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UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

ooOoo

Farm Road 660
Box 265
Ferris, Texas 75125

July 12, 1978
10:30 A.M.

APPEARANCES:

JAMES E. McDONALD, SENIOR COUNSEL
House Annex No. 2
Washington, D. C. 20515

ALBERT MAXWELL, STAFF INVESTIGATOR
House Annex No. 2
Washington, D. C. 20515

SWORN TESTIMONY OF
NATHAN BURGESS POOL

1 Whereupon,

NATHAN BURGESS POOL

2
3 was duly sworn and testified as follows:

4 MR. McDONALD: Good morning. My name is James
5 McDonald, and I am Senior Attorney with the House Select
6 Committee on Assassinations.

7 We are in the living room of Mr. Nathan Pool
8 at Farm Road 660, Post Office Box 265, Ferris, Texas 75125.

9 Mr. Pool, pursuant to House Resolution 222 and
10 Committee Rule 4 I have been designated counsel empowered to
11 take statements under oath. You have previously been sworn
12 by the court reporter and so, therefore, I'm an attorney who
13 is empowered by the Committee to take your statement under oath.

14 EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. McDONALD:

16 Q Would you please state your full name for the record?

17 A Nathan Burgess Pool.

18 Q And, Mr. Pool, is the statement that you're about to
19 give to the Committee being given to us voluntarily?

20 A Right.

21 Q Are you under subpoena?

22 A No.

23 Q You do have the right, according to our rules, to have a
24 attorney present during this questioning. I take it by
25 absence of one that you don't wish to have an attorney?

1 A I don't need an attorney.

2 Q Previously, before we started, I gave you copies of the
3 Committee Rules, and I directed your attention to Committee
4 Rule 4, and also I gave you copies of House Resolutions 222,
5 433 and 760. Did you have a chance to read those over?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q And you understand them, what you read?

8 A Enough.

9 Q Enough. Thank you.

10 Mr. Pool, are you presently employed?

11 A Not right now. I am employed with Otis Elevator Company,
12 but I'm not working. I'm on leave of absence right now.

13 Q And you're on leave of absence for what reason?

14 A Back surgery.

15 Q How long have you been employed by Otis Elevator Company?

16 A Twenty-one years.

17 Q You started with Otis in 1957?

18 A '57.

19 Q Okay.

20 A February of '57.

21 Q All right.

22 In what capacity are you employed? What is your
23 position?

24 A I am a maintenance examiner.

25 Q And how long have you been a maintenance examiner?

A Since 1961.

1 Q And what do your duties entail as a maintenance
2 examiner?

3 A Go to the job. I have a certain group of buildings that
4 I keep oiled, lubricated and cleaned up and in running
5 order, change necessary equipment, contacts and brushes
6 on the generators to keep them in good operating condition.

7 Q Directing your attention to 1963, November of 1963,
8 was Parkland Hospital one of the buildings on your route,
9 or did part of your duties include Parkland Hospital?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. Did they include servicing all of the elevators
12 in Parkland Hospital?

13 A No, sir.

14 Q Which elevators were you assigned to?

15 A Well, I had all of the Otis elevators in the building.
16 There were some Hunter-Hayes elevators. They were actual
17 Montgomery elevators installed by Hunter-Hayes, and they
18 took care of these. There were two--three of them.

19 Q Did Otis have an elevator in the emergency room?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Directing your attention to November 22, 1963, which
22 was a Friday, was that a working day for you?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q What time did you go to work?

25 A 8:00 o'clock.

1 Q And where did you report to work?

2 A I don't remember.

3 Q Was it your normal course of business to go to the Otis
4 Elevator office or did you go to your first assignment
5 of the day?

6 A I never go to the office unless I need parts or
7 information or something; go to the first job or whatever
8 job we want to work on that day.

9 Q All right.

10 Do you recall what was your first job that day?

11 A No, sir.

12 Q Was Parkland Hospital on your route that day?

13 A Ordinarily on a Friday I would be there in the afternoons

14 Q What would be the ordinary time that you would go?

15 A Oh, I'd say around 1:00 o'clock.

16 Q All right.

17 Please relate to us the circumstances of how you
18 went to Parkland Hospital on that Friday.

19 First of all, did you go to Parkland in the
20 normal course of your business?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q How did you go to Parkland Hospital?

23 A I was at Great National Life Insurance Building, which
24 is probably five or six blocks from Parkland Hospital,
25 and my service manager for Dallas area--

1 Q What was his name?

2 A He's named Mel Flesner.

3 Q Is that spelled F-l-e-s-n-e-r?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 --called me. We have the pager system, and he paged me,
6 and I called him and he asked me would I go to Parkland
7 Hospital to make sure that they didn't have any trouble
8 with the elevators while all of the Kennedy and all of the
9 group were there.

10 Q What kind of paging system did you have at the time?

11 A It's called Executone. It belonged to Otis Elevator
12 Company, their personal system that they used.

13 Q Does it emit a tone?

14 A A tone.

15 Q And what did you do?

16 A Then I called on the phone.

17 Q When you received this page were you aware of the
18 assassination of the President?

19 A Yes, Sir. One of the fellows there in the building had
20 come down. We were-- It was lunchtime, and we were down
21 in the engine room. A guy came down and told us that the
22 President had been shot.

23 Q And about how long after you were told that the President
24 was shot did you get the page?

25 A I couldn't be sure, but it seemed to me that it was

1 probably 20 or 30 minutes.

