

6/1/77

Dear Harold,

The question for Caruso is one of the most important we could possibly ask, notwithstanding the questions which I have surmised you are going to ask him for the spectro suit. Caruso never actually claimed personal credit for the idea of administering the drug in his testimony. When Specter asked him why he did it, Caruso replied "It was recalled... (that JFK had an adrenal insufficiency)." Not "I remembered", but "It was recalled." Modesty or evasiveness? Some of the Parkland MDs praised Caruso for his quick thinking, Perry among them. Others said it was Buckley who informed them JFK was an Addisonian. There is, therefore, a legitimate dispute in the record of the doctors' testimonies as to just who was responsible, Caruso or Buckley?

The point is this: (and please keep #3 confidential)

- 1) Caruso was the first MD to reach JFK
- 2) Perry arrived later

3) Perry told CBS in 1967 that the hydrocortisone was already being given by the time he got to TRI.

4) Perry made the tracheostomy incision.

Therefore, if the hydrocortisone was already being administered by the time Perry arrived, and if Cairns will confirm that Buckley either supplied him with it or told him to administer it, then we have Dr. George in TRI when the throat wound was still in its original, undeformed state, and Buckley either knew or had the opportunity to know that the wound was there!!!

Remember, the story of Hume's supposed ignorance of the throat wound until he spoke with Perry by phone may fall if we can clarify Buckley's role as a link between Parkland and Bethesda.

Tipton claims to have a WPI wire copy report filed by Merriman Smith from the hospital in which Smith allegedly reported Buckley's time of arrival at Parkland as 12:52 pm. I haven't seen it. If Tipton is being truthful,

this is the only evidence which could shoot my theory down. Carrico's clarification is therefore of interest.

And, if he does admit it was Buckley who either gave him the drug or told him to administer it, the logical follow-up question is whether Buckley, Specker, the 55, or anyone else leaned on Carrico to judge his testimony on this point. If I am right, my hunch is that Carrico was told it would be an embarrassing admission on the family's part that JFK was Addisonian were it known that Buckley himself ordered the drug, and that Carrico was therefore asked to help out without perjuring himself. It's just plain unnatural for one to use the words "It was recalled" in spoken language.

- Call you before you go.

Best,
Roger

P.S. CBS has answered right at the deadline. Analyzing now. They may have given me some ammunition.

P.S.S. I'd be interested in knowing if Tague was ever contacted by CBS. I have no indication that he was.

RT