

Clifton

Earlier (pp. ~~1-3~~), I recounted the profound disinterest of all ~~interested~~ officials of all levels in the Connally clothing and the quintessential evidence they could have held, for example the ~~direction~~ *direction* of the bullet end, by spectrographic analysis, the type. *Pro such analysis,* It would have been possible to identify ~~with~~ *with* ~~the spectrographic analysis of the infinitesimally small traces of the bullet remaining on the cloth with Bullet 399 had it be the one to rend the garments~~ *had* ~~ere it tore and battered the Governor. Neither the local nor federal police had any interest in the Governor's clothing until Mrs Connally felt she just had to do something.~~ *she dipped them in water.* As soon as this happened, as Mrs. Connally, not being a criminologist, had no way of knowing, the evidentiary value of the clothing was forever lost. *Having been unable to visit anyone in them, Mrs Connally*

Then the federal police suddenly got interested.

The Commission, until then, also was without interest. Then it got interested. Once it was too late it was also safe.

The first person into whose hands the Governor's clothing passed is Clifton C. Carter, then an assistant to Vice President Johnson. Nurse Ruth J. Standridge gave him the ~~governor's~~ *Carter* clothing. She identified him as an assistant to the Governor. The Commission's mishandling of these simple events, ~~is consistent with what happened but not with what its evidence shows.~~ *That* can be interpreted to mean that Carter misrepresented himself as a Secret Service agent. I tell the story in WHITEWASH (p. 160). There I also point out that "He never appeared before the Commission. There is a two-page affidavit from him (7H474-5) executed six months after the assassination. In it, Carter makes no mention of this clothing."

In the light of what I then knew, this was a considerable understatement. For example, this "affidavit" as printed in the Commission's "evidence" has no notarial seal, no notary's name or identification of any sort-no indications that it was ever sworn to in any way- in fact is so utterly and unspeakably incompetent it does not bear the designation of the jurisdiction in which it was allegedly executed.

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In the light of Mrs. Connally's revelations, ^{in chapter 4} as readily available to the Commission and its staff as to Life magazine - the difference being Life was interested and the eminences and their legal eagles were not - what is in these staff papers held secret until the end of September 1967 is particularly interesting and, I think, significant.

On April 16, 1964 ^{another} Arlen Specter addressed a memorandum to ~~General Counsel Rankin~~, to whom

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the people of New York City entrusted their affairs in the administration of Mayor John Lindsay. It is entitled "Remaining Work in Area X". It is broken into six ^{sections} parts. The first is headed "obtain statements of the assassination from the eyewitness celebrities." ^{This section has 1} There are seven parts. In the first four, Specter recommends calling before the Commission of President and Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kennedy, Governor and Mrs. Connally, and Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas.

The first person ~~arg~~ against whose appearance before the Commission Specter recommends is Carter. In section (e) he says, "Clifford(sic) Carter - He has been interviewed and a statement has been prepared for him to sign based on that interview. I recommend that he not be called before the Commission."

To those who may say that calling Carter before the Commission would have accomplished nothing because the Commission members were incompetent in their brief and infrequent questionings and the Commission staff asked only what they wanted, I can say only that he should have been called before the Commission and asked about Governor Connally's clothing - to whom had he given them? ^{and why?} They the Commission might ~~have~~, as it should have traced what happened to this evidence and ~~History~~ we would not have to depend on a magazine when there was a Presidential Commission assigned to learn and report fully on the crime. The Commission followed its standard formula: it ignored what was unpleasant, what really reflected on the federal police, and whatever it dared that might tend to exculpate Oswald.

From Specter's memo we do learn that Carter's statement was not one that he drafted himself. It was "prepared for him to sign". In short, the

statement of what Carter allegedly swore to was prepared for him by the Commission staff. It is they who suppressed the entire story of the culpable design for the destruction of evidence. ^{subp} Indeed, it is the staff that is responsible for that destruction of evidence, for it was their responsibility to obtain and secure it.

~~XXXXXX~~ We do not know who on the staff prepared the statement for Carter's signature and carefully suppressed all reference to this. We do not know whether Specter, an authentic workhorse, was just modest and didn't brag that he had done this, too.

But what we do know, without question, is that Specter had knowledge of it and recommended against calling Carter to give testimony.

We also know that spectrographic analysis of the Connally clothing could have ruined Specter's single-bullet hoax before he had it fully shaped.

And we know this knowledge was suppressed until September 1967, ^H by then most interest in the Commission has abated. At the very time I got access to this document, Specter was busy running for mayor of Philadelphia aided by plots he claimed to exist in which negroes were going to poison him. The source of the ~~ixix~~ story - an obvious boost to Specter's chances, particularly because it associated him with the magical names FBI and J. Edgar Hoover ~~IT WAS AN FBI STORY THAT FBI MAN~~ therefore more - was a man already in jail and subject to pressures.

One wonders if he, ~~also~~ too signed an "affidavit".