2 Q Okay. And then what did you do after you got the page?

3 A I went directly to Parkland.

4 Q Did you drive in an Otis truck?

5 A No, sir.

6 Q How did you drive? What did you drive?

7 A I drive my own personal truck and Otis pays me mileage.

8 Q Okay. Does your truck have Otis written on the side?

9 A I have a little sign in the window that says, "Otis
10 Elevator Emergency Repair Service."

11 Q Okay. How long did it take you to drive to Parkland
12 Hospital?

13 A Two or three minutes.

14 Q Okay. Describe the scene when you arrived. Which
15 entrance did you go to with your truck?

16 A I went in the main entrance to the main parking lot, and
17 it was the only entrance there at that time on the front.

18 Q Were there many cars or buses?

19 A There was quite a few cars, and there was a lot of cars
20 trying to get into Parkland that they were turning away.

21 Q Were you stopped by a police officer?

22 A I was stopped, and when I told him what I come over there
23 for he let me go on through.

24 Q Who stopped you, a local police officer?

25 A Yes, sir.

1 Q In a uniform?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q And you recognized him as a Dallas police officer?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q After your stop by the police you proceeded to park your
6 truck?

7 A I drove around to the back by the emergency entrance.

8 Q Okay. Where did you park your truck?

9 A I parked at the loading dock which is just around the corner
10 from the emergency entrance at that time.

11 Q Okay. What did you see upon arriving at the loading dock?
12 What could you see relative to the emergency area, the
13 emergency door?

14 A I just saw a bunch of people. A bunch of plain clothes-
15 men were all out there.

16 Q Now, when you say plain clothesmen, what do you mean by
17 that?

18 A I mean they were FBI or some kind of special services.

19 Q How did you know that?

20 A I just assumed that. I later found out that most of them
21 were.

22 Q And what were they doing?

23 A They were just running around out there. I don't know.

24 Q All right.

25 A The way I got in was when I drove up there the security

1 for the hospital's name was Pokie Wright, and I couldn't tel
2 you what Mr. Wright's name was, but they called him Pokie
3 Wright.

4 Q Wright, W-r-i-g-h-t?

5 A --g-h-t, right.

6 He was outside there, too, and when I came up
7 he took me around there and introduced me to someone there
8 in charge.

9 Q Someone in plain clothes?

10 A Uh-huh. Yes. And told him that I was the elevator man
11 and that I'd come over to make certain that they didn't
12 have any trouble with the elevator.

13 Q Mr. Wright, Pokie Wright, was he dressed in a uniform,
14 a law-enforcement type uniform?

15 A No.

16 Q How was he dressed that day?

17 A I couldn't tell you, but he normally just dressed in
18 a suit.

19 Q Okay. Did he come over to your truck as you parked the
20 truck at the loading dock?

21 A Right, because some--some of the other guys came over
22 and were wanting to know what I was doing there.

23 Q And you say, "Other guys," you are referring to plain
24 clothesmen?

25 A Right.

Q Did they identify themselves to you?

1 A Not at that time.

2 Q Okay. Did they even ask you anything?

3 A They asked me what I--what I wanted or what I was doing
4 in there. And, of course, Pokie was right there with them
5 and he told them what I was doing and everything. I told
6 them that I'd just come over to make certain that they
7 didn't have any trouble with the elevator during the time.

8 Q What did you do next? Immediately after Pokie Wright
9 explained to these men, how many men were there? Do
10 you recall?

11 A Well, I'd say three or four there at that time.

12 Q Do you recall their demeanor? Were they calm, excited;
13 can you remember?

14 A I'd say fairly calm.

15 Q Okay. What did you do next?

16 A They took me in where the little elevator, the emergency
17 elevator was, and this D. C. Tomlinson was operating the
18 elevator, and they told me to go ahead and operate the
19 elevator.

20 Q All right. About what time did you arrive at the hospital?

21 A I have no idea. I know it was somewhere around lunch-
22 time because it was-- Well, we were--we were down and the
23 guys were eating lunch, I think, at Great National when
24 they--when they came down and said he was shot, so it was
25 somewhere probably around 11:45 or 12:00.

1 Q No; he was shot at 12:30. So 12:30 is when the
2 assassination occurred.

3 A Well, it was--it was some time after lunch. Now, I
4 don't know--I don't know if this fellow eat at 11:30 or
5 12:00, but I do know that we were down at lunch. They had
6 a ping pong table, and the buys played ping pong. I never
7 played, but there were guys that played. They were real
8 serious. They put their tennis shoes on and took their
9 shirts off and got after it. So I remember that they were
10 down there playing tennis when this guy came down and told

11 So I know it was lunchtime.

12 Q All right.

13 Which entrance to the hospital did you go in?

14 A I went in the main Harry Hines entrance.

15 Q No, I mean the entrance physically to the building.

16 A Oh, I went into the side entrance by the emergency
17 entrance. It was-- There is a little side door where the
18 stairway went down. I went inside and right straight on
19 through.

20 Q Is that side entrance where they would take the emergency
21 patients?

22 A No.

23 Q Where was the entrance that emergency patients would go
24 in, as related to the side entrance?

25 A Possibly 20 feet.

1 Q Okay. Is that entryway still there today? Is it the 12
2 same?
3 A No. It's completely changed.
4 Q Upon entering the building, what did you do?
5 A We just went down the hallway to the elevator. It was
6 about another 30 feet.
7 Q Okay. And then what happened? Was anyone there?
8 A Yes, sir.
9 Q Who was there?
10 A There was a fellow there, and I couldn't tell you his
11 name, but when Mr. Wright introduced me to him he told him
12 who I was. He told me to get on the elevator and operate
13 it and not take anyone up on the elevator unless he
14 specifically said I could.
15 Q All right.
16 Q You did not know who this gentleman was?
17 A He identified himself as someone with the special services.
18 Q Secret Service?
19 A Right.
20 Q How many Secret Service men were there that gave you
21 instructions? Was it just one; were there two or more?
22 A Just this one.
23 Q Just one.
24 A Now, at different times others came in and out through
25 there, but this is the only one that told me. He told me

1 A. No.

2 Q. Was it your impression that he was operating the elevator
3 prior to your arrival?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. After you were given instructions by this Secret Service
6 agent that you were to run the elevator, did the Secret
7 Service agent say anything to Tomlinson?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Could you determine what was Tomlinson's purpose in
10 standing with you near the elevator?

