



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

April 16, 1964

By Courier Service

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your letter dated April 9, 1964, covering transmittal to the FBI Laboratory of Governor John Connally's coat, shirt, trousers and tie and requesting an examination of these items. The results of the examinations are set forth below.

For your information the coat has been designated C311, the trousers C312, the shirt C313 and the tie C314.

Each hole in Governor John Connally's coat, shirt and trousers has the general appearance of a bullet hole and could have been made by a bullet. No hole was found in the tie.

The hole in the back of the coat is approximately 1/4" by 5/8", being elongated in a horizontal direction. The elongation could be due to one or more of the following:
(1) a bullet passed through the cloth at an angle to the surface,
(2) the cloth was folded when a bullet struck, (3) the hole was made by a mutilated bullet or (4) a bullet struck sideways.

The hole in the front of the coat is approximately 3/8" in diameter and circular in shape.

The hole in the sleeve is approximately 3/8" by 5/8" being elongated in a horizontal direction. The elongation of this hole could be due to one or more of the aforementioned causes.

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

It is to be noted that holes corresponding to the three holes referred to above were found in the shirt. Due to the excessive tearing of the cloth, none of these holes were well defined.

The hole in the left trouser leg is approximately 1/4" in diameter and roughly circular in shape.

It was determined from the locations of the holes in the coat and shirt that a bullet entering the back, passing undeflected through the body and leaving the front, would have passed through Governor Connally at an angle of approximately 35 degrees downward from the horizontal and approximately 20 degrees from right to left if he was sitting erect and facing forward at the time he was shot. These angles are such that it would have been possible for Governor Connally's right arm and left leg to have been in direct line with the projectile. Any change in Governor Connally's position would affect the angles set out above. The possibility should not be overlooked that garments can shift from their normal position on the body. There is no way of determining, from an examination of the clothing, whether such a bullet may have followed a straight line path or may have been deflected in the body.

Nothing was found to indicate which holes were entrances and which were exits. The coat, shirt and trousers were cleaned prior to their receipt in the Laboratory, which might account for the fact that no foreign deposits of metal or other substances were found on the cloth surrounding the holes. Further, no characteristic position of the fibers of the cloth around the holes, which is one of the factors considered in determining whether a hole is an entrance or an exit hole, was found. The sizes of the holes in the clothing do not necessarily aid in this determination since a hole can be enlarged if a bullet strikes at an angle, sideways or partially sideways, or if it passes through a fold in the cloth. Also, if a bullet is irregularly mutilated, an entrance hole could be larger than an exit hole.

It was not possible from an examination of the clothing to determine whether or not all of the holes were made by the same projectile or projectile fragments.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (14)