

1 A Well, there were several people in charge,  
2 there were several Admirals, and, as I  
3 recall, the Adjutant General of the  
4 Navy.

5 Q Do you have a name, Colonel?

6 A It was Admiral Kinney, K-i-n-n-e-y, as I re-  
7 call.

8 Q Now, can you give me the name then of the  
9 General that was in charge of the autopsy,  
10 as you testified about?

11 A Well, there was no General in charge of the  
12 autopsy. There were several people, as  
13 I have stated before, I heard Dr. Humes  
14 state who was in charge here, and he  
15 stated that the General answered "I am,"  
16 it may have been pertaining to operations  
17 other than the autopsy, it does not mean  
18 the Army General was in charge of the  
19 autopsy, but when Dr. Humes asked who was  
20 in charge here, it may have been who was  
21 in charge of the operations, but not of  
22 the autopsy, and by "operations," I mean  
23 the over-all supervision.

24 Q Which includes your report. Does it not?

25 A Sir?

1 Q Which includes your report. Does it not?  
2 A No.  
3 Q It does not?  
4 A I would not say so, because the report I signed  
5 was signed by two other pathologists and  
6 at no time did this Army General say that  
7 he would have anything to do with signing  
8 this autopsy report.  
9 Q Can you give me the Army General's name?  
10 A I don't remember it.  
11 Q How did you know he was an Army General?  
12 A Because Dr. Humes said so.  
13 Q Was he in uniform?  
14 A I don't remember.  
15 Q Were any of the Admirals or Generals or any  
16 of the Military in uniform in that  
17 autopsy room?  
18 A Yes.  
19 Q Were there any other Generals in uniform?  
20 A I remember a Brigadier General of the Air Force  
21 but I don't remember his name.  
22 Q Were there any Admirals in uniform in the  
23 autopsy room?  
24 A From what I remember, Admiral Galloway was in  
25 uniform, Admiral Kinney was in uniform, I

1 don't remember whether or not Admiral  
2 Berkley, the President's physician, was  
3 in uniform.

4 Q Colonel, in answer to one of the questions  
5 Mr. Dymond on direct examination asked  
6 you, you spoke of your opinion as to the  
7 sequence of shots after you saw the  
8 Zapruder film. Is that correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And it was your opinion that the sequence of  
11 shots was such that the President was  
12 hit in the back area first and then in  
13 the head area secondly. Is that basically  
14 correct?

15 A Yes, the first shot in the back of the neck  
16 and the second shot in the back of the  
17 head.

18 Q Now, did you know, sir, at that particular time  
19 that you formed your opinion on the se-  
20 quence of shots from the Zapruder film,  
21 that during the reconstruction of the  
22 assassination, that not one expert or  
23 anybody had performed the alleged feat  
24 of shooting the shot from the Texas School  
25 Book Depository in the span of time as it

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Q This puzzled you at the time, the wound in the back and you couldn't find an exit wound? You were wondering about where this bullet was or where the path was going, were you not?

A Yes.

Q Well, at that particular time, Doctor, why didn't you call the doctors at Parkland or attempt to ascertain what the doctors at Parkland may have done or may have seen while the President's body was still exposed to view on the autopsy table?

A I will remind you that I was not in charge of this autopsy, that I was called --

Q You were a co-author of the report though, weren't you, Doctor?

A Wait. I was called as a consultant to look at these wounds; that doesn't mean I am running the show.

Q Was Dr. Humes running the show?

A Well, I heard Dr. Humes stating that -- he said "Who is in charge here?" and I heard an Army General, I don't remember his name, stating, "I am." You must understand that in those circumstances, there were law

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enforcement officers, military people with 49  
various ranks, and you have to co-ordinate  
the operation according to directions.

Q . But you were one of the three qualified  
pathologists standing at that autopsy  
table, were you not, Doctor?

A Yes, I was.

Q Was this Army General a qualified pathologist?

A No.

Q Was he a doctor?

A No, not to my knowledge.

Q Can you give me his name, Colonel?

A No, I can't. I don't remember.

Q Do you happen to have the photographs and  
X-rays taken of President Kennedy's body  
at the time of the autopsy and shortly  
thereafter? Do you?

A I do not have X-rays or photographs of  
President Kennedy with me.

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1 the back of the head prior to my arrival,  
2 and I made a positive identification of  
3 both wounds of entry. At this time I  
4 might, for the sake of clarity, say that  
5 in the autopsy report we may have called  
6 the first wound the one in the head and  
7 the second wound the one in the neck, be-  
8 cause we did not know the sequence of  
9 shots at that time. Again, the sequence  
10 of shots was determined by the Zapruder  
11 film, so what we did, we determined the  
12 entry of the bullet wound and stated that  
13 there were two bullet wounds, one in the  
14 back of the neck and the other in the back  
15 of the head, without giving a sequence.