Extra space

As I said, once the evidence was safely lost forever, Specter and the Commission moved fast. On April 9 he drafted a letter to Hoover, for Rankin's signature. First the FBI was telephoned (very few of the letters indicated that this happened although it most cases it must have). Then, for the yokels and those who followed, this polite record was left. Modestly disowning parentage, Specter wrote "The theory has been advanced that the ~~(his emphasis on a single one to cause all five wounds)~~ bullet entered Governor Connally's back, exited from his lower chest, entered the dorsal aspect of his wrist, and then entered his thigh". What the

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 Commission wanted to know is, could it have happened? It was safe to ask the question because the disproof had, ~~to its knowledge,~~ ^{the government} been destroyed. This it had already guaranteed.

Now in this case the Commission was in a great hurry. There is a handwritten note at the bottom of the ~~first~~ ^{second} page reading "Original signed by Arlen Specter". ~~The~~ ^{Suddenly, here} couldn't wait for Rankin to sign his own mail. ~~There is also~~ ^{then} a typed note, also indicative of ^{the} great speed that didn't begin ~~it~~ until it was too late to ~~do~~ ^{spectrographically} any good, ~~or too late to prove the ~~xxxx~~ fake being cooked up was a fake.~~ It reads, "Original and courtesy copy given to SA Robert E. Neill, FBI, 4/9/64, by Mr. Specter."

They had an FBI agent drop everything and rush over to pick up the destroyed evidence. Neill dutifully signed a receipt for Connally's jacket, trousers, shirt and tie.

Two months later Hoover sent this brief letter to Rankin, "By Courier Service" (the unvarying use of "Courier Service" is hardly an indication the mail service to the FBI and Commission were like mine, as set forth in Oswald IN NEW ORLEANS!). The paleness of the photocopy, which bears no file identification but was in the "JRC. 2" file, indicates it is not very close to the original. The notations were added by the Commission staff. Here it is, in facsimile:

Lil- allow space as marked, 9 inches and I'll paste original in. You have copies for copies. You need not paste them in copies.

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 The Commission was almost as anxious to get rid of Governor Connally's clothing whose evidentiary value had been destroyed as it has been not to get them until after this destruction. Hoover's letter was dated June 17. Arlen Specter wrote a brief letter to Connally, for Rankin's signature. The date typed after his initials says he did this June 18, about the earliest he could have. Oddly, though, the part of the letter that went to Connally was dated June 23. In the lower left-hand margin of the pale copy, Rankin initialed it June 19. Oh, well...The letter covered the delivery to Connally of the jacket, trousers, shirt and tie and thanked him for his "fine cooperation".

Because there was no evidence left on the garments, it ~~xxxxxxx~~ might be injudicious to wonder about the anxiety of the federal government to hurry essential evidence out of its possession. However, with the great care it took to preserve Marina Oswald's nail file for the national heritage, to imperishably preserve in history a blank subscription form to Life and newspaper clippings on cooking, crocheting and child care, and with its determination to memorialize in perpetuity Ruth Paine's "inox camera, which is revelant to nothing (chapter 1), might it not be asked if the "ational Archives, in its archive on the murder of President Kennedy, might not also have enshrined as the equal of countless files of empty envelopes, the clothing worn by the Governor and damaged in the assassination?

They do, at least, show where his garments were damaged.

Or is it that in ~~its~~ ^{its} determination of what the National interest requires" ^{Commission} the ~~Attorney General~~ could not abide anything relating to its single-bullet adoption from Specter.

Extra space

Any evidence about any of the shooting is closely related to what here is most important, the autopsy. Even if too late, the Commission did examine the Connolly clothing. However, with the autopsy it never examined the "best evidence" and, with existing major conflicts ~~xxxxxxx~~ safely, if temporarily, suppressed in its files, it failed to call any of the at least 23 witnesses who might have helped resolve the suppressed conflict (chapter 7). Why did it call not one of these observers, among whom were men of the highest medical competence?

Is it possible that in some mysterious manner, Specter did not know of the others at the autopsy? Could that page, for example, have been missing from the copy of the Sibert-O'Neill report, or had he shuffled his notes of what he wanted to ask them and sort of mislaid that sheet? Is it an accident that he did not call any of these other 23 qualified witnesses to the autopsy, most of them to all of it?

It is not. Seemingly Specter had a literary-legal guilt feeling about it, too.

He quoted ~~it~~ it - but privately, very privately.

On February 19, 1964, he addressed a lengthy memorandum to General Counsel Rankin. He titled it, "Comprehensive Memorandum of Phase I".

Throughout this quite lengthy opus he had abundant footnotes to his sources. In the 16 lines of typing prior to what I here refer to he has six such citations. Then, on page 80, he has a category "Autopsy". The first subsection is "Persons Present". And lo! there are the names from the Sibert-O'Neill report! Complete with all the errors. Admiral Galloway comes out "Holloway", Admiral Burkley is "Admiral Berkeley", and on the lower levels, there is "J.T. Bozwell".

Except where Specter shortened it, the Silber-O'Neill report is there, names ~~in~~ in the same sequence, word for word.

