

- 1 Q When were these X-rays taken and when were
2 they made available to you?
- 3 A When I arrived at the hospital at approximately
4 8:00 o'clock at night on the 22nd of
5 November, 1963 X-rays of the head had
6 been taken prior to my arrival, and
7 Dr. Humes had told me so over the phone
8 when he called me at home, asking me to
9 come over. After I found the wound of
10 entry in the back of the neck, no cor-
11 responding exit, I requested a whole body
12 X-ray, the purpose of having whole body
13 X-rays of an autopsy is to be sure there
14 is no -- in a case like that, no bullet
15 in some part of the body that would re-
16 main there, leave with the body and
17 nobody would know that it was there, that
18 is the reason for X-rays, because X-rays
19 will reveal the presence of a bullet,
20 the presence that no operation or autopsy,
21 as complete as it may be, may definitely
22 reveal, was my reason for those body
23 X-rays.
- 24 Q Did you get the whole body X-rays?
- 25 A I requested them, and we waited, I would say,

1 an hour or more for these whole body
2 X-rays, and they were interpreted by a
3 radiologist of the Bethesda Hospital who
4 had reviewed those, so the X-rays of the
5 head showing numerous fragments, but he
6 stated that there was no entire bullet
7 remaining in the cadaver, there were
8 fragments, metallic fragments in the head,
9 but there was no bullet in that cadaver.

10 Q Was all this before you wrote your autopsy
11 report?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Referring to "Exhibit S-69 and S-70," which
14 appear on the Board over there and which
15 are blow-ups of smaller exhibits of the
16 same nature which the Defense has ex-
17 hibited and offered into evidence, do the
18 sketches purport to be scale drawings?

19 A No.

20 Q Now, under whose supervision were the
21 sketches made?

22 A Under the supervision of Dr. Humes.

23 Q Was he one of the doctors who joined with you
24 in performing the autopsy and signing the
25 autopsy report?

1 A It was the Pathologist in charge of the
2 autopsy.

3 Q Now, when you say they were drawn at his direc-
4 tion, what part did Dr. Humes play in
5 this, if you know?

6 A As far as I know, Dr. Humes gave the results
7 of our observations at the time of the
8 autopsy to a Navy enlisted man who made
9 the drawings in the preparation of our
10 testimony before the Warren Commission in
11 March of 1964.

12 Q Now, Doctor, you have testified with reference
13 to S-69 that you did not dissect the track
14 of that bullet through the President's
15 neck. Is that correct?

16 A That is correct.

17 Q Why did you not dissect it, was it necessary or
18 not?

19 A Well, this creates a great deal of mutilation
20 to dissect, and we limited our examination
21 in that respect, not to create unnecessary
22 mutilation of the cadaver. I was satisfied
23 with the aspect of the wound of entry in
24 the back of the neck, a bruise in the upper
25 part of the lung and the lining of the

1 chest cavity which is called the pleura,
2 and I did not do any extensive dissection
3 along the bullet path.

4 Q Was this mutilation of the remains of
5 President Kennedy necessary in order for
6 you to gather enough information as to
7 satisfy yourself as an expert as to the
8 path of that bullet?

9 A I did not consider dissection at that time.

10 Q I say was it, was dissection necessary in order
11 for you to get enough information to
12 satisfy yourself as to the path of the
13 bullet?

14 A I don't know what it would have shown. I can't
15 say it was necessary.

16 Q You cannot say it was necessary, you say?

17 A I don't know.

18 Q Well, did you form a firm opinion as to the
19 path of the bullet which you say entered
20 the President's back?

21 A Oh, yes.

22 Q How did you form that opinion?

23 A There was a wound with regular edges, they were
24 inverted, and they had the characteristics
25 of a wound of entry.

1 Q Is that a firm opinion?

2 A It is a firm opinion that the wound in the
3 back of the neck was a wound of entry,
4 without a dissection.

5 Q Now, Doctor, did you ever have occasion to
6 perform any examinations of the wounds
7 of Governor Connally of Texas?

8 A No, I never met Governor Connally.

9 Q Now, yesterday under cross-examination you were
10 asked whether you had not testified before
11 the Warren Commission that "Commission
12 Exhibit No. 339" which has been marked
13 for identification "State-64" could not
14 have gone through the wrist of Governor
15 Connally. Is that what you testified to,
16 and, if not, I wish you would explain what
17 you did testify to in that connection.

18 A I testified before the Warren Commission that
19 this bullet, "Commission Exhibit No. 399,"
20 or S-64 did not disintegrate and there
21 were too many fragments in the wrist of
22 Governor Connally to be compatible with
23 an injury caused by such a bullet.
24 As I remember, I made that statement
25 because I was referring to metallic

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fragments to the best of my recollection,
a word which I don't see in my testimony
before the Warren Commission. I don't
think that such a bullet having lost such
little weight could cause a wound in the
wrist in which many metallic fragments are
seen.