11 A. Him and I were just good friends, and we were just
12 standing there talking over the situation.

13 Q. Okay. When you were standing by the elevator were any
14 stretchers in sight?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Would you please describe?

17 A. There was one sitting right in front of the elevator that
18 had been-- You have to understand over there whenever one
19 goes up on a stretcher somebody just rolls one back on,
20 and they'll roll one on there and it comes down and
21 somebody pushes it off in the hall and they just pushed them
22 up against the wall over there and then they'd pull them
23 on down, change the sheets on them. And if they wanted
24 to take somebody else up, they'd have those stretchers back.

25 But it was a rare thing that anyone loaded and

1 brought a stretcher down. You know, they usually just¹⁵
2 pushed it on there, and whoever come down pushed it off.
3 Q So when you arrived at the elevator this stretcher was
4 already there?
5 A Yes, sir.
6 Q Okay. What was the appearance of this stretcher?
7 A It's just a normal hospital stretcher, had a black pad
8 on it and it had a sheet or two on it.
9 Q Were the sheets smooth?
10 A No. They had been used.
11 Q Been used. Were they crumpled up in a pile, a ball?
12 A Yeah, kind of--kind of just where they'd been, you know,
13 pulled off and throwed on there.
14 Q Were the sheets clean? Could you tell if they were
15 clean?
16 A No. Some of them was bloody.
17 Q Okay. Was anyone standing near this stretcher?
18 A No.
19 Q Did you have any idea where or who had been on the
20 stretcher?
21 A No, sir.
22 Q Did anyone give you any indication?
23 A Later D. C. told me that Conally had come in on that
24 stretcher he thought.
25 Q Okay. What happened next?

1 A Well, we were just standing there talking and one of ¹⁶us
2 leaned up against the thing and kind of pushed it up against
3 the wall, you know, just--and this bullet fell out.

4 Q All right.

5 Now, when you say, "leaned up against this thing,
6 I assume--

7 A The stretcher.

8 Q This was the stretcher--

9 A Right.

10 Q --which was there when you arrived?

11 A Right. We--we either leaned up against it or just
12 pushed it up against the wall or something. I don't
13 remember just exactly, but I do know that when it hit the
14 wall the projectile fell off there, or the bullet.

15 Q When you say, "we," who are you referring to?

16 A D. C. and I, you know.

17 Q All right.

18 And this stretcher was how far from the entryway
19 to the elevator?

20 A It was just almost in front of it. I would say, distance-
21 wise, probably four feet to the inside area. Of course,
22 the stretcher is two-foot wide.

23 Q All right.

24 Off the record.

25 (Discussion off the record.)

MR. McDONALD: On the record.

1
2 A. It's similar to the hallway. In other words, the swinging
3 door, the two doors right there is where most of the
4 patients come in. Now, the other door right there in front
5 that's the elevator door.

6 BY MR. McDONALD:

7 Q That is the elevator door.

8 A. It's similar to the hallway. In other words, the
9 swinging door, the two doors right there, is where most
10 of the patients come in.

11 Now the other door right there in front that's
12 the elevator door.

13 Q That's the elevator door. Okay.

14 A. The other door went into the emergency.

15 Q Right here?

16 A. Right. That's where they had Kennedy in there and all of
17 the-- That's where the-- When the people first came
18 in on emergency they run them right in there and--and
19 then they determine where to, whether to take them up to--

20 Q Okay. In this area here, then, is right where an
21 ambulance would back in or pull in. This is on the
22 ground level?

23 A. Right.

24 Q Okay. But in the area that you were tending the
25 elevator is approximately how long? It looks like a hall

1 A. It is a hall.

2 Q. Okay. How long would you say that is?

3 A. I'd say 20 feet.

4 Q. All right.

5 And approximately how wide?

6 A. Probably eight foot, maybe ten, at the most.

7 Q. All right.

8 So you and D. C. Tomlinson were you standing by
9 the elevator or were you just moving around?

10 A. We was--we was just standing around out there in the hall.

11 Q. Okay. And was the Secret Service agent present at all
12 times?

13 A. He was right there by that door.

14 Q. Right by this door?

15 A. Between those swinging doors.

16 Q. Between the swinger?

17 A. In other words, right in that area.

18 Q. What would be in this area out here?

19 A. Okay. Let me draw some more.

20 Q. All right.

21 Off the record.

22 (Discussion off the record.)

23 MR. McDONALD: On the record.

24 A. This area right back in here it was cut up into little
25 sections where you roll a patient in--

1 right here, and I pulled in and parked right there.
2 The patient area was right in here.
3 Q And what is all this in here where you came in the stair-
4 well and came in--
5 A Well, I just drew too far out there.
6 Q Okay. What is it in there, just a hallway?
7 A It's just a hallway.
8 Q Okay.
9 A It is another hallway out there.
10 Q So in referring to this diagram that we have sketched,
11 you're saying the Secret Service agent was stationed at
12 all times by the swinging doors?
13 A Right.
14 Q He was not guarding this door here.
15 A Well, he was between the two doors. He could have--He
16 could have watched either door.
17 Q Okay. And he was present at all times?
18 A Yeah, all time I was there he was there.
19 Q Now getting back to your description earlier where you
20 said you and Tomlinson leaned up against the stretcher--
21 A Uh-huh.
22 Q --or touched it in some manner.
23 A Well, it might have-- It might have been that it wasn't
24 up against the wall and we just pushed it up against the
25 wall. I don't remember.