And without a single footnote of reference on either of the two pages, 80 and 81, until the end where Specter ^{identifies} cites the signatures on the documents. Then ^{Autopsy report here} he alludes to the official file on the autopsy, No. 77. ^{is a citation to an unnecessary one} ~~for only the signatures,~~ ^{there was no need to cite a source} ~~the members of the Commission, if any saw his report.~~ ^{in actuality, but for all of it, to those who know no better. These, presumably, include the members of the Commission, if any saw his report.}

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That "neck" wounds Specter has a subhead for his technical mention of that. ^{reference to} Nowhere does he mention what the ^{report} report calls a "neck" wound. Here, it is "Upper Trunk Wound". In February, before he really went to work on it, what proof did Specter find that the doctors had "traced" the path of this bullet? Such words are lacking. The one he found apt is "postulated". "The autopsy report further postulated", we wrote, that the front wound was of exit. According to Webster, "postulate" means

anything but proved. It is something that is taken for granted, or a hypothesis, or an essential prerequisite. So, on page 85, from the same autopsy report the Commission was later to say the doctors ^{said to him} "traced" the path of this bullet, which they never said and never did, the strongest statement Specter would make is that it must be taken for granted, must be assumed. Not that it was ever proved. Taking something for granted is a kind of proof fortunately not recognized in courts of law.

Nor is there any doubt Specter used exactly the word he meant. On the same page he describes these as "the presumptive points of entry and exit". If there should be in the mind of the reader any doubt about whether ~~they~~ ^{it} ~~even~~ considered that this ~~read~~ ^{was} non-fatal injury was in the neck, let me quote his language from page 86: "During the latter stages of the autopsy, Dr. Humes located an opening which appeared to be a bullet hole below the shoulders and two inches to the right of the middle line of the spinal column". He quotes the angle of the shot as "45 to 60 degrees" and says that it penetrated less than a finger's depth.

(Here there cannot be the given explanation as in "suppl. and in.")

His source is the Sibert-O'Neill report. But there is no doubt Specter did have the official autopsy report, which he cites here frequently. Where there was need to "correct" some of it he did. An example is the belief that the bullet ~~was~~ found at Parkland Hospital had come from the President's stretcher. "Later investigation", he ~~said~~ ^{is}, "indicated" if "most probably came from Governor Connally" (~~sic~~ (sic)).

So, when he was in possession of all the fact -only not yet aware of all the requirements of a single-assassin theory, Specter had no misgivings about the FBI report on what the autopsy disclosed.

And he did ~~say~~ tell the Commission the President had been shot in the back, not the neck!

There is some mystery about the statement given by Darrell Tomlinson, hospital engineer who took manual control of the automatic elevator about 1 p.m. Specter's reference to it establishes its existence.

President Kennedy's body was placed in the ambulance at approximately 6:10 p.m. (Commission Report #3, Exhibit 12, Item 17, p. 7 (Landis)) The ambulance was driven by SA Greer with SAs Kellerman and Landis in the front seat, with Admiral Burkley, Mrs. Kennedy, Attorney General Kennedy, and Gen. Godfrey McHugh riding in the rear of the ambulance. (Commission Report #3, Exhibit 12, Item 11, p. 7 (Kellerman), Item 17, p. 5 (Landis)) The ambulance arrived at Bethesda Naval Hospital at 6:55 p.m., and Mrs. Kennedy and Attorney General Kennedy went immediately to the Presidential Suite on the 17th floor of the hospital where the immediate family and close friends had gathered. (Commission Report #3, Exhibit 12, Item 14, p. 5 (Hill), Item 17, p. 7 (Landis))

SAs Francis J. O'Neill, Jr. and James Siebert of the FBI were assigned to the case and were authorized to enter the morgue at the Naval Hospital. (Commission Report #3, Exhibit 12, Item 11, p. 5 (Kellerman))

B. Autopsy

1. Persons Present

A full autopsy was performed on President John F. Kennedy, starting at 8:00 p.m. (EST) (precise time of completion not listed), with Cdr. J. J. Hanes acting as the prosecutor. The following attended the autopsy:

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

Adm. Burkley, 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. Ebersole
Lloyd E. Raine
J. T. Roswell
J. G. Rubinicki
Paul K. O'Connor
J. C. Jenkins
Jarrol F. Croston
Edward F. Reed
James Martalov

Brig. Gen. Godfrey Mottish, AF
Mil. Aide to the President

Dr. George Bakeman, U.S. Navy

SAs Roy Mollersten, William Greer,
and John O'Leary of the SA

FBI Agents Francis K O'Neill, Jr.
and James W. Siskens

During the course of the autopsy, Lt. Col. Pierre A. Binet, U. S. Army, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, arrived to assist Commander Humes.

While the autopsy was in progress, the following people entered the room:

Major General Wible, Commanding Officer of the U. S. Military District, Washington, D. C.