Q Did you have occasion to examine X-rays of
Dr. Connally's wrist or not?

A I don't remember, sir.

MR. OSER:

I think it is Governor Connally.

MR. DYMOND:

Governor Connally, that's right.

THE WITNESS:

I may have had the reports at the time of
our testimony before the Warren
Commission regarding the injuries of
Governor Connally, but I don't recall
seeing X-rays or photographs of
Governor Connally.

BY MR. DYMOND:

Q Now, Doctor, you testified yesterday on
Cross-Examination that under certain con-
ditions the wound of entrance in a fleshy

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Q area can be larger than the wound of exit. Is that correct?

A It could be.

Q Does the same apply to a skull wound or a projectile going through the skull under those circumstances, can the wound of exit be smaller than the wound of entrance?

A Most of the time when the bullet goes through bone, in and out, in a through-and-through wound, the wound of exit is larger than the wound of entry, the reason being that the bullet often disintegrates, creates fragments, producing a larger wound.

Q Now, Doctor, when an individual is hit in a fleshy area, that is an area not backed up by bone, and is hit by a high velocity bullet, is it possible for there to be some stretching of the skin in connection with the penetration and a retraction of the skin after the penetration?

A Definitely. Very often the skin retracts after the passage of the bullet to some extent. The skin is more elastic, the tissue, then bone, it is a very common finding to find

1 some retraction of skin after the passage
2 of a bullet, the position of the bullet
3 in relation to the target will have an
4 influence on the shape of the wound, of
5 course.

6 Q Now, Doctor, referring to State Exhibit-68,
7 and more particularly the sketch on the
8 lower portion of this, and the red dot
9 which you placed on the right-hand figure
10 of that sketch, does that purport to
11 represent accurately the location of the
12 back head wound as described in the
13 reviewing pathological report of 1968?

14 A It does not, and let me explain this. I was
15 asked yesterday by Mr. Oser to place a
16 wound 4 inches or 100 millimeters,
17 approximately, above the external occi-
18 pital protuberance. The reason for doing
19 so was that in the 1968 panel, P-A-N-E-L,
20 in the chapter entitled "X-rays," this
21 is S-72 on page 11, you will find this
22 figure of 100 millimeters above the
23 external occipital protuberance, but in
24 the first line of that paragraph you see
25 the word "films" on one of the lateral

1 * films of the skull, a hole measuring
2 approximately 8 millimeters in diameter
3 on the outer surface of the skull and as
4 much as 20 millimeters on the external
5 surface can be seen in profile approxi-
6 mately 100 millimeters above the
7 external occipital protuberance, so this
8 measurement of 100 millimeters or 4 inches
9 refers to a measurement made on X-ray
10 film and not on the photographs or skull
11 itself. I saw that wound of entry in the
12 back of the head at approximately 1 inch
13 or 25 millimeters to the right and slightly
14 above the external occipital protuberance,
15 and it was definitely not 4 inches or 100
16 millimeters above it, so I was asked to
17 put on the drawing a measurement coming
18 from the X-ray measurement.

19 Q Now, Doctor, when you take an X-ray picture of
20 an individual or individual's head, does
21 the size of that X-ray picture coincide
22 exactly with the size of the individual's
23 head?

24 A It does not. There is a distortion, there is a
25 change in size related to the distance

1 between the X-ray tube and the film.

2 There are many technical factors that
3 the X-ray film you see does not give a
4 scale reproduction of the subject.

5 Q Now, Doctor, the measurement that you have
6 related as to the location of the wounds
7 on President Kennedy, did you take those
8 measurements from the actual cadaver it-
9 self?

10 A I did.

11 Q Do the locations of the wounds as pointed out
12 yesterday by you on the back of
13 Mr. Wegmann's shirt by a pen mark and on
14 the back of my head with a finger coincide
15 with the measurements that you actually
16 took from the cadaver?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Now, Doctor, referring again to this blow-up,
19 "Commission Exhibit 385," which is "State
20 Exhibit-69," with respect to the angle of
21 the wound in the President's neck, would
22 that angle be affected by his leaning
23 either forward or backward at the time he
24 was hit?

25 A To some extent, yes.

1 Q Referring to State Exhibit No. 60, State
2 Exhibit No. 70 which is a blow-up of
3 Commission Exhibit 388, with the direction
4 of the President's head, that is whether
5 it were turned to one side or the other,
6 or straight ahead, affect the angle of
7 entrance of the bullet which went into
8 the back of his head, I mean the angle
9 through the head of that bullet?

