

Dear Gerry,

5/8/92

This will probably reach you when it is too late for it to be a learning experience for your students, especially the one who asked you about Crenshaw's book. I am so sorry he did ~~not~~ ask you earlier so I could have suggested earlier inquiry at the LBJ Library. It was fairly definitive on what Crenshaw says being impossible and it is also an added dimension on the 11/24-5/63 Katzenbach memo. I'll not attach copies because you have them and sent a set to Dave but I will make a set for Jerry.

In checking to see whether it was even physically possible for LBJ to have phoned Crenshaw, as he says I first checked the Warren report, to be certain of times. It says that Dallas time Ruby shot Oswald at 11:20 and that Oswald was pronounced dead at 1:07.

I then checked the Parkland operative records (pp. 636-7, Exhibit 392) and as I was certain, Crenshaw was so minor a figure on the ~~times~~ Oswald surgery he is not even mentioned as participating. (There may be some minor reference in testimony I think it is not now necessary to check.) Shires was the surgeon in charge, assisted by Perry, McClelland and Ron Jones. The description of the operation mentions, in addition Jenkins, and the concluding line, with what it refers to possibly ambiguous, says that "assistance was obtained from the cardiologist, Dr. Fouad Bashour." Or, Crenshaw is not even mentioned as participating! *Checked 15H index - no mention of any involvement in Oswald surgery. Negligible in JFK's.*

Now for the LBJ Library records! I think they make Crenshaw's claim that LBJ phoned him more than without confirmation - impossible!

Ruby shot Oswald at 12:20 p.m. DC time, when Johnson was still at church, which he left at 12:26, whence he was driven to the White House to join the Kennedy family. They left at 1:08 for the funeral procession and arrived at the Capitol steps at 1:46. LBJ and a Colonel Jackson departed at 2:19, arriving at the EOB at 2:25. Or, this "Activity of Section" report of 11/24/63 prepared by SA Stout seems to keep LBJ completely occupied and away from any phone for the period prior to Oswald's shooting and however long after 2:25 it took him to get from his limo to his EOB office, the first time he could have ~~be~~ used a phone to call Crenshaw. This is confirmed in slightly longer detail in the typed sheet headed "Sunday, November 24, 1963," with the first entry 10:09, the McCone briefing.

The handwritten "Telephone Memorandum pad for 11/24, 654,3302 at the bottom, lists no such call, also true of the typed-sideways account of LBJ's day, first entry 8:30a. On this sheet the time he got to EOB is unclear. It seems to be 2:43 and I take it this means to his office there. That is more than a half hour after LHO was pronounced dead and on this additional basis says that Crenshaw is a liar in reporting that LBJ phoned him and told him he needed Oswald's confession. *(His book narrows this time or makes it impossible)*

I found other value in these records, in the handwritten and typed phone logs, ~~at~~

We know from the FBI record I gave you with the Katzenbach memo, typed and handwritten, that as soon as it was known that Oswald was dead and thus would not be tried Katzenbach and Hoover conferred, after which Katzenbach drafted his memo. This was

reported by Courtney Evans. Now the second of the typed pages lists an 8:50p call to LBJ from Bill Moyers, after which, at 8:55 LBJ phoned Hoover and at 8:57 he phoned Katzenbach. He then had no phone conversations until 10:10 p. There is a sideways handwritten "Activity" ~~from~~<sup>form</sup> that times the Katzenbach call at 9:00p., but the handwritten phone log is identical with the typed version.

While there are many other topics that could account for this sequence of phone calls what cannot be avoided is the possibility if not the probability that Moyers had heard from Katzenbach about the memo to him Katzenbach had written but could not then get typed and delivered, or did not want to because delivering it might be an intrusion, that Moyers then brief LBJ, and that LBJ immediately phoned Hoover and Katzenbach about it.

~~The~~ certainly seems to indicate that the fix was agreed to by LBJ that early.

And from the logs this appears to have been the first time Moyers <sup>spoke</sup> would have ~~tried to~~ speak to LBJ that evening or night.

We enjoyed your visit. The kids are growing nicely.

I'm glad the LBJ Library's response was there on your return and you could send the copies so soon. I've done more checking and am thinking about an oped page submission to the Post.

Of the doctors and nurses who mentioned Crenshaw in the Commission testimony, all said merely that he was there save an intern who said they performed the same function, tending the IVs! While he may have done a bit more, it is not possible that given the status and experience of the other doctors it would have been much more. None of the indexed testimony connects him in any way with the ~~Jimmy~~ Oswald care. This need not mean that he was not involved but again, it is fairly interpreted as indicating his involvement was minimal.

His book's front cover describes him as "THE SURGEON WHO TRIED TO SAVE JFK AND OSWALD," the back cover, "The Dallas Surgeon who fought to save JFK, and then two shocking days later, Lee Harvey Oswald."

It was still one of the top ten "non-fiction" paperbacks in Last Sunday's Post. Ugh!

Thanks and best to all,

Harold