Lt. Col. Gregg Cross
Captain David Osborne
AMC Chester H. Boyers, USN

The autopsy report was signed by Commander Humes, Lt. Colonel Binet, and Commander "J" Jarrol F. Croston. (Commission Report #5, p. 286-287; Commission Report #77)

2. General Description of Body

Measuring 72-1/2 inches and weighing approximately 170 lbs., the body was muscular and well developed. The hair was reddish-brown and the eyes were blue. Aside from a clot of blood on the external

*Shown as "William" in Commission Report #5

which on close inspection proves to represent the major portion of the right cerebral hemisphere. At this point it is noted that the *falx cerebri* is extensively lacerated with disruption of the superior sagittal sinus.

Upon reflecting the scalp multiple complete fracture lines are seen to radiate from both the large defect at the vertex and the smaller wound at the occiput. These vary greatly in length and direction, the longest measuring approximately 19 cm. These result in the production of numerous fragments which vary in size from a few millimeters to 10 cm in greatest diameter. (Continuation Report #77, p.3-4)

Upper Trunk Wound

On the upper right posterior thorax just above the upper border of the scapula, there is a 7 x 4 millimeter oval wound. This wound is measured to be 14 cm from the tip of the right acromion process and 14 cm below the tip of the right mastoid process.

In the low anterior neck at approximately the level of the third and fourth tracheal rings, there is a 6.5 cm long transverse wound with widely gaping irregular edges.

Situated on the anterior chest wall in the nipple line, there were bilateral 2 cm long recent transverse surgical incisions into the subcutaneous tissue. The one on the left is situated 11 cm cephalad to the nipple and the one on the right 6 cm cephalad to the nipple. There is no hemorrhage or ecchymosis associated with these wounds. A similar clean wound measuring 2 cm in length is situated on the

antero-lateral aspect of the left mid arm. There was on the antero-lateral aspect of each ankle a recent 2 cm transverse laceration into the subcutaneous tissue. (Commission Report #77, p. 3)

The autopsy report comments that the second wound presumably entered in the right posterior thorax, but the missile path through the fascia and musculature could not be easily traced. The autopsy report further postulated that presumably the wound of exit was that described by Dr. Malcolm G. Peary in the lower anterior cervical region. By the time of the autopsy, the wound which Dr. Peary measured as "a few mm" in diameter had been extended by the tracheostomy incision and its character had been distorted. At the time of autopsy, there was considerable ecchymosis of the strap muscles of the right side of the neck and of the fascia about the trachea adjacent to the line of the tracheostomy wound.

The autopsy report further noted that the third point of reference in connecting the two wounds (the presumptive points of entry and exit) was in the apex (supra-clavicular portion) of the right pleural cavity. In this region there was a contusion of the parietal pleura and of the extreme apical portion of the right upper lobe of the lung. In two instances the diameter of contusion and ecchymosis at the point of maximal involvement measures 5 cm. Both the visceral and parietal pleura are intact overlying these areas of trauma. (Commission Report #77, p. 4-5)

The autopsy report stated that, as far as could be ascertained, the missile which struck the President in the back hit no bony structures in its path through the body. (Commission Report #7, p. 6)

During the latter stages of the autopsy, Dr. Humes located an opening which appeared to be a bullet hole below the shoulder and two inches to the right of the middle line of the spinal column. When Dr. Humes probed with his finger, it was thought that the trajectory of the missile entered at that point at a downward position of 45 to 60 degrees. Further examination led to the preliminary determination that the missile traveled only a short distance since the exit of the opening could be felt with his finger. When Dr. Humes was advised that a bullet had been located on a stretcher in the emergency room at Parkland, he expressed the opinion that the presence of the bullet on the stretcher accounted for the absence of a bullet in President Kennedy's body, since the abnormal cardiac message had probably caused the bullet to work its way back out of the point of entry. (Commission Report #7, p. 204-205 (later investigation has indicated that the bullet on the stretcher most probably came from Governor Connally (as discussed in Section I, B. of this report).)

4. Skull Fragments and Brain

Three fragments of skull bone were received from Dallas, aggregating the approximate dimensions of the absent skull noted

on a stretcher from which he was placed on the operating table and Chiefly Janson took the stretcher away. (Continental Report #87(1)-511)

Mr. R. J. Janson related that he observed the doctors bring Governor Connally on the stretcher to the operating room where the Governor was removed and placed on the operating table. He then observed Miss Webster rolling the bloody linen and placing it on the stretcher. He advised that he took the stretcher from Miss Webster and took it to the elevator and placed it on the elevator to be taken off by attendants in the emergency ward. According to Mr. Janson, this was the only stretcher brought from the emergency room floor from the time the Governor was at 1:00 p.m. until Mr. Janson went off duty/ (Continental Report #87(1)-511).