10 A Yes, it would, to some extent.

11 Q Now, Doctor, you testified that you did not
12 conduct an examination of the left half
13 of the brain of President Kennedy. Is
14 that correct?

15 A At the time, when we signed the autopsy report
16 the brain was still preserved in formula,
17 which is a hardener, for future studies.
18 The brain was examined after the autopsy
19 report was signed and you will find this
20 examination in the supplementary autopsy
21 report signed by Dr. Humes.

22 Q Did Dr. Humes ultimately render a supplementary
23 report covering the President's brain?

24 A He did, and you will find it on page 987 of
25 Volume XVI of the hearings before the

1 incision, a wound of entry in the back
2 of the head and a wound of exit on the
3 right side of the head. The head wound
4 was the fatal wound, we had the cause of
5 death.

6 Q As of this date, Doctor, have you gotten any
7 information which has caused you to change
8 those firm opinions?

9 A No.

10 MR. DYMOND:

11 We tender the witness.

12 RE-CROSS-EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. OSER:

14 Q Colonel, in referring to State Exhibit-68,
15 the autopsy descriptive sheet, can you tell
16 me whether or not the mark placed on the
17 rear portion or the rear diagram of a body
18 which is indicated with the arrow and
19 marked ragged, slanting 15 x 6 millimeter,
20 can you tell me whether or not this spot
21 on this diagram corresponds to a position
22 on the head of 1 inch, approximately 1
23 inch above the external occipital protuber-
24 ance or does it apply to 100 millimeters
25 above the external occipital protuberance?

1 A It refers to an approximate location on this
2 drawing and it refers to the wound I saw
3 at 1 inch from the external occipital
4 protuberance.

5 Q All right.

6 A It was definitely not 4 inches or 100 millimeters
7 above it.

8 Q Does that report of the panel show or make any
9 reference to a hole in the President's
10 head approximately 1 inch in the vicinity
11 of the external occipital protuberance?

12 A I haven't seen that.

13 Q Now, I believe you told Mr. Dymond that at the
14 time, preparing your original autopsy
15 report of November 1963, that all the
16 X-rays were available to you. Is that
17 correct?

18 A I had seen them in the -- I had seen the X-ray
19 films of the head and the radiologist had
20 reviewed the whole body X-rays before we
21 prepared, before we signed the autopsy
22 report.

23 Q Do you know whether or not the X-rays that you
24 viewed were all of the X-rays that were
25 taken?

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A Well, here again, this review was made by the radiologist, I am not a radiologist and a qualified man to look at the X-rays was the Bethesda radiologist. He did it at our request and he said there was no bullet remaining in the cadaver.

NO HIATUS HERE.

- 1 Q I believe you said, Colonel, there was a
2 radiologist present during the 1968
3 panel report. Is that correct?
- 4 A Yes, one of these four names is a radiologist.
- 5 Q Do you know, Colonel, whether or not to your
6 knowledge that two rolls of the X-ray
7 film taken of the President on the
8 autopsy table did not come out?
- 9 A To my knowledge, the film that did not come
10 out were gross photographs, --
- 11 Q Do you know whether --
- 12 A Not X-ray films.
- 13 Q Do you know whether or not all of the X-ray
14 films came out or not, to your knowledge?
- 15 A To my knowledge, they came out all right.
- 16 Q Now, if, Colonel, you viewed the X-ray film
17 of the head or had been viewed by a
18 radiologist, can you tell me why there
19 was no mention in your report of a three-
20 quarter by one-half inch rectangular
21 shaped object in the President's brain?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q Can you tell me why there is nothing in your
24 report making mention of metallic substances
25 in the track?

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A Before you go to that second question, if I
may say something, in that panel review
of 1968 there was a rectangular structure
and they say it is not identifiable to
this panel.

Q If it was there, Colonel, in the X-rays, would
you say it was there in the brain at the
time of the autopsy?

MR. DYMOND:

What page are you referring to, Doctor,
what page are you referring to?

MR. OSER:

The panel of 1968, the pages are now
numbered.

THE WITNESS:

That is "S-72."

MR. OSER:

Page 8, Mr. Dymond.

THE WITNESS:

"There can be seen a gray-brown rectangular
structure measuring approximately
13 by 20 millimeters, its identity
cannot be established by the panel."
I don't know what this refers to.

BY MR. OSER:

1 Q Did you see such at the time of your autopsy,
2 did you see such a substance in the brain
3 of the President?

4 A I don't remember.

5 Q I believe you told Mr. Dymond, Colonel, the
6 reason you did not dissect the track of
7 the bullet through the throat was because
8 you did not want to mutilate the body of
9 the President. Is that correct?

10 A I did not consider this dissection --

11 Q Did you or did you not tell Mr. Dymond a
12 few moments ago that you did not dissect
13 the track of the President's throat be-
14 cause of the mutilation of the body that
15 would result?