16 Q How many other military personnel were present  
17 at the autopsy in the autopsy room?

18 A That autopsy room was quite crowded. It is a  
19 small autopsy room, and when you are called  
20 in circumstances like that to look at the  
21 wound of the President of the United  
22 States who is dead, you don't look around  
23 too much to ask people for their names  
24 and take notes on who they are and how  
25 many there are. I did not do so. The room

1 was crowded with military and civilian  
2 personnel and federal agents, Secret  
3 Service agents, FBI agents, for part of  
4 the autopsy, but I cannot give you a  
5 precise breakdown as regards the attendance  
6 of the people in that autopsy room at  
7 Bethesda Naval Hospital.

8  
9 Q Colonel, did you feel that you had to take  
10 orders from this Army General that was  
11 there directing the autopsy?

12 A No, because there were others, there were  
13 Admirals.

14 Q There were Admirals?

15 A Oh, yes, there were Admirals, and when you are  
16 a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army you just  
17 follow orders, and at the end of the  
18 autopsy we were specifically told -- as I  
19 recall it, it was by Admiral Kenney, the  
20 Surgeon General of the Navy -- this is sub-  
21 ject to verification -- we were specifically  
22 told not to discuss the case.

23 Q You were told not to discuss the case?

24 A -- to discuss the case without coordination  
25 with the Attorney General.

Q Colonel, can you tell me how the body got from

22nd of November, 1963, they were turned over, as I recall, to the Secret Service, so they had been exposed, but I did not see the processed photographs until January, 1967. In 1964 I saw photographs, if I may recall, but they were not from the -- from the autopsy, they were from the Zapruder film in 1964.

Q Now, Doctor, in the area of pathology, more specifically that of performing autopsies, and arriving at conclusions from autopsies would you say that the use of photographs and X-ray are routine and necessary parts of a pathologist arriving at his opinion?

A It is extremely useful.

Q Would you say that is the normal practice at autopsies, to have photographs and various X-rays made of the body that you are performing the autopsy on?

A It is a normal practice to take X-rays and photographs of a missile wound case.

Q Will you tell me whether or not, Doctor, if you know, whether these photographs and X-rays were ever displayed to the members of the Warren Commission.

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were not available at that time?

A I was told that it was the wish of the Attorney General.

Q Thank you, Colonel.

A -- who was then Robert F. Kennedy.

Q (Exhibiting document to witness.) Doctor, I show you what the State marks for purposes of identification "S-68," and I ask you if you would view this exhibit and tell The Court whether or not you have ever seen anything depicted on here as being similar to what you have seen before.

A I recognize those drawings but I am not the author of them.

MR. DYMOND:

I didn't hear the first part. I recognize what?

MR. OSER:

Those drawings.

THE WITNESS:

I recognize those drawings; I am not the author of them.

BY MR. OSER:

Q Were you present, Doctor, when this was done, at the time of the autopsy or shortly

1 Q Did you have any information available,  
2 Doctor, from people at the scene who  
3 heard four shots?

4 A From the assassination on I heard conflicting  
5 reports regarding the number of shots.

6 Q I am talking about at the time you all prepared  
7 and signed this report, Doctor, before  
8 you affixed your signature to this, did  
9 you talk to anyone or have any reports  
10 available from people who heard four  
11 shots at Dealey Plaza on November 22?

12 A I don't remember any.

13 Q Did you have any statements or reports availa-  
14 ble to you from people who heard two shots  
15 in Dealey Plaza on November 22 at the time  
16 you made this report?

17 A At the time I made the report I don't recall  
18 having a report of two shots.

19 Q Going further, Doctor, in your autopsy report,  
20 it states, "Governor Connally was seriously  
21 wounded by this same gunfire." From  
22 where did you receive this information?

23 A I knew it at the time of the autopsy because of  
24 the news media who reported the President  
25 had been shot and the Governor of Texas

1 had been wounded, as I recall.

2 Q What did you mean, that Governor Connally was  
3 seriously wounded by the same gunfire?  
4 What did you mean when you said the same  
5 gunfire?

6 A This is the information we had at the time of  
7 the autopsy -- correction, at the time we  
8 signed the autopsy report, and because  
9 the information in the autopsy report  
10 may be obtained after the autopsy, and  
11 again I can't pinpoint the source of that  
12 information.