1 Q Okay. And you say you heard something fall?

2 A Right.

3 Q What was the sound? What did it sound like?

4 A It just sounded like something hitting the floor, like
5 that--

6 Q And what did you do?

7 A --with a thump.

8 We picked it up off--

9 Q What did you do? You say, "we picked it up."

10 A I don't remember if I picked it up or if D. C. Picked it
11 up, really.

12 Q Well, if you can, can you recall whether it was you or
13 whether it was D. C.?

14 A I certainly can't.

15 MR. McDONALD: Let's go off the record.

16 (Discussion off the record.)

17 MR. McDONALD: On the record.

18 BY MR. McDONALD:

19 Q It's your testimony that you seem to recall that you're
20 the one who first saw the bullet?

21 A I think so.

22 Q Do you remember what you said?

23 A I said, "There's something fell off here." I said, "I
24 think it looks like a bullet." I said, "I wonder if
25 it's one they were shot with."

1 And D. C. picked it up or I picked it up, one,

2 and D. C. took it over and gave it to this guy.

3 Q Do you remember handling it in your hands? Oh, you were

4 holding the bullet.

5 A I think so.

6 Q Do you remember what it looked like?

7 A Uh-huh.

8 Q Would you please describe it?

9 A It looked like any G. I. issue bullet to me. It was a
10 fairly long projectile.

11 Q Are you familiar with guns, yourself?

12 A Yes.

13 Q I mean, you've done a lot of hunting?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Okay. What kind of guns are you familiar with?

16 A I've got several rifles, and I've got a 22 and a British
17 303, five or six shotguns around here.

18 Q And you were familiar with guns and rifles at that time

19 in 1963?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q So when you saw the bullet you knew what it was, I

22 would assume.

23 A Yeah.

24 Q You knew it was a bullet?

25 A I knew it was a bullet.

- 1 Q Okay. From your experience with handling guns.
- 2 A And I knew it wasn't a pistol bullet.
- 3 Q How did you know that?
- 4 A From the shape of it.
- 5 Q When you looked at the shape what did the shape tell you,
- 6 as someone knowledgeable about guns?
- 7 A I'd say it come out of a high-powered rifle.
- 8 Q Is your British 303 a high-powered rifle?
- 9 A Uh-huh.
- 10 Q Did it look similar to the kind of bullet that you would
- 11 use for the 303?
- 12 A It was similar, but it's more like a six millimeter or
- 13 more a European style bullet.
- 14 Q The bullet you found was more European?
- 15 A Yeah, it was more round nosed than a 303 or a 30.06 or
- 16 anything like that.
- 17 Q In other words, you're saying a 30.06 is made by
- 18 Winchester or Remington?
- 19 A I don't know. Everybody has shells for it.
- 20 Q So you're saying the one that you found at the time
- 21 looked to you more European?
- 22 A Yeah. It's a-- It looks like, rather than a 30.06 or
- 23 a 30.30 or anything like it, it didn't look like a--
- 24 Because of the diameter of it, it was small and the length
- 25 was long, you know.

1 Q. What condition was this bullet in?

2 A. It looked to me like it was in pretty good condition. It
3 wasn't beat up or anything.

4 Q. When you say, "beat up," what do you mean?

5 A. I mean it hadn't-- Didn't look like it had hit bone or
6 anything like that. It-- And it looked like it probably
7 was a jacketed bullet, you know.

8 Q. Why do you say that?

9 A. Well, by the color of it.

10 Q. And what do you mean when you say--

11 A. It hadn't expanded any at all, in other words.

12 Q. When you say, "it looked like a jacketed bullet," what
13 do you mean by that statement?

14 A. I mean that a jacketed bullet you have a lid with a metal
15 jacket over it, we call it, to protect or to harden it to
16 keep it from expanding so quick.

17 Q. This one, you say, did not look jacketed or was not?

18 A. It was jacketed.

19 Q. It was?

20 A. I'd say.

21 Q. But the jacket wasn't with it?

22 A. No, it was on it.

23 Q. It was on it:

24 A. Do you understand what I'm talking about by jacketed
25 bullet?

1 A I used to work in an ammunition plant, but I'm not
2 quite sure if I'm following you, so maybe you can explain.

3 A Well, wait a minute.

4 MR. McDONALD: Let's take a short break.

5 (A short recess was taken.)

6 MR. McDONALD: Back on the record.

7 BY MR. McDONALD:

8 Q The bullet that you found on the floor or that you
9 observed, and your testimony is that you handled it at
10 some point.

11 A I'm sure I did.

12 Q Okay. Would it be that Tomlinson picked it up and handed
13 it to you and then you handed it back or would it be more
14 logical that you picked it up, handled it, and then
15 handed it to Tomlinson? Do you remember?

16 A It just seems like to me-- It's been so long ago, but
17 it seems like I picked it up, but I'm not sure.

18 Q Okay.

19 A It seems like I picked it up and handed it to D. C. and
20 D. C. took it over and gave it to this guy.

21 Q You do know that you handled it? You're certain of that?

22 A I'm sure almost that I did.

23 Q Okay. Do you recall whether there was any blood on the
24 bullet?

25 A Seemed to me like there probably-- I don't remember if

1 we could tell or not.

2 Q Okay. How long did you hold it in your hands looking at
3 it?

4 A Not long.

5 Q How about Tomlinson, did he hold it very long?

6 A No.

7 Q At the time when it was found you knew that the bullet
8 had come from either one of the two men that had been
9 shot.

