

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, JFK assassination records appeals 6/16/79
Dallas policemen - Jim Chaney, D.L. Jackson; ~~NO LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSE~~

Previously I have appealed withholdings relating to Motorcycle Policeman Jim Chaney, who was one of the four closest to the President. In amplifying this I add Douglas Lavelle Jackson, also one of these four. Both are among the approximately dozen and a half Dallas motorcycle policemen ostensibly never interviewed by the FBI in its greatest investigation ever, no doubt because policemen might be better than average observers and had the responsibility of being alert to any untoward events.

Clearly, therefore, 15 years after the event the FBI has nothing to hide.

That Jackson saw the second shot he heard strike Governor Connally is not in accord with the Commission's conclusion that the first shot hit both Kennedy and Connally. (Serial 7344, 62-109060, attached.) That the third shot hit the President above the right ear and his head exploded out to the left (page 2) also is not what the Commission concluded.

That he had an excellent opportunity to examine Governor Connally as he assisted him ~~from~~ from the limousine at the hospital apparently also tended to disqualify him as a witness for the FBI. (Page 2) Ditto for the President because he only helped put the President on the stretcher. (Page 2) And that he guarded the emergency room door and assisted ⁱⁿ transporting the President's body to Love field also meant to the FBI that he had no information of any value at all. (Page 2)

What may well have been the most important of this series of total disqualifications when the FBI conducted only about 25,000 interviews is on page 3: that night he made and preserved a detailed written account of the assassination. (Page 3)

After all, it was only a President who had been assassinated, and ~~contemporaneous notes~~.

As the next Serial, 7345 says, by the time the FBI was having a few problems, when it was only a dozen years later, it was recommended that Jackson be interviewed. One of the reasons given is that he ^{still} had these notes he had made.

Of the information included in 7344 when Mr. Nettles prepared a memo to work its way upward all of substance that Jackson was quoted as having said is that he thought the shots "came from the vicinity of the Texas School Book Depository." *The FBI liked that - only.*

Because as Nettles put it "none of the motorcycle officers ... have cast any doubts on the conclusions of the Warren Commission (sic- not the FBI's, note)... there is no necessity to contact the other motorcycle ~~policemen~~ officers...never interviewed." (Page 1) Orwell could not have put it better: Chaney and Jackson saw other than the official account, therefore they didn't "cast any doubts on the conclusions."

But Director Kelley, who was reached by this interpretation, added a note asking "How many such officers are there?" This led to Serial 7346, which accounts for ^{a mere} 18 of the FBI ignored.

The entire matter remained so unimportant it was included with fictions when further information was provided by Dallas the next month (Serial 7369). (Marginal note illegible)

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The names of the interviewing SAs are withheld on the accompanying ^{F1} FD 302s, which I also appeal. (The involvement of Charles T. Brown, whose name is withheld from earlier records, I have reported as part of earlier appeals. So in this case the information is also within the public domain.)

The Chaney FD302 must have been very helpful to the new Director because it does not trouble him with what ~~Chaney~~ ^{Chaney} stated in a taped interview immediately after the assassination, that he saw the President hit in the face with a bullet. To further assist the Director what Chaney then did not say is provided instead. (Do you need more of an explanation for withholding the names of the SAs, or their notes, the withholding of which I also appeal?)

Jackson was a greenhorn cop, only 18 years of experience according to that FD302. His post was closest to the President of all the police, "adjacent to the right rear bumper." Because he was the closest to the President of all police officers he certainly was not an important witness and thus was never interviewed.

Among the other officers in the escort and among those behind him Jackson had a clear recollection of four, one of whom you have heard of recently, H.B. McLain. McLain was identified by the HSCA as the officer whose microphone was stuck open for five minutes, which included the entire assassination.

The FBI did obtain the recordings of the Dallas police channels. Here I add what I do not know of personal knowledge but was published: that clearly audible to the unaided ear is McLain, to whom there had not been any broadcast by another policeman, saying "All right, Jackson." If a friend of mine could hear this on a copy of a copy I'm not a bit surprised that the FBI appears not to have heard it. But it does make me wonder about the positions of Jackson and McLain, who appear from all accounts not to have been that close to each other *in the motorcade.*

That Jackson appears to have said that he saw Governor Connally do exactly as the Governor testified and saw him hit by the second shot he heard probably accounts for the FBI's 12-year belief, perpetuated after 12 years, that he had no worthwhile information. (page 2) He also saw the President struck as neither the Commission nor the FBI conjectured, "above his right ear." Because he also saw the expulsion "toward the left side" his observations were as valueless as those of Chaney. (Neither he nor Chaney had any occasion to look at the one place the FBI said all the shots came from. This appears to have reduced their importance as witnesses even more.)