13 Q Doctor, I now show you State Exhibit 64, and  
14 ask you if you recognize what is depicted  
15 in this particular photograph, as being  
16 similar to something you have seen before  
17 during the investigation of the assassina-  
18 tion of President Kennedy?

19 A This black-and-white reproduction is similar  
20 to a bullet that, as best I can remember,  
21 I saw for the first time in March, 1964.

22 Q Doctor, speaking of your statement in the  
23 autopsy report that Governor Connally was  
24 seriously wounded by the same gunfire,  
25 is it not a fact that when testifying he-

1 Q Will you answer yes or no, Doctor, then you  
2 can explain.

3 A This is a difficult question to answer because  
4 there were two bullets striking President  
5 Kennedy. I have examined the wounds of  
6 President Kennedy and I would say that  
7 the bullet seen here is an entire bullet.

8 Q Is what?

9 A Is an entire bullet. By an entire bullet, I  
10 mean a bullet that did not disintegrate  
11 into many fragments.

12 Q Let me ask you about that in this way --

13 THE COURT:

14 Let him finish his answer.

15 MR. OSER:

16 I thought he had finished.

17 THE COURT:

18 Had you finished your answer?

19 THE WITNESS:

20 Yes, sir.

21 BY MR. OSER:

22 Q Colonel, let me ask you this way: Speaking  
23 of State Exhibit 64, the bullet, I ask  
24 you whether or not you testified in front  
25 of the Warren Commission that that

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particular bullet could not have done the damage to Governor Connally as there were too many bullet fragments in Governor Connally's wrist. Did you or did you not answer that in front of the Warren Commission in answer to a question by Mr. Specter? It appears on Page 382 of your testimony of the Warren Report about the middle of the page.

A It reads as follows: "Could that bullet possibly have gone through President Kennedy in 388," Mr. Specter's question. "Through President Kennedy's head --" what is 388?

MR. WILLIAM WEGMANN:

The one on the right.

A (Continuing) "and remain intact in the way you see it now?" "Definitely not." "And could it have been the bullet which inflicted the wound on Governor Connally's right wrist?" "No, for the reason there are too many fragments described in that wrist."

MR. OSER:

Thank you, Doctor, that is the point I am talking about.

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newspaper article to your attention,  
and why?

A As I recall, it was Dr. Humes who mentioned  
this article to me.

Q Colonel, do you customarily take notice of  
newspaper articles in an autopsy report?

A At times it is done.

Q Therefore, Doctor, am I correct in stating  
that particular autopsy report signed by  
you was based partially on hearsay evi-  
dence, is that correct? By that I mean  
evidence received by someone other than  
you having actual personal knowledge of  
the thing?

A Having not been at the scene I had to get  
information from somebody else.

Q Did you have occasion to read a newspaper  
article of November 22 or 23, which re-  
ported there were four to six shots fired  
and they came from the grassy knoll, being  
stated by Miss Jean Hill? Did you read  
that before you made your report?

A I don't recall reading that before I made the  
report. I may have been aware at that  
time of conflicting reports as regards the

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number and the difference in the direction of the shots, but I cannot pinpoint the time.

Q Since you are referring to the Washington Post --

A Would you repeat that?

THE COURT:

Mr. Oser, speak into the microphone, it may help a little bit.

BY MR. OSER:

Q Since you are dealing with the Washington Post article of November 23, 1963 in your autopsy report, I wondered if you had an occasion to either read the article or have it brought to your attention, that one Charles Brehm, one of the spectators close to the Presidential limousine, saw material which appeared to be a sizeable portion of President Kennedy's skull --

MR. DYMOND:

Objection, that is not in evidence.

THE COURT:

This is not a prior contradictory statement, Mr. Oser, is it?

MR. OSER:

1 THE WITNESS:

2 Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT:

4 Mr. Oser's question is, did you and the  
5 other two persons personally inter-  
6 view these people or get it from  
7 another source?

8 THE WITNESS:

9 I personally talked to Secret Service  
10 Agent Kellerman. I personally talked  
11 to Admiral Berkley, the personal  
12 physician to President Kennedy. I  
13 personally talked to Admiral Galloway,  
14 who was referring to a third witness  
15 present at the scene. There may have  
16 been others leading us to the state-  
17 ment that to the best of our knowledge  
18 at that time there were three shots  
19 fired.

20 BY MR. OSER:

21 Q Doctor, speaking of the wound to the throat  
22 area of the President as you described it,  
23 after this bullet passed through the  
24 President's throat in the manner in which  
25 you described it, would the President have



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been able to talk?

A I don't know.

Q Do you have an opinion?

A There are many factors influencing the ability to talk or not to talk after a shot.

