O'Neill stated that they interviewed SAs Kelleman and Greer formally on November 27, 1963, and talked to them only informally at the autopsy. SA O'Neill stated that he is certain that he had a verbatim note on Kelleman's statement that the President said "Get me to a hospital" and also that Mrs. Kennedy said "Oh, no." SA O'Neill stated that he was

These were direct quotes from Kellerman because O'Neill used quotation marks in his report which indicated that he had written those precise words. The notes, which notes have since been destroyed after the report was written. SA O'Neill noted that Mr. Kellerman did not repeat that language in the interview of November 27, 1963, and that in the later interview O'Neill took down what Kellerman said without leading or directing him in any way.

I also asked the two Special Agents about the language in their reports that Greer glanced around and noticed that the President had apparently been hit and thereafter got on the radio and communicated with the other vehicles, stating that they "conired to get the President to the hospital immediately." SA O'Neill and Sibert advised that to the best of their recollection SA Greer told them just that, but they probably did not make any notes on those comments since their conversation with Greer was confidential and at the time of the autopsy and they did not have an opportunity to make extensive notes in accordance with their normal interviewing procedures.

Started from 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon

semantics, the exact words these FBI agents attributed to Secret Service Agents Kellerman and Greer.

85 There is not a single word in here about who was present at the autopsy; what the agents saw and heard, other than the single reference to cardiac massage; who could corroborate or disprove what the agents reported; what the more important personages were doing - were they just observing, or did the head of the entire Naval Medical installation and the President's personal physician (both a rarity, medical admirals), participate? Did they have knowledge requiring that they be called as witnesses? (Of course they did, but they weren't called.) What kinds of pictures were taken when, especially of the non-fatal injuries? At what stage in the autopsy examination? Was the alleged path of this bullet ever actually traced, or was it just guessed at? Were pictures taken that could answer this question? How did the agents know as soon as the body was unwrapped that a tracheotomy had been performed in Dallas ~~was~~ when the doctors pretended they really didn't know and had to phone Dallas (twice, though the Report acknowledges only one time)?

148 What about those pictures and X-rays, their number and kind, that, from evidence we shall examine, we know Specter by this time knew ~~was~~ would not be presented in evidence, as his own legal training and experience told him they should be?

Silence. Not a single word!

That "surgery of the head area"? Again, total silence. Specter's interest was not in these facts but in the theory he was developing, what became a substitute for fact.

How about the FBI summary and supplementary reports? Specter had the agents from whom their content allegedly came in his own office. The question of their possible error? The ~~was~~ omission of the "missed" bullet

and the front-neck wound, in which he certainly had to have had an interest. What about the minimum of five bullets these two additions accounted for if they could not be accommodated within the theory Specter was developing? Again, no question, no single mention.

The location of the rear, non-fatal wound is vital to the Commission's and Specter's theory as it is to the autopsy, even though its location where the printed autopsy report and the Commission's Report say it was cannot in itself validate the Report. Here Specter had in front of him two men who, in pursuance of their official duties as FBI investigators, had seen this wound and had, to his knowledge, written a report that totally invalidated his growing "theory" by locating it not in the neck but below the shoulder?

Rather than ^{abort} destroy his gestating "theory" with fact, his ~~memorandum reports~~ no single question he asked about it!

Nothing about its location and nothing about its angle or depth!

Had they been absent for a significant period - both of them - making a phone call and missed anything important?

Why had they left to make a phone call? Did they want to be unheard by the others? There was a phone in that room. Why? Still again, silence

All of these questions demanded asking and required answers. This was the murder of a President under "investigation". The national integrity was at stake, as was that of the participants. There was the "crime of the century" to be solved, the honor of the new government and its head to be protected from the inevitable rumors and questions such as "who benefitted?" the questions lawyers, properly, always ask.

But these questions, had Specter asked them, would have elicited the answers we already know, for we now have the suppressed evidence that holds them. We now know that all of the answers were answers he and the government didn't want. Because there is no question of Specter's competence,

none of his experience, what remains but the deliberate avoidance and suppression of evidence the taking of which would record proof that invalidated the Report not yet written? (As we shall see ^{in chapter} ~~pp.~~ the Report was already outlined and decided upon, though the "investigation" to be "reported" upon had not yet commenced!)

Unfortunately, ~~and~~ bad as this is, it is not all and is not the worst.

This is one way to "investigate" the murder of a President - the way the murder of John F. Kennedy was "investigated". It is Specter's way and the Commission's. But let us hope it is not the way the American people will indefinitely put up with now that the truth, officially suppressed, is at last out.