10 A Well, D. C. told me that that was the stretcher that
11 Connally went up on.

12 Q Okay.

13 A That was--

14 Q All right.

15 So at that time, then, you assumed that bullet
16 was one that had hit Connally?

17 A Yeah, that's what we figured.

18 Q Just back-tracking a bit, after you arrived at the
19 elevator area but before you found the bullet, did you
20 have an occasion to take anyone upstairs on the elevator?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Who was that? Who did you take up there?

23 A I don't know. Some Secret Service.

24 Q It was not the Secret Service man guarding the door?

25 A No.

1 Q When you took this man up did the Secret Service man
2 guarding the door tell you to take him up?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And you took him up to what floor? Do you recall?

5 A I think second floor.

6 Q And what happened when you arrived at the second floor?

7 A I just let him off and came back down.

8 Q Okay. When the door was open did you observe anything
9 up there?

10 A No, not really, because of the way the-- There was some
11 men in the hallway, but there's--you can't see anything
12 going on. It's because of the way the hall is arranged.
13 It's similar to that, and all of the operating rooms and
14 everything are in back sections, you know, and you can't
15 see.

16 Q But you recall it was to the second floor?

17 A Uh-huh.

18 Q How many floors were on that elevator shaft?

19 A Three.

20 Q Three.

21 A Actually four. There was a basement landing, basement
22 and ground.

23 Q Did D. C. Tomlinson come with you when you took the
24 agent upstairs?

25 A Yeah.

1 Q Before you took the agent upstairs, was the stretcher
2 against the wall?

3 A I don't remember.

4 Q You don't remember. But you do remember seeing it when
5 you were--

6 A There is even a possibility that D. C. and I pushed it
7 off the elevator, but I just don't remember. I just
8 remember when we pushed it up against the wall the
9 bullet fell off.

10 Q All right.

11 If you had pushed it off the elevator, where
12 would the stretcher have come from, the second floor or
13 the third floor?

14 A There's no telling.

15 Q On the second floor are there emergency operating rooms?

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q How about on the third floor?

18 A I think there are operating rooms on-- Hell, I don't
19 remember.

20 Most of the operating rooms were on two, I
21 believe.

22 Q Okay.

23 A There was some on three, though. I know all of the
24 maternity was on three, or vice versa.

25 Fifteen years is a long time.

1 Q I understand.

2 After you heard the bullet drop and picked it
3 up handled it and D. C. Tomlinson-- Do you know what
4 the initials D. C. stand for, by the way? We're calling
5 him D. C.

6 A (No response.)

7 Q Okay. After the bullet was found and Tomlinson obtained
8 possession of it, what did he do with it that you
9 observed? What did you observe?

10 A He took it over and gave it to the guy over by the door.

11 Q The Secret Service, in your presence?

12 A Right.

13 Q Do you recall what he said?

14 A No.

15 Q What did the Secret Service agent do?

16 A He took it through the door and gave it to someone else,
17 I assume. I don't know.

18 Q How soon after he went through the door did he come
19 back?

20 A Pretty quick. But I think when D. C. took that over
21 there there was another guy there with him, and the
22 other guy stayed.

23 Q What do you mean by that? Explain that.

24 A I mean, I don't think there was ever a time that there
25 wasn't a Secret Service man by that door.

1 Q Okay. At that time what was your understanding as to
2 where President Kennedy was?

3 A I didn't have any idea except that they hadn't taken him
4 upstairs.

5 Q Okay. So you knew that he was--

6 A I knew that he was in that area.

7 Q Over here?

8 A Right.

9 Q Okay. On the first floor?

10 A Right.

11 Q How about Governor Connally; did you have any idea where
12 he was?

13 A I knew he was up in the operating room upstairs.

14 Q And how about Jackie Kennedy; did you know where she was?

15 A No.

16 Q How about Vice-President Johnson?

17 A I didn't know. The only thing I knew was that they
18 hadn't taken Kennedy up to an operating room at all.

19 Q Did you know at that time that Kennedy was dead?

20 A No.

21 Q When did you first learn that Kennedy was dead?

22 A When I saw them roll him out of there.

23 Q All right.

24 A You could see through that door straight down that
25 hall.

1 Q This one here?

2 A Right. That door was open.

3 Q All the time that you were here with Tomlinson this door
4 was open?

5 A Right.

6 Q Was this a double-swinging door or one door?

7 A I don't believe it even had a door on it. I think it
8 was just an opening.

9 Q Okay.

10 A Now, that's a double-swinging door over there.

11 Q That's going out into the hallway--

12 A Right.

13 Q --that leads to the stairwell?

14 A Right into the emergency entrance. But that door right
15 there I don't think even had a door on it.

16 Q So while you were standing in this general area you had
17 a chance to observe what was going on in the--

18 A Yeah, you could see down through there.

19 Q What did you observe?

20 A You just seen people going back and forth through there.

21 Q Okay.

22 A But that's the first time I had any idea he was dead
23 was when they rolled him out of there because they had
24 him covered with a--

25 Q With a sheet?

1 A No; with a purple cover.

2 Q Did the hospital reserve purple covers for people that--

3 A I don't know.

4 Q When you handed the bullet to Tomlinson, or when he went
5 to take it to the Secret Service agent, did you ask him
6 not to tell anybody that you were involved or why did
7 your name not come up?

8 A I told D. C., I said, "You go on over there and give it
9 to them because I don't want to be involved in it."

10 Q Okay. And what did Tomlinson say?

11 A He said, "Okay."

12 Q Now, did you ever see this bullet on this stretcher,
13 itself, before you heard it drop?

14 A No.

15 Q You did not see it?

16 A No.

17 Q In other words, you could not see it. It was not lying
18 on the top of the stretcher?

19 A No. We don't know where it come from. I wouldn't have
20 any idea where it was left.

21 Q When you leaned up against the stretcher or you pushed it
22 or whatever, was it a violent push or just a-- Do you
23 remember? In other words, was it a sufficient enough
24 shove or push or jar that would have caused something to
25 fall?