16 A Yes, I did say that.

17 Q And you also told me yesterday you were told
18 not to go into the throat area?

19 A Yes, I don't remember the details about this,
20 who said what.

21 Q You were told?

22 A From what I remember.

23 Q And you did not do it?

24 A We did not remove the organs of the neck,
25 obviously.

1 Q Describe to me what you did with the body in
2 autopsy, what did you do with the body
3 and how did you perform this autopsy?

4 A Please repeat your question, I did not hear it.

5 Q Will you describe for me what incisions you made
6 into the body of the President.

7 A I did not make the incisions into the body, as
8 I recall I was called to examine the wounds
9 and the incisions were made by the other
10 two pathologists who performed the
11 autopsy, Dr. Humes and Dr. Boswell, and
12 who signed this autopsy report. My role
13 in this autopsy was to emphasize the
14 wounds, to examine the wounds, that is why
15 I was called.

16 Q Well, Colonel, you were present at the autopsy
17 room, were you not, the entire time?

18 A I arrived after the -- a short time after the
19 beginning of the autopsy.

20 Q Did you or did you not see the chest cavity of
21 the President open?

22 A Yes, I did, and there was a bruise, there was
23 a bruise in the upper part of the chest
24 cavity, a bruise produced by the bullet
25 that entered in the back of the neck.

1 Q Did you or did you not see the scalp and
2 head area of the President open at
3 autopsy?

4 A I saw the skull and the scalp of the President
5 open.

6 Q And during autopsy, am I not correct that the
7 standard operating procedure is a Y in-
8 cision down to this area (indicating),
9 and then another incision down in the
10 rib cage to expose -- so you can get to
11 the vital organs of the body you are per-
12 forming the autopsy on?

13 A The usual Y-shaped incision is made, I don't
14 remember making that incision because I
15 again was not the pathologist performing
16 the autopsy.

17 Q You saw the President on the table after the
18 incision had been made, did you not?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And you are telling me that you did not go into
21 the throat area because you did not want
22 to mutilate the body, is that correct?

23 MR. DYMOND:

24 I think he answered that three times.

25 BY MR. OSER:

1 Q Now, Colonel, also along the line of the
2 dissecting of the throat area, you were,
3 at the time of the autopsy, on that night
4 I believe puzzled by what you found be-
5 cause you found no exit wound at that
6 time of the hole you found in the back.
7 Is that correct?

8 A It is.

9 Q I believe you answered Mr. Dymond before that
10 you were not taking orders from anybody
11 in the autopsy room. Is that right?

12 MR. DYMOND:

13 I think that is a misquotation of the
14 witness.

15 MR. OSER:

16 I asked the Colonel whether or not he
17 told Mr. Dymond on redirect examina-
18 tion that he was not taking orders
19 from anybody in the autopsy room.

20 MR. DYMOND:

21 I asked the witness on redirect whether
22 anybody gave him any orders as to what
23 his professional opinion should be.

24 MR. OSER:

25 Your answer was no, is that correct,

Colonel?

THE WITNESS:

Right.

BY MR. OSER:

Q But you did take orders and did not dissect
the throat area?

A Well, these are not direct orders, these are
suggestions and directions. I was not
told, "I give you a direct order" or that
sort of thing.

Q And at the time, Colonel, you were a Lieutenant
Colonel, were you not?

A Yes.

Q And there were Admirals and Generals in that
room, were there not?

THE COURT:

We are going over the same thing.

MR. OSER:

Orders were brought up on redirect.

MR. DYMOND:

We object on the grounds --

THE COURT:

I sustain the objection, repetitious.

MR. OSER:

That's all.

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THE COURT:

Is Dr. Finck released from the obligation
of his subpoena?

MR. DYMOND:

He is.

At this time may we have five minutes?

We have a couple of witnesses whom
we are expecting.

THE COURT:

Take the Jury upstairs.

We will have a recess.

(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

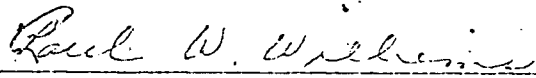
NO HIATUS HERE.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned, Paul W. Williams, do hereby
certify:

That the above and foregoing (37 pages of type-
written matter) is a true and correct transcription
of the stenographic notes of the proceedings had herein,
the same having been taken down by the undersigned and
transcribed under his supervision, on the day and date
hereinbefore noted, in the Criminal District Court for
the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, in the matter
of the State of Louisiana vs Clay L. Shaw, 198-059 1426
(30) Section C on the 25th day of February, 1969, before
the Honorable Edward A. Haggerty, Jr., Judge, Section
"C", being the testimony of Pierre A. Finck, M. D.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 25th day of February,
1969.



PAUL W. WILLIAMS