

Interviews with doctors at SWU School of Medicine 12/1/71, 9-12 a.m.

Perry. He was friendly but sometimes embarrassed; let a few things drop then tried to cover. The most important of these is his repeated statement that when he first saw the wound in the anterior neck he asked a nurse he named for a "trake tray" (phon), took a quick look at the wound, wiped it off and started tutting. He said both times that the edges were bruised "as they always are". When I asked if he had ever ^{been} asked about this significant fact, he blushed and tried to explain that there was blood around the edges. I didn't press, for what he had said is clear - and if blood had obliterated the edges to begin with, it did not after wiping.

He is a hunter, loves it as a form of exercise and because his family is fond of the meat, went deer or antelope hunting last week (got nothing but his 11-year-old son had a bad shot at one), and is thoroughly familiar with the various kinds of ammo. He handloads his own. Discussed varminting bullet, controlled expansion, etc., and what happens to both on impact with accuracy and lucidity.

He was called in on Connally ("by the boss") because he is an expert on (he confused me by saying "we" and I misunderstood, thinking he meant the institution) arterial injury. The reason is because the other doctors noted the proximity of the wound in the thigh to an artery. He thus saw and examined the wound with care. It was too small for a bullet. He described how flat the fragment was from the X-rays, and said it was not possible that a bullet had caused it and then backed out. He showed me with his fingers that the fragment was less than a half-inch under the skin and that it had gone about 3-3½" after penetration. No danger to artery so not removed, which he said is usual in such cases. He also said that it could have been there from childhood and not been remembered. I asked "without leaving a scar?" and he said it was so small it need not have. As we talked about this 399 stuff, he came to realize what he was really saying, and I told him the police report also attributed that wound to a fragment.

He volunteered during this discussion that there was fragmentation in the wrist showing on the X-rays and nodded in agreement when I told him Dr Gregory or Shaw had testified ~~xxxxx~~ there was more fragmentation in the wrist than could be accounted as missing from 399.

The bruise on the pleura could not have been caused by the tracheotomy. He volunteered several criticisms of the autopsy doctors (when Garrico did he asked that it be off the record). Here he seemed to take it as a professional reflection on him. He said that they never cause such bruising in adults and have to be exceedingly careful to avoid it with children. He said he had wondered if it had been caused by a fragment or the force of fragmentation.

He said the autopsy is wrong on attributing the chest incisions to subcutaneous emphysema. He used both hands and gestured to each breast. He asked that this be done and the reason was for a "closed chorostomy".

Says transcript his 11/22 remarks shows he was conjecturing, but he admits that Humes did understand him to have described this as an entrance wound. He still says he did not know which.

Admits they were shown protocol but doesn't recall whether by FBI or SS, before testimony.

We had a long and frank discussion during which I told him some of the new things I had discovered. I invited him to come and see what I now have, told him what the panel report and the death certificate show - all in confidence - and he repeated what he had said earlier, that if

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government could do such a thing, he was "terrified". I told him "You should be terrified."

On the head wound, I described the pattern of fine fragmentation on the right frnt and he agreed it would not have been from a military round. At first he tried to argue that it could have been from a controlled-expansion round. I pointed out the WR depends on a full-jacketed military round and added the purposes of the Geneva Convention and the design. He agreed, and he agreed this could be the end of the WR. He also said it was consistent with what he would expect from a varminting round and then described the explosion of one recently when he had shot a prairie dog. He seemed to be saying that the explosion of the head could have been caused by an entering explosion, but this is not explicit.

He described Dr Rose as "abrasive" and "somewhat abrasive" but an excellent forensic pathologist. When I tried to justify Rose's indignation and conduct 11/22/63 he agreed that Rose had cause for his feelings but he also made clear that Rose was always sbrasive. He also agreed, as did all these doctors, that had Rose performed the autopsy, the lingering questions would not now exist.