1 A Uh-huh.

2 Q And the best you can recall how many stretchers were in
3 that area when you found the bullet?

4 A It don't seem to me like there was over a couple there,
5 but I can't remember, really.

6 Q Well, were there more than one? Do you remember?

7 A I don't remember.

8 Q You know there was one.

9 A I know there was one there.

10 Q Okay. If there were two-- Had you ever been in that
11 area when there was more than one stretcher parked there?

12 A I've been there when there was 10 in that area, as many
13 as you could get in that area.

14 Q And with 10 it would have been fairly crowded?

15 A Right.

16 Q Was it crowded at the time you're talking about?

17 A No, it wasn't. It wasn't crowded.

18 Q If there had been two, it would have been more crowded.
19 In other words, can you recall just from the perception
20 of the space you had in there whether it was one or two?

21 A No; I sure can't. But there could have been another
22 one there, maybe even two there.

23 Q But all the time you were in that area you knew Kennedy
24 was down in the emergency area?

25 A Uh-huh.

1 Q He had not been moved from there?

2 A Right.

3 Q So you cannot recall specifically if there was more than
4 one stretcher there?

5 A No.

6 Q And if you were to give us your best recollection, how
7 many would you say were outside the elevator?

8 A I just don't know.

9 Q Okay. Were you present at all when Governor Connally
10 was taken up to the operating room?

11 A No. He was already up there when I got there.

12 Q Did you have any idea, did Tomlinson or anyone tell you
13 when they had taken Connally up there in relation to
14 your arrival?

15 In other words, did anyone say that they had
16 just taken Connally up there?

17 A He told me they had taken him up there, and he told me
18 that that was the stretcher they had taken him up on.

19 Q When did he tell you that that was his stretcher; when
20 you saw it parked across the way?

21 A No. I think when we found the bullet.

22 Q Okay. I think your testimony was that you knew it was
23 Connally's after you found the bullet?

24 A I don't remember knowing it before.

25 Q All right.

1 Because you testified earlier that it might
2 have been possible that you and D. C. had brought the
3 stretcher down in the elevator.

4 A It is possible.

5 Q It's possible. And at that time, if you did bring it
6 down, you wouldn't have known whose stretcher it was, or
7 would you have known?

8 A I don't see how I would have known unless by D. C. being
9 on there running it when he was on there, see, when I
10 came. He might have known that it was it. But I
11 wouldn't have had any way of knowing it.

12 Q So you knew it was Connally's after the bullet?

13 A That's what I think. I think D. C. told me after the
14 bullet fell off that it was Connally's.

15 Q Did he tell you when you were in the process of exchanging
16 the bullet that this came from Connally?

17 A Yeah. At the time-- At the specific time, I mean,
18 before he ever took the bullet over--

19 Q To the Secret Service.

20 A --to the Secret Service man. He said that that was the
21 stretcher.

22 Q Do you remember where the bullet fell from the stretcher
23 In other words, was it in the back up against the wall,
24 to the front, to the side?

25 A It seemed to me like that it fell off the front, but I'm

1 not sure.

2 Especially the way the stretchers are made,
3 they've got a deal around the outside of them that's
4 kind of a spring. In other words, it's a bumper, and if
5 he bumped it against the wall, it could bounce back and
6 cause it to fall off the front.

7 Q I see. Do you recall when you bent down to pick it up
8 whether you had much difficulty in retrieving it?

9 A No. Maybe that's what's wrong with my back.

10 Q Maybe so. In other words, you didn't have to crawl under
11 the stretcher and reach in behind up against--

12 A No.

13 Q --the wall?

14 A I don't think so. I think it fell off the front
15 probably.

16 Q Do you recall when D. C. Tomlinson gave the bullet to the
17 Secret Service agent whether the agent asked-- Do you
18 know whether the agent got Tomlinson's name from him at
19 that time?

20 A I don't.

21 Q Okay. As best you can, how many people--
22 Well, before I ask that question; how long were you
23 stationed at this elevator area in time after you arrived
24 assuming you arrived-- We're going to have to
25 approximate. You testified earlier that--

1 A. I'd say it would probably be around 20 minutes after
2 Kennedy was shot.

3 Q. That you arrived?

4 A. Before I got there.

5 Q. Okay. How long were you there at the hospital in time?

6 A. I stayed until after Kennedy left for probably 15 or
7 20 minutes.

8 Q. And you knew when Kennedy left because you saw him leave?
9 How did you know it was him?

10 A. Because Jackie was walking along beside him.

11 Q. And you observed them go through the door out to the--

12 A. Right. Out to the entrance.

13 Q. So in the total time that you were at the hospital do
14 you recall how many people you took upstairs on the
15 elevator?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. You don't remember how many?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did you take people up and down?

20 A. Yes, sir, but I don't remember how many.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I would say-- I would guess probably not over eight or
23 ten.

24 Q. The first one you took up was the Secret Service agent.

25 A. Right.

1 Q Do you recall who the second was?

2 A I don't think I took anyone up other than the Secret
3 Service guys.

4 Q Other than Secret Service guys?

5 A No.

6 Q Do you remember each time that you took someone up the
7 Secret Service agent that was guarding the door would
8 come over to you and tell you it's okay.

9 A Right.

10 Q That happened every time?

11 A Well, see, the little old hallway, he either told me
12 it was okay to take him up or came over there with him
13 and told me to take him up.