at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Bernard C. Lindstrom, senior operating room engineer at Parkland Hospital, stated that at about 1:00 p.m. he was called to work on the elevator operating from the emergency room to the second floor operating room. When he arrived, he saw a stretcher on the elevator containing some bloody sheets rolled in a ball, some medical tools, two drainage pads and a glove. He then removed the stretcher from the elevator and placed it in a room which had been secured by the Secret Service, with only hospital personnel and officers allowed inside. After the stretcher was placed in the room for about an hour, he moved it against a wall, at which

time he noticed a bullet rolling out from under the pad on the stretcher. Mr. Tomlinson expressed the opinion that the bullet had rolled a short way from under the pad and was stuck there by the weight of the pad. He then turned the bullet over to Mr. D. F. Wright who gave it to St. Johnson. (Commission Report 107(d)-511)

Dr. C. F. Gregory, Professor of Surgery at Southern Medical School, stated that the x-rays and other examination showed no bullet fragment in Governor Connally's body large enough to be the main projectile. Based on his experience as an Army Surgeon in Korea, Dr. Gregory stated that he felt that the projectile had penetrated Governor Connally's thigh but had fallen from the wound as Governor Connally's trousers were unfastened. Dr. Gregory stated that he would have expected the bullet to be located outside the Governor's body.

3. The Clothing

There was a small hole in the back of President Branch's coat, approximately 5-3/8 inches below the top of the collar and 1-1/8 inches to the right of the middle seam, with traces of powder on the fabric surrounding the hole. There was a hole in the back of the President's shirt in the same general area as the hole in the coat, with the shirt hole being 5-3/4 inches below the top of the collar and 1-1/8 inches to the right of the middle. (Commission Report #1, Supplemental, p. 2 (Exhibits 59, 60); Commission Report #205, p. 153)

Specter to Rusk, "Comprehensive Memorandum on Phase I,
2/19/64

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Of the foyer in which Tomlinson placed the stretcher, Specter quotes him (~~with~~
~~he~~ ~~gar~~ ~~testimony~~ ~~of~~ ~~Specter~~ ~~himself~~ (a month later, 6H128ff), in paraphrase, "...
had been secured by the Secret Service, with only hospital personnel and officers
allowed inside." Here we have proof of two unwelcome things: the existence of a
stat ment from Tomlinson for which there was no space in 10,000,000 words of evidence;
and proof that if, as is most likely, that bullet was planted, only "hospital personnel
and officers" could have done it. It was an hour ^{9 (after Tomlinson took the elevator)} before the bullet was "found".

~~The representation of what happened to this bullet, which is in this
book in the words of the hospital chief of security~~

The truth of what happened -not in the Report or the 10,000,000 words of
testimony and exhibits - is that Tomlinson ^{then} immediately called O.P. Wright, hospital
chief of security. Wright had the greatest trouble getting ~~either~~ the FBI or the
Secret Service to take any interest in this bullet. (After all, why should they
have. ^{they were protecting} It was only a President (who had just been murdered by bullets!) Finally ^{longer} he
persuaded Secret Service Agent Johnson (right) to take it.

^{(app. '98),}
In Specter's report, this come out thus: Tomlinson" then turned the
bullet over to Mr. O.P. Wright who gave it to SA Johnson(sic)".

He certainly has a terse style, that Specter!

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What a fortunate accident for the ~~ghattered~~ official account of the
assassination that this was not one of the documents available at the time the
government was in such distress over the Report, when the mass media had not yet
~~by another accident~~ ^{its} launched a tremendous, coordinated defense of the Report.

How fortuitous that it could not be made available until September 20, 1967, three
years after the Report was issued! How fortunate that Willens didn't remember it
when he spoke to the Washington Post.

This is just as true of much of the other ~~is~~ numerous boxes of staff papers
suppressed until then. They are destructive of the Report and of the integrity of
so many involved - of the Commission as a body, and of the government.

^{input}
Maybe they also explain Specter's silence when I called him a repetitive
liar and dared him to sue me for libel, his reluctance, as I challenged, to make this
a question of fact before a judge and a jury-and with opposing counsel.

suppressed from that were ~~kept~~ the autopsy file until September 20, 1967.

The first of these, dated April 30, ¹⁹⁶⁴ enlarges on his worries embodied in the memo of two weeks earlier. It is entitled "Autopsy Photographs and X-Rays of President Kennedy". It consists of four paragraphs ~~of~~ explaining why "it is indispensable that we obtain the photographs and x-rays".

In this memo Specter makes two references to the rear, non-fatal wound. ~~It~~ Now this was six weeks after he, personally, had taken the testimony of the autopsy doctors. ~~It~~ is he who made the detailed study required for the taking of that testimony. In the first case he refers to "the hole in the President's back" and in the second to "the bullet hole on the President's back". In no case does he refer to a neck wound, the official designation that is without substantiation.

Arlen Specter, worried and safely encapsulated in the inner Commission secrecy, is anything but like Arlen Specter, ambitious politician, in public. These are the three paragraphs of argument. The copy in this file is so indistinct it cannot be legibly reproduced. ^{in fact made} Lil, All of page 1 beginning with 1.