While I am reluctant to try to reconstruct the FBI's ~~scale~~ scale of valuelessness completely, I would think that what Jackson said he saw of the President's injuries when he also assisted at the hospital must be close to the most valueless of all: "Observed a massive wound of the President's left forehead..." That is not what Mr. Hoover said therefore it was not true. (Not that the FBI did not create a speciality of reporting contemporaneously what it believed was not true. Most of what it reported

was known not to be true. Perhaps in evaluating and processing appeal you may need to be able to distinguish between the officially not true and the unofficially not true.)

Jackson also guarded the emergency room door and ^{also} escorted the corpse to the airport. He confirmed ~~that~~ making and keeping the notes.

But nowhere is there any refer^ence to the FBI's obtaining them or copies.

Until the FBI states that it did not do its job I assume that it did. I therefore assume that it obtained these notes or copies of them and appeal their withholding.

Nettles prepared an earlier memo to work its way upward, on ~~the~~ 9/12/75, Serial 7251 or 6. Twelve sets of initials are at the end, so quite a few of the higher FBI officials saw it. He phrased it to trouble them as little as possible, omitting from the ~~Chaney~~ ^{Chaney} account how he saw the President's head 'explode.'" (Page 1)

The second page extends this concern for the higher officials to white-lying: "Chaney stated that this was the first time he had ever been inter^viewed official^ly by anyone regarding the assassination." I have already informed you of the unofficial interview, by the broadcast media and on tape, and of the ~~un~~official interview limited to having believed he saw Ruby at the TSED.

The indices reflect that it was not by acci^dent that the FBI did not interview any of the 18 motorcycle police escorts. (Page 2)

In providing explanations ^{of these omissions} and I'm inclined to agree there was a need, this memo repeats still again that there was no law-enforcement purpose. (Page 2, penult. graf.)

Inspector Malley was questioned because he had been sent to Dallas immediately. He helped explain away the FBI's failure to interview any of these 18 policemen:

"Mr. Malley said that, generally, only those persons the FBI knew had information, or who were brought to our attention as having information, were interviewed." Now about these trained and experience police, there is a Malley/Orwell explanation: "... he speculated that they never came to our attention as being persons who could furnish pertinent information. He feels that if they had pertinent information, they should have come forward."

Doesn't everyone, which reduces the FBI workload almost entirely to FOIA?

Or perhaps with baseball bats?

Having dispensed with all the trained, police observers FBIHQ returned to the total lack of law enforcement purpose with these words, "there was none." (Page 3, paragraph 4.) That it was a Presidential investigation (after the FBI got authority for what it was doing anyway) is also set forth here.

Again, the notes Jackson made figure in the belated need to interview him, same page last sentence.

General Investigative Division felt a need to spell limitations out: "This should not be considered as a reopening of the investigation, but can be done in the interest of thoroughness (aka doublegoodspeak) in view of the information regarding his retaining

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his notes just coming to our attention." (Actually with a substitute for a baseball bat which I have already provided you.)

And having already conducted more than 25,000 interviews the FBI recommends against interviewing any other officers. There is the reassurance for above: "None of these interviews (i.e. a couple by the Commission and the 1975 interview of Chaney) have cast any doubt on the conclusions of the Warren Commission."

Naturally an entirely different account of the killing by the two closest eye-witnesses casts no doubt at all. Even less because they are professional policemen.

Also naturally the attachment is not attached. Appealed.

Orwell does make an unusual libretto for Gilbert and Sullivan but I nonetheless believe that this adds materially to the need to search GID files in compliance with all my cases, including King. I have already given you records establishing that ^{GID} had its own files and file clerks, despite the false representations to me on this by the FBI in conferences on C.A. 75-1996.

While the production of agents notes was a rarity in C.A. 75-1996 some were provided and I believe those of Dallas also should be, especially because of the historical case determination and because I fully expect to find a few other equivalents of baseball bats in them.

It sure is odd that the FBI went to all the trouble to ^{tape} record what I said and not to provide it under my PA request while when the Dallas stations all preserved extensive quantities of tapes and videotapes the FBI got none of them - not, by the way, because it was not, in Inspector Malley's words, "brought to our attention." It was, and the FBI recorded the names and positions of the news personnel who did it. It even forwarded some to Washington.

Just why, in what appears more and more like Byzantium on the Potomac this record was routed to the Inspector General, is unexplained. His is the last of seven annexes typed on for copies at the top of the first page. But I do believe that this also requires that those as well as other indicated files also be searched, if only to establish how little "came to our" attention when the assassination of a President was being investigated by the FBI and why its inspection system was involved when the matter was as innocent as the FBI's refusal to interview any of the 18 policemen escorting the President, who saw how he was killed and who had close views of his fatal wounding.

And who, by being indicted by the FBI, obviously had not come to the FBI's attention.

Hecce