14 Because I didn't stay in the elevator. I
15 stayed out in the hall.

16 Q And the elevator, itself, was on what kind, automatic
17 switch where it could be operated by you?

18 A Right. What we call attendant operation.

19 Q So your testimony is that you might have taken up as
20 many as 10 individuals during the course--

21 A Right.

22 Q --of the total time you were there. It was what, a
23 half an hour?

24 A Probably longer than that.

25 Q How long would be the total time?

1 A I guess an hour.

2 Q All right.

3 Did you take many people up on the elevator
4 after you saw Kennedy leave?

5 A No.

6 Q Did the Secret Service agents stay there after Kennedy
7 left?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Was the Secret Service agent there when you left?

10 A I'm not sure the same one stayed there, though, but
11 there was a Secret Service agent there.

12 Q Okay. How did you come to leave your station? What
13 made you decide to leave? Did someone ask you to leave?

14 A No. I think they just decided that they could put the
15 elevator back on the automatic and guard up wherever
16 this guy was rather than--

17 Q Up where Connally was?

18 A --where Connally was rather than down there.

19 Q So you took it upon yourself to leave?

20 A I just asked them if they needed me any further.

21 Q Okay. And who did you ask?

22 A I asked the guy out there in the hall, whoever was
23 there, either this same one or another one, and Mr.
24 Wright was still around there.

25 Q Okay. And what did they tell you?

1 A They said it was all right to go, that they didn't think
2 there'd be any more problems.

3 Q During the time you were there did you have a uniform on
4 that said Otis?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q What kind of uniform was it?

7 A Green.

8 Q Coveralls?

9 A No.

10 Q Shirt--

11 A Shirt and pants.

12 Q It had some kind of patch that said Otis?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q When you were in this hallway who did you have occasion
15 to observe? Who did you see in the immediate vicinity
16 of Kennedy? You just mentioned Jackie Kennedy.

17 A When--when they were coming out I--Jackie was walking
18 alongside the stretcher when they took him out. That's
19 all I remember.

20 Q Okay. You didn't by any chance take photographs of
21 Kennedy or anything?

22 A No.

23 Q I'm almost done, Mr. Pool.

24 Do you recall the name of the Secret Service
25 agent standing near the door?

1 A No.

2 Q Okay.

3 A I can't even remember your name and you introduced
4 yourself just a few minutes ago.

5 Q Okay.

6 A If you had a place to quail hunt or a place to fish, I
7 could remember your name, but other than that I don't
8 remember names.

9 Q All right.

10 Did the elevator have any trouble?

11 A No.

12 Q Had it been serviced recently?

13 A Yeah, within the week. We'd have a weekly contract to
14 service them, and I checked it at least within the week.

15 Q And to put the elevator on attendant's service you just
16 what, flip a switch?

17 A Key switch.

18 Q Key switch, okay. And the hospital has that key--

19 A Right.

20 Q --as well as you?

21 When you left the scene at the hospital was
22 D. C. Tomlinson still there?

23 A Seemed like D. C. had left.

24 Q Okay. Did he stay with you generally?

25 A He was still at the hospital, but he had left the

1 emergency area.

2 Q How soon after the bullet was found and he handed it to
3 the Secret Service did he leave?

4 A I'd say it was at least 20 minutes. I don't really think
5 he left until after Jackie and the President went out.

6 Q Do you recall why he was staying around? Was it mainly
7 just to observe what was going on?

8 A Yeah, just nosy, probably.

9 Q If when you took people up on the elevator, Secret
10 Service agents, did D. C. Tomlinson go with you every
11 time?

12 A I think he went every time.

13 Q And who was actually doing the operating of the elevator?

14 A I was.

15 Q What would he do; just stand in the elevator?

16 A Rode up with me.

17 Q And any time when you went up to second or whatever
18 floors you went to did either you or he ever get off the
19 elevator?

20 A No.

21 Q When you would let these individuals off, the Secret
22 Service agents, as you've described them, were there
23 other agents on the floors?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Right in the vicinity of the elevator?

1 A. Yes, sir. To the best of my knowledge there was.

2 I don't ever remember going to a floor where
3 there wasn't one.

4 Q. Can you recall what the demeanor of those agents was?
5 Were they calm, excited? What was their condition at the
6 time?

7 A. They seemed fairly calm to me.

8 MR. McDONALD: Mr. Pool, I have no further
9 questions. I thank you for your time.

10 THE WITNESS: Well, you're welcome. I just
11 wish I could remember everything as it happened, but 15
12 years is a long time to remember.

13 MR. McDONALD: I understand that. Well, we
14 thank you for your consideration and the time that you
15 have given us this morning.

16 That concludes this deposition.

17 (Whereupon, at 11:25 A.M. the testimony was
18 concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF TEXAS X
 X
COUNTY OF TARRANT X

I, Ruth Dulock, a Notary Public in Tarrant
County for the State of Texas, being the Notary Public
before whom the foregoing testimony of NATHAN BURGESS
POOL was taken, do hereby certify that the witness was
first duly sworn by me to tell the truth, the whole
truth, and nothing but the truth, and that the above
and foregoing is a true and correct transcript of said
testimony.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND and seal of office on this
the 14th day of July 1978.

Ruth Dulock
Ruth Dulock
Notary Public in Tarrant County for
the State of Texas
My Commission expires 9-29-79.

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10089-10187

RECORDS SERIES :
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AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 000669

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FROM : LAWSON, BELFORD
TO : TANENBAUM, ROBERT K.