Understated, ~~and~~ aiming at self-justification and possible self-defense, Specter put the minimum case well. It was, indeed, "indispensable" that the Commission "obtain the photographs and x-rays". (He later got a consolation prize, a sort of "fealthy-peactures" peek at one he described as "not technically authenticated" - ^{when, according to my private information,} WHITEWASH II, 109 - ~~I understand~~ ^{privately} when Secret Service Inspector Tom Kelley flashed it before him during the May "reconstruction" in Dallas.)

(143) No less sensational is Specter's concluding paragraph, which reads: Lil-all
Aside from what is obvious and needs no amplification, there is a potential major explosion buried here.

The official explanation of the suppression of the pictures and X-rays of the autopsy is that the Kennedy family blindly insisted upon it. That is anything but what Specter here says. First, he establishes that the Commission did not discuss this ~~in person~~ with Robert Kennedy but used the intermediary of the Secret Service Inspector, at best a questionable procedure. Second, he records that Kennedy did not refuse to make them available. Here we ignore the fact that it was illegal to give ~~this~~ this evidence to anyone, including the family of the murdered President, that the government should not have done it, and that copies of some of the pictures existed. How unlike the official posture is Specter's phrase, ~~that~~ Kennedy "only wanted to be satisfied that they were really necessary".

Specter established the essentiality of the pictures and X-rays. ~~He~~ ^{He} says that under these conditions, they could be available. The Commission did not have them. This raises doubt about the honesty of the official explanation, that they Kennedy family denied the investigation access to the pictures and X-rays.

April 15, 1964

Mr. J. Lee Rankin

Acting Director

REMAINING WORK IN AREA 1

- 1. Obtain transcripts of the examinations from the cytotoxic scientists
 - a. President and Mrs. Johnson - I recommend that they testify before the Commission.
 - b. Mrs. Kennedy - I recommend that she testify before the Commission, especially since she will give a detailed account to Mr. Bushnell, upon who has commissioned to write a history of the assassination.
 - c. Governor and Mrs. Connally - to testify before the Commission on April 21, 1964.
 - d. Senator Yarborough - He has been interviewed; I suggest that he be called before the Commission.
 - e. Clifford Carter - He has been interviewed and a statement has been prepared for him to sign based on that interview. I recommend that he not be called before the Commission.
 - f. David Powers - He has been interviewed and a statement has been prepared for him to sign based on that interview. I recommend that he not be called before the Commission.
 - g. Kenneth O'Donnell - Arrangements have not yet been completed for his interview.
- 2. Obtain further medical evidence
 - a. Photographs and x-rays of the autopsy should be examined to make certain of the accuracy of the artist's drawings of President Kennedy's wounds.
 - b. Dr. Charles Gregory - Scheduled to testify before the Commission on April 21, 1964.
 - c. Dr. Robert May - Scheduled to testify before the Commission on April 21, 1964.

1. S. J. Price, Administrator of Parkland Hospital, has undeveloped photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald which should be developed.
2. Depending on the testimony of Dr. Ernest Connally and Drs. Gregory and Stone, it may wish to call expert medical witnesses to testify about reaction time of an individual who has been struck by a bullet if the evidence indicates that President Kennedy and Governor Connally were struck by some bullet.
3. Obtain the videotape and audio transcript of the deposition of Dr. Eugene Perry immediately following the assassination.
4. It may be desirable to take depositions from medical personnel at Parkland (Dr. Weisler, Dr. Crumley and Dr. [unclear]) who were on duty when the depositions were taken. These individuals were on the periphery of the crime, but it may be desirable to know their own perspective of developments.
5. Have the position of the President's automobile at the time of the assassination calculated, as precisely as possible, from the available data.
6. Contact witnesses on the position of President Kennedy and Governor Connally, and persons in the President's motorcade.
7. Obtain and compare transcripts of the witnesses before you.
8. Review, correct and re-write transcripts of the deposition of Dr. [unclear].

April 15, 1954

J. Lee Rankin
Mr. J. Lee Rankin
Public Speaker

Re: Hearing Held in Area I

Which members of the administration from the speakers will be

1. President and Mrs. Truman - I requested that they testify before the Commission.
2. Mrs. Kennedy - I requested that she testify before the Commission, especially since she will give a statement to Mr. Rankin, that she has authorized to write a history of the administration.
3. Governor and Mrs. O'Day - to testify before the Commission on April 22, 1954.
4. Charles Foster - He has been interviewed and a statement that he is to testify before the Commission.
5. Clifford Carter - He has been interviewed and a statement has been prepared for him to sign based on that interview. I requested that he not be called before the Commission.
6. David Brown - He has been interviewed and a statement has been prepared for him to sign based on that interview. I requested that he not be called before the Commission.
7. Joseph Starnes - Arrangements have not yet been completed for his interview.
8. Which further witness requests.
 1. Photographs and names of the category should be examined to give certain of the members of the committee's records of President Truman's records.
 2. Dr. [Name] - I requested to testify before the Commission.
 3. Mr. Robert [Name] - I requested to testify before the Commission on April 22, 1954.