Q Did you have an occasion to dissect the track of that particular bullet in the victim as it lay on the autopsy table?

A I did not dissect the track in the neck.

Q Why?

A This leads us into the disclosure of medical records.

MR. OSER:

Your Honor, I would like an answer from the Colonel and I would ask The Court so to direct.

THE COURT:

That is correct, you should answer, Doctor.

THE WITNESS:

We didn't remove the organs of the neck.

BY MR. OSER:

Q Why not, Doctor?

A For the reason that we were told to examine the head wounds and that the --

Q Are you saying someone told you not to dissect

1 the track?

2 THE COURT:

3 Let him finish his answer.

4 THE WITNESS:

5 I was told that the family wanted an exam-  
6 ination of the head, as I recall, the  
7 head and chest, but the prosecutors  
8 in this autopsy didn't remove the  
9 organs of the neck, to my recollec-  
10 tion.

11 BY MR. OSER:

12 Q You have said they did not, I want to know why  
13 didn't you as an autopsy pathologist at-  
14 tempt to ascertain the track through the  
15 body which you had on the autopsy table  
16 in trying to ascertain the cause or causes  
17 of death? Why?

18 A I had the cause of death.

19 Q Why did you not trace the track of the wound?

20 A As I recall I didn't remove these organs from  
21 the neck.

22 Q I didn't hear you.

23 A I examined the wounds but I didn't remove the  
24 organs of the neck.

25 Q You said you didn't do this; I am asking you why

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didn't do this as a pathologist?

A From what I recall I looked at the trachea, there was a tracheotomy wound the best I can remember, but I didn't dissect or remove these organs.

MR. OSER:

Your Honor, I would ask Your Honor to direct the witness to answer my question.

BY MR. OSER:

Q I will ask you the question one more time: Why did you not dissect the track of the bullet wound that you have described today and you saw at the time of the autopsy at the time you examined the body? Why? I ask you to answer that question.

A As I recall I was told not to, but I don't remember by whom.

Q You were told not to but you don't remember by whom?

A Right.

Q Could it have been one of the Admirals or one of the Generals in the room?

A I don't recall.

Q Do you have any particular reason why you cannot

1 recall at this time?

2 A Because we were told to examine the head and  
3 the chest cavity, and that doesn't include  
4 the removal of the organs of the neck.

5 Q You are one of the three autopsy specialists  
6 and pathologists at the time, and you  
7 saw what you described as an entrance  
8 wound in the neck area of the President of  
9 the United States who had just been  
10 assassinated, and you were only interested  
11 in the other wound but not interested in  
12 the track through his neck, is that what  
13 you are telling me?

14 A I was interested in the track and I had observed  
15 the conditions of bruising between the  
16 point of entry in the back of the neck and  
17 the point of exit at the front of the  
18 neck, which is entirely compatible with  
19 the bullet path.

20 Q But you were told not to go into the area of  
21 the neck, is that your testimony?

22 A From what I recall, yes, but I don't remember  
23 by whom.

24 Q Did you attempt to probe this wound in the back  
25 of the neck?

1 Yes.

2 THE COURT:

3 I thought you were referring to your  
4 notes, Doctor.

5 MR. OSER:

6 I asked the witness --

7 THE COURT:

8 I heard your question. I was just wanting  
9 to know if you were waiting for an  
10 answer.

11 THE WITNESS:

12 I think I went first to the -- I saw  
13 these photographs and X-rays to the  
14 best of my recollection at the  
15 archives of the United States in  
16 January 1967, the photographs, for  
17 the first time.

18 THE COURT:

19 He didn't ask you that question. He  
20 wanted to know who asked you to do  
21 this. Was that your question?

22 MR. OSER:

23 Yes, sir.

24 THE WITNESS:

25 As I recall it was Mr. Eardley. There are

THE COURT:

We have covered it well and you can go on to something else now, Mr. Oser.

BY MR. OSER:

Q You said the back wound was seven by four millimeters, Doctor?

A Approximately, all these measurements are approximately.

Q Why approximate, Colonel?

A Because the edge of the wound can be measured in different ways. The edge of the wound is something that you measure with a ruler and you take approximate measurements and you write them down.

Q Now in speaking about the head wound in State Exhibit 70, I believe you testified on direct examination that you found a wound in the back of the head approximately one inch to the right and slightly above the exterior occipital protuberance, is that right?

A Yes.

Q Does State 70 show the correct location of this measurement?