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DATE : 01/12/77
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PARKLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
MAGIC BULLET
POOL, NATHAN
TOMLINSON, D.C.
WC, FINAL REPORT

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Document I.D. *Internal Memo - Nathan Pool*

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Nathan Pool

CE 399

Parkland Hospital

OT Elevator

COPY TO

Robert Blakey
Gary Cornwell
Kenneth Klein
Charlie Mathews
Jim Wolf
Donovan Gay
Jackie Hess
Cliff Fenton

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Team #4

Team #5

Form #2

000669

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert K. Tannebaum, Deputy Chief, JFK Task Force
FROM: Belford Lawson, Staff Counsel
DATE: January 12, 1977
SUBJECT: Untaped Telephone Interview of January 10, 1977,
with Nathan Pool, employee of Otis Elevator
Company, who was sent to Parkland Hospital
to run the elevator while JFK and Conally
were in the Hospital

Circumstances of Pool's Assignment to Parkland and
Arrival at the Hospital Mr. Pool was working at the
Great National Life Insurance Building (GNLIB) when he
heard a report indicating that President Kennedy had
been shot. Mr. M. E. Flesner, District Service Manager
of the Otis Elevator Company, called Mr. Pool and instructed
him to go to Parkland Hospital to make sure there was
no trouble with the elevator.

Mr. Pool recalls that he had begun eating lunch at
approximately 11:30 and had finished lunch and returned
to work when he received the assignment to report to
Parkland. The GNLIB is approximately one mile away from
Parkland. Pool drove, reaching the hospital at approxi-
mately 1:00 p.m. at the Hines Boulevard entrance. He
was cleared to drive back to the emergency room parking
area and was cleared to enter the hospital by Mr. Wright,
Chief of Security at Parkland.

He places his arrival at the Hines Boulevard entrance
at 1:00 p.m. and he estimates his arrival at the emergency
room elevator at 1:15 p.m.

Pool's Co-Discovery of the "Tomlinson" Bullet; Sur-
rounding Circumstances Upon arrival in the emergency
room, Pool was personally taken back to the elevator by
what Pool alleged was a Secret Service agent who intro-
duced Pool to a second person who Pool alleges was also
a Secret Service agent. The second agent instructed to
Pool to permit no riders to board the elevator without
prior clearance by the second agent. Pool described
the second agent as 5'8", 170 pounds, with dark hair,
and stated that this agent was stationed immediately
outside the elevator on the emergency room level and
remained there throughout most or all of Pool's stay.

Memorandum

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January 12, 1977

At the time of his arrival at the elevator itself, Pool noticed a single stretcher standing immediately beside the elevator door, near the wall but not close to or parallel to it. Pool remembers that the stretcher had sheets on it, one that was balled-up on a tray beneath the upper surface and one crumpled bloody sheet that covered one-half of that surface area. At this time Pool also recognized D. C. Tomlinson, a Senior Engineer at the hospital plant who had been on duty in the elevator as of approximately 1:00 p.m. Since January of 1961, Pool's elevator maintenance route had included Pakkland, and as a result he knew Tomlinson very well.

Prior to his discovery of the bullet, Pool recalls that he and Tomlinson gave another person a ride up to either the second or third floor. Pool cannot remember who the person was except to identify him as a third Secret Service agent. This was the only use of the elevator Pool remembers being involved with before he discovered the bullet. Pool then recounts the following: Upon returning to the first floor, Tomlinson and Pool exited from the elevator. As they stood in the hallway in front of the elevator, they noticed that the same stretcher which Pool had noticed when he first arrived was still in the same disorderly position. They then decided to push the stretcher so that its long side would stand flush with the wall next to this elevator. Pool cannot recall a specific reason for moving the stretcher other than to get it out of the way, nor can he remember who pushed the stretcher first. He definitely recalls that the bullet was not visible on the surface of the stretcher.

Pool heard an object fall from the stretcher as the stretcher was pushed. Pool bent over to pick it up and discovered a bullet which, based on his familiarity with guns, he judged to be a 6mm, i.e. less than a 30-30 caliber. He described the bullet as bronze, long, pointed, and smooth and gave this interviewer the opinion that the bullet didn't look like it had hit anything and didn't look like it had been in anything. A Secret Service agent was within ten feet when Pool recognized the bullet.

Pool gave the bullet to Tomlinson who in turn gave it to either a Secret Service agent or to the security officer, Wright. Pool does not remember to whom Tomlinson delivered the bullet because Tomlinson went around a corner to deliver it.

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

Memorandum
Page 3
January 12, 1977

Pool worked the elevator until the time of Mrs. Kennedy's departure from the hospital with the JFK casket, then went home, having asked Mr. Tomlinson not to mention his name to anyone.

Analysis and Recommendation Pool's testimony contradicts or qualifies the testimony of the Warren Commission, D. C. Tomlinson (VI H 128 ff.) in re Tomlinson's assertions that (1) the bullet was visible on top of the stretcher; (2) that two stretchers were parallel to one another at the time Tomlinson discovered the bullet; (3) the Tomlinson had personally placed the second stretcher next to the stretcher already in position next to the elevator; (4) that Tomlinson was alone when he discovered it. Further development of Pool's testimony may confirm that a Secret Service agent was for a significant period of time close enough to the elevator to plant a bullet; may lead to an identification of that agent; and will reveal the superficiality of the Warren Commission's approach (N.B. 6 H 131, where Tomlinson switches briefly from I to we; no one asked him what he meant by we).

Further interviewing of Pool and Tomlinson is recommended.

Approach to Pool He indicates that he is seldom home (214/544-3323) and asks that we call 214/RI3-4533 during work hours and page him.

BVL/slb

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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Document I.D. Interview w/ Nathan Pool

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Pool, Nathan

Tomlinson, D.C.

Single Bullet Theory

Pristine Bullet

Wounds - JFK

Wounds - Connally

Parkland Hospital -

stretcher movement

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