6. E. F. Ryan, Medical Director of Parkland Hospital, a
micrographed photograph of the jewelry found which
should be preserved.

7. Regarding the testimony of Dr. James Connally and
Mrs. Chagary and them, as any such to call expert
evidence in connection with the case, about possible time
of the incident and how long it took by a bullet to
penetrate indicated that Elizabeth Kennedy and
James Connally were wearing a same bullet.

8. Obtain the affidavit and correct transcript of the
deposition of Dr. Richard Kelly immediately following
the deposition.

9. It may be desirable to take deposition from medical
personnel at Parkland (Dr. Quinn, Dr. Crumpton, Dr.
and Dr. Smith) who were responsible after the
incident was over. These individuals should be
deposed in the presence of the victim, but in any event
to the fact that they were not at Parkland.

10. The production of the hospital's records of the
of the above case as indicated by the affidavit of Dr.
Quinn and Dr. Smith.

11. Request testimony of the witness of the incident from
James Connally, and perhaps the President's records.

12. Obtain and correct transcript of my witness before
the court.

13. Obtain, or work out, the transcript of the deposition
of Dr. Quinn.

MEMORANDUM

April 30, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

FROM: Arlen Specter

SUBJECT: Autopsy Photographs and X-Rays of President John F. Kennedy

In my opinion it is indispensable that we obtain the photographs and x-rays of President Kennedy's autopsy for the following reasons:

1. The Commission should determine with certainty whether the shots came from the rear. Someone from the Commission should review the films to corroborate the autopsy surgeons' testimony that the holes on the President's back and head had the characteristics of points of entry. None of the doctors at Parkland Hospital in Dallas observed the hole in the President's back or the small hole in the lower portion of his head. With all of the outstanding controversy about the direction of the shots, there must be independent viewings of the films to verify testimony which has come only from Government doctors.
2. The Commission should determine with certainty whether the shots came from above. It is essential for the Commission to know precisely the location of the bullet wound on the President's back so that the angle may be calculated. The artist's drawing prepared at Bethesda (Commission Exhibit #395) shows a slight angle of declination. It is hard, if not impossible, to explain such a slight angle of decline unless the President was farther down Elm Street than we have heretofore believed. Before coming to any conclusion on this, the angles will have to be calculated at the scene; and for this, the exact point of entry should be known.
3. The Commission should determine with certainty that there are no major variations between the films and the artist's drawings. Commission Exhibits Nos. 385, 386 and 388 were made from the recollections of the autopsy surgeons as told to the artist. Some day someone may compare the films with the artist's drawings and find a significant error which might substantially affect the essential testimony and the Commission's conclusions. In any event, the Commission should not rely on hazy recollections, especially in view of the statement in the autopsy report (Commission Exhibit #387) that:

"The complexity of these fractures and the fragments thus produced tax satisfactory verbal description and are better appreciated in photographs and roentgenograms which are prepared."

When Inspector Kelly talked to Attorney General Kennedy, he most probably did not fully understand all the reasons for viewing the films. According to Inspector Kelly, the Attorney General did not categorically decline to make them available, but only wanted to be satisfied that they were really necessary. I suggest that the Commission transmit to the Attorney General its reasons for wanting the films and the assurance that they will be viewed only by the absolute minimum number of people from the Commission for the sole purpose of corroborating (or correcting) the artist's drawings, with the films not to become a part of the Commission's records.

In less than another two weeks, Specter ^{sent} another memo ^{to} with Henkin, this one indicating he expected the autopsy pictures and X-rays to be examined by the Commission. Under date of May 12, with the title, "Examination of Autopsy Pictures and X-rays of President Kennedy, he wrote: Lil-all.

Here again there are two references to the rear, not a fatal wound, neither as a neck wound, both as of the back: "on the upper back" and "on the President's back".
^{INSERT}
~~Sliced anyway at all, we here have~~ a clear expression of ^{his} apprehension about the ~~axial~~ validity of the autopsy testimony. Specter bespeaks the deepest doubts about it. If anyone on the staff could and should have, it is he. His desire for a re-examination of ~~Wade~~ Eumes is barrelhead stuff. Above all, it is designed for the protection of Arlen Specter who, having made inexcusable mistakes, wanted protection

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In all the many hours I have spent over Commission files, if Arlen Specter ever once referred to the rear, non-fatal injury as of the neck, I have not seen it. One not one occasion did this man, in charge of that part of the Commission's work, say it was anywhere but in the back, on the back, of the upper torso, below the shoulder -anywhere but in the neck! However, unless this wound was of entry and in the neck, not a single word in those 900 pages of the Report can even begin to have any meaning. The entire Report, the entire "solution" to the assassination, hangs on what Specter ^{would say!} never once said, that the President had an entry wound in the back of the neck. ^(P) In these suppressed memoranda Specter ~~was~~ felt compelled to write and file,

supposed to be the most precise and scientific statement possible. That, certainly, was not true of the post mortem of President Kennedy. It was, as I said in WHITE WASH II (p.110), "an autopsy unworthy of a Bowery bum".