A The profile of the head showing the wound in the

1 Q Now, Colonel, I believe you said that you are  
 2 familiar with the report of Drs. Carnes,  
 3 Fisher, Morgan, and Moritz, as having  
 4 reviewed and returned in 1968, I ask you  
 5 whether or not you disagree with their  
 6 findings, Colonel, that after viewing the  
 7 X-rays of the President they found a hole  
 8 in the President's head 100 millimeters  
 9 above the occipital protuberance?

10 A I can't say I agree or disagree with this for  
 11 the following reasons: This measurement  
 12 refers to X-ray films. On Page 11 of this  
 13 Panel Review -- what is the exhibit number  
 14 of this?

15 Q I now mark it as State-73 -- 72, I am sorry.

16 A On Page 11 of this Panel Review of 1968, which  
 17 I read for the first time in 1969, I read:  
 18 "One of the lateral films of the skull" -- and  
 19 this refers to a general section heading  
 20 you will find on "Examination of X-ray  
 21 Films" on Page 9, as I read this, I inter-  
 22 pret this statement of Page 11 as a measure-  
 23 ment based on X-ray films. So there was a  
 24 difference between measurements made on  
 25 X-ray films and photographs or photographs

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1 Let's go on to another area.

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2 BY MR. OSER:

3 Q How many pieces of skull, Colonel, did you have  
4 to use at the time of the autopsy being  
5 turned over to you from some other place?

6 A As I recall, there were three bone fragments  
7 and on one of them I saw a definite  
8 bevelling which allowed me to identify  
9 this portion of a wound of exit as part of  
10 a wound of exit. The appearances of these  
11 portions of skull had the same general  
12 characteristics, as far as the appearance  
13 of bone, as the lining of the skull of  
14 President Kennedy and I made a positive  
15 identity of exit seeing the bevelling from  
16 outside after having oriented this specimen  
17 as regards the outer and inner surfaces  
18 of the bony specimen.

19 Q Doctor, did you section and examine the left  
20 cerebral hemisphere or the left side of  
21 the brain of the President?

22 A I did not.

23 Q Why?

24 A The most massive lesions were on the right side  
25 and the brain was preserved in formalin.



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as found by the four panelists in the  
brain of the President could be?

A I don't know what it means.

Q How long is 13 x 20 millimeters?

A 1 inch is 25 millimeters so 13 millimeters is  
smaller than 1 inch and 20 millimeters is  
almost 1 inch but not quite 1 inch  
because 1 inch is 25 millimeters just  
about.

Q Would it be safe to say it was approximately  
or would be approximately 3/4 x 1/2 inch,  
that'd be about right?

A 20 millimeters is approximately 3/4 of 1 inch  
and 13 millimeters is approximately 1/2  
an inch because 25 is one inch.

Q Now, Colonel, can -- You previously testified  
that you did a lot of work at the autopsy  
table in the area of this particular  
head wound. Can you tell me why you  
can't tell me what this 3/4 inch x 1/2  
inch rectangular-shaped whatever it is,  
what it was in the President's brain?

A At this time I can't interpret this. There are  
numerous bone fragments produced by this  
explosive force in the head leading to

sectioned.

Q What you are telling me, Colonel, is as you didn't go into the other half of the brain and completely ascertain what may have or may not have been there then you did not do a complete autopsy, is that correct? Yes or no and then you can answer the question.

A Yes. As regards the wounds on the external aspect of the body, what we found on the 24 November '63 was adequate as regards the external wounds of the brain.

Q Is this in your opinion a complete autopsy under the definition used by the American Board of Pathology? Yes or no and then you can explain it.

A On -- No. On the 24th of November because to my recollection we based our autopsy report on the 24th of November on the information obtained from people at the scene. We based it on our gross autopsy findings pertaining to the wounds as they were described on the body and the X-rays taken before and during the course of the autopsy.

1 BY MR. OSER:

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2 Q The sixth floor being 60 feet above ground  
3 level, and that this bullet, Mr. Dymond,  
4 struck the man in the back at approxi-  
5 mately five and three-eighth inches  
6 below the top of his collar and one  
7 and three-quarter inches to the right  
8 of the center seam, exited from his  
9 throat in the necktie area of this indi-  
10 vidual, then struck an individual in  
11 front of him seated in a car, entering  
12 the second individual in the back near  
13 the right armpit, going through his  
14 chest, fracturing the fifth rib, exiting  
15 from below the second individual's right  
16 nipple, past his right forearm, causing  
17 multiple fractures of the wristbone,  
18 leaving numerous fragments and then  
19 entering his left thigh --

20 MR. DYMOND:

21 I hate to interrupt Counsel in the  
22 middle of his question. It is  
23 axiomatic. A hypothetical ques-  
24 tion must stay within the bounds  
25 of the case. Counsel is doing what