

Shirt collar  
tie

Frayer - 2/24/77  
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in FOIA case

that field.

In connection with that spectrographic analysis, I merely relayed the spectrographer's report; I didn't express it as my own opinion.

Q Now, what was the -- to you, the significance of the fact that there was no copper on that shirt -- shirt collar or tie?

A I would say it had very little significance. I don't know what the total experience of the men in that field is, but I don't think it would have any significance, whether it had detectable copper on it or not.

Q Did you conduct any examination of the shirt yourself?

A Yes, I did.

Q What did you observe?

A A hole in the back, and a hole in collar at the front.

Q And were you able to determine --

A This is President Kennedy's shirt we're talking about now?'

Q Yes. Were you able to determine what caused the hole in the President's shirt collar?

A No, sir. It looked like a bullet hole to me, but I

couldn't say. It looked -- if it was a bullet hole, it appeared to be a bullet exit hole, but I couldn't say what caused it.

Q And did you observe the tie?

A Yes, sir.

Q And was there a nick on the tie?

A Yes, sir, there was.

Q Did you reach any conclusion as to whether or not a bullet was responsible for that nick in the tie?

A No, sir, I did not.

Q Did you --

A It could have, but I couldn't say just from looking at the nick, what caused it.

Q The nick.

I'd like you to look at the photograph taken by the FBI Laboratory, which is a photograph of the President's shirt collar.

A (Witness examines document.)

Q Can you, by -- simply by looking at that photograph, determine whether or not the holes in that shirt collar overlap?

A I wouldn't know whether you could or not from looking at the photograph. This shirt was examined by another Examiner for that purpose.

Q Did you button the shirt yourself, to see whether or

not the holes overlapped?

A I don't recall whether I did or not.

Q If they do not overlap, it can not have been caused by a bullethole, could it?

A That's an opinion.

Q Could both holes --

A You're asking for an opinion --

Q Yes.

A -- in a scientific matter, and you're prepared to pay expert witness fees, I'll answer -- any questions you like, but unless you do, I'm only going to testify as to what I know.

Q Did you in your official capacity as an Agent of the FBI, before the Warren Commission, do that?

A Do what?

Q Button the shirt and make a determination --

A I don't recall. I don't believe that I did. I had it examined by another Examiner for that purpose.

Q Did you make any -- you had another Examiner do that?

A Yes, sir.

Q Who was that?

A I think it was Special Agent Paul Stombaugh.

Q Did that Agent make a report?

A Yes, he did.

Q Mr. Stombaugh?

A I think it was Paul Stombaugh. I -- maybe another Examiner got involved, but I think it was Stombaugh.

Q Do you know whether or not this report has been provided us?

A I have no idea. I assume that it has, although as far as I know -- I can't recall all the reports that have been provided, what was asked for or what was furnished.

Q Do you recall what the report concluded?

A No, I don't.

Q Was that report, or the substance of it, provided to the Warren Commission?

A I think it was. I think he testified before the Warren Commission at some length.

Q Did you make any effort to determine whether or not the tie had been struck by a bullet -- the President's tie? The nick?

A As I said, I couldn't tell one way or the other.

Q If the bullet had passed through the center of the President's collar, could it possibly avoid going through the tie?

THE WITNESS: I couldn't answer that question because I don't know what the position of the shirt was on the President's body at the time it occurred.

BY MR. LE SAR: (Resuming)

Q Did you make any effort to determine whether a nick in the tie and the damage to the shirt collar were caused by a scalpel?

A Did I make any determination?

Q Or did anyone at the FBI?

A I don't know. I would assume that they had, yes.

Q Would it be normal procedure -- a normal hospital procedures under the circumstances under which President Kennedy was brought into Parkland Memorial Hospital to cut the tie off with a scalpel?

A I don't know.

Q You would assume that some investigation was made of that possibility?

A The tie was cut, but I don't know whether it's normal procedure at the Hospital to cut it. It was cut off -- as I recall, it was cut off to the side.

Q Would you investigate it?

A I can't answer that either, what I might have done.

MR. LE SAR: I want to show you an exhibit -- I

Q All right.

Let me show you Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 8, which is another photograph of the President's tie.

What is the location of the nick on the tie at that point?

A I will assume it's on the side of the tie.

Q And is it at the point where the tie is cut?

A No, it's below the point where the tie is cut.

Q It's near where the tie is cut?

A I don't know how far away it is, whether it's near or far.

Q Would you look at it and mark the point on it where the nick is?

A No, I will not.

Q You are refusing to do that?

A I am not going to make any examinations of any exhibits or any interpretations of any results unless you compensate me in the usual manner of paying expert witness fees.

Q Well, we're simply going over your testimony before the Warren Commission to ascertain whether or not reports were made on matters which it would appear there should have been reports made, and observations made, and I believe your testimony was that you received all the reports.

A No, sir. My testimony was not to that effect.

Q You were -- that was not correct? You were not the Custodian of FBI Laboratory reports?

A Not all of them.

Q You said all of them?

Q Yes.

A I did not receive all of them.

Q Was there an individual who was Custodian of all the reports?

A No, sir.