^{reasonable)} There was then no/doubt. There now can be even less question about it.

^{reality} Why these documents were so long withheld I cannot pretend to know. I cannot accept the official explanation and I cannot accept it.

If the purpose was suppression, to delay as long as possible revelation of the wrong-doing in the so-called "investigation" ^{of} the assassination, the character and content of the documents that ^{of} here for the first time reveal, removed from ^{sheltering} official secrecy, are ~~these~~ consistent with an official desire to suppress. Because what I here publicly disclose ^{exposed} was suppressed from the Report, which pretended all of it didn't exist, and because, regardless of the more polite ^{any} official designation, it was officially denied for three years after the publication of the ^{of} report, there is no exaggeration in the use of the word "suppression". That is exactly what it is.

Again I ask, "Is this the way to investigate the murder of a President?"

And again I repeat, it is the way the government "investigated" the murder of John F. Kennedy.

Extra space

Can there now be any doubt in the minds of reasonable men that the kindest thing that can be said for the Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy is that it was a whitewash?

Can there be any doubt that the government set out to make acceptable, to the degree possible, its predetermined official decision, that the crime would be laid ^{to a single, unpopular} to a single, unpopular and safely murdered assassin, that it never really investigated and never really intended to investigate the murder of John Kennedy?

about it. If anyone on the staff could and should have, it is he. His desire for a re-examination of ~~John~~ Humes is barrelhead stuff. Above all, it is designed for the protection of Arlen Specter who, having made inexcusable mistakes, wanted protection from the consequences.

extra space

The autopsy is essential evidence in a murder. It is the post mortem examination (intended to reveal all the possible medico-legal fact about that murder. It is supposed to be the most precise and scientific statement possible. That, certainly, was not true of the post mortem of President Kennedy. It was, as I said in WHITE WASH II (p.110), "an autopsy unworthy of a Bowery bum".

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Why these documents were so long withheld I cannot pretend to know. I cannot ^{readily} accept the official explanation and I cannot accept it.

If the purpose was suppression, to delay as long as possible revelation of the wrong-doing in the so-called "investigation" ^{of} the assassination, the character and content of the documents that ^{are} here for the first time reveal, removed from ^{sheltering} official secrecy, are ~~there~~ consistent with an official desire to suppress. Because what I here publicly disclose ^{was expunged} from the Report, which pretended all of it didn't exist, and because, regardless of the ^{any} more polite ~~an~~ official designation, it was officially denied for three years after the publication of the ^{Report}, there is no exaggeration in the use of the word "suppression". That is exactly what it is.

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Can there be any doubt that the government set out to make acceptable, to the degree possible, its predetermined official decision, that the crime would be laid ^{solely on friends} to a single, unpopular and safely murdered assassin, that it never really investigated and never really intended to investigate the murder of John Kennedy?

Can there be any doubt that it cannot be an accident that what the Commission knew is not in its evidence, if only to raise and refute what was inconsistent with its built-in conclusions, that ^{it} ~~this~~ is suppressed from its Report?

On one score I permit myself ^{two} ~~an~~ optimistic hopes: that the people - those who loved him and those who regarded him as President not of their choice, but as the President of all Americans - will not allow it so to remain; ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

And that the politicians who owe him their political lives and the journalists who owe him their professional fortunes will at last find their voices - and their consciences - so that ~~we~~ we may all again find our national honor.

AS:aln

Kennedy, John F. 4-1

MEMORANDUM

May 12, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
FROM: Arlen Specter
SUBJECT: Examination of Autopsy Photographs and X-rays of
President Kennedy

When the autopsy photographs and x-rays are examined, we should be certain to determine the following:

1. The photographs and x-rays confirm the precise location of the entrance wound in the back of the head depicted in Commission Exhibits 386 and 388.
2. The photographs and x-rays confirm the precise location of the wound of entrance on the upper back of the President as depicted in Commission Exhibits 385 and 386.
3. The photographs and x-rays confirm the precise area of the President's skull which was disrupted by the bullet when it exited as depicted in Commission Exhibit 388.
4. The characteristics of the wounds on the President's back and on the back of his head should be examined closely in the photographs and x-rays to determine for certain whether they are characteristic of entrance wounds under the criteria advanced by Doctors Finck, Humes, Boewell, Gregory, Shaw, Perry and Carriac.
5. The films and x-rays should be viewed in conjunction with Commission Exhibit 389 (a photograph of the frame of the Zapruder film immediately before the frame showing the head wound) and Commission Exhibit 390 (the frame of the Zapruder film showing the head wound) to determine for certain whether the angle of declination is accurately depicted in Commission Exhibit 388.

- 2 -

I suggest that we have a court reporter present so that we may examine Dr. Russ after the x-rays and photographs are reviewed to put on the record:

1. Any changes in his testimony or theories required by a review of the x-rays and films, and
2. Corroboration of the portions or all of his prior testimony which may be confirmed by viewing the photographs and x-rays.