

Randolph H. Robertson, M.D.  
Southern Hills Medical Center  
Department of Radiology  
391 Wallace Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

The Honorable Janet Reno  
Attorney General of the United States  
10<sup>th</sup> and Constitution N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

May 17, 1996

Dear Madam Attorney General:

I am a diagnostic radiologist practicing in Nashville, Tennessee. I am Board-certified and the first non-governmental diagnostic radiologist to have personally examined the original X-rays and other autopsy materials pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy.

A careful review of these materials discloses that a fragment of skull which was dislodged during the President's murder does indeed contain a portion of an exit wound. This finding was made by the medical panel which examined these materials for the House Select Committee on Assassinations ("HSCA"). All physician's who have examined this bone fragment agree that it reflects the presence of a portion of an exit wound made by a bullet.

The HSCA medical panel placed this bone fragment toward the front of the skull. This placement is incorrect. Moreover, documents newly released as a result of the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 show that Dr. Michael Baden, who chaired the HSCA medical panel, was aware of this discrepancy but failed to correct it in the panel's final report.

The placement of this bone fragment at the front of President Kennedy's skull was made by Dr. Lawrence Angel, a forensic anthropologist who acted without the assistance of a radiologist. Every

radiologist who has examined the postmortem skull radiographs has found that there is insufficient bone absent from the front of the head to accommodate a fragment of its size.

My examination of the President's X-rays, combined with detailed studies of the film of the assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder, shows that this crucial bone fragment containing the characteristics of an exit wound, came from the top rear of Kennedy's head, not the front. When considered with other evidence which establishes that another bullet entered the rear of Kennedy's head, this compels the conclusion that President Kennedy was struck in the head by two different bullets from two different directions and hence, more than one assassin was involved in the attack.

The foregoing analysis is corroborated by other evidence. Independent studies which the HSCA acknowledged as accurate, have found that when the President's head was initially struck by a bullet, the impact forced it forward. Several smaller bone fragments were ejected from the anterior aspect (front) of the head. Yet within a fraction of a second later, Kennedy's head reverses its direction and is driven back with a force that is far greater than its prior forward momentum. After this rearward motion begins, a single large skull fragment is expelled from the top rear of the head. The laws of physics and momentum dictate that the rearward motion which produced this large fragment was the result of an impact coming from a direction opposite to that produced by the initial forward motion. Clearly, the latter shot came from a second assassin firing to the front of the President.

Additional corroboration of this analysis comes from the testimony of the Secret Service agents who were closest to the President when he was shot. They reported hearing two nearly simultaneous shots at the same time President Kennedy was shot in the head. Moreover, they describe the sounds produced by these two shots as different in both character and intensity. While there are tremendous variations in the reliability of eye and earwitness testimony, the testimony of the Secret Service agents cannot be easily dismissed. They are trained observers familiar with firearms, and their testimony fits with what the Zapruder film and independent studies of it show.

My findings, as reported above, are flatly contradictory to the testimony of Doctors James J. Humes, J. Thornton Boswell and Pierre A. Finck, the pathologists who conducted the President's autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital. I believe that these doctors committed perjury in their testimony to the Warren Commission about the President's head wounds.

In testifying to the Warren Commission, Commander Humes stated that a careful examination of the margins of the large skull defect failed to reveal a point on the skull where a missile exited. Doctor Boswell stated in his brief testimony, that he agreed with all the statements made by Commander Humes. Dr. Finck then reiterated Humes' testimony that no exit point could be located in the skull. Yet despite this testimony, recently released statements of witnesses at the autopsy indicate that during the autopsy the pathologists identified the presence of two separate exit wounds in the skull. Moreover, in 1967, when the Justice Department asked the pathologists to review the autopsy x-rays and photographs, they identified a portion of an exit wound in the front of the head that is present on photographs they directed to be taken the night of the autopsy. This directly contradicted their earlier testimony. The existence of this frontal exit wound was corroborated by subsequent governmental medical panels. As a medical expert, it is my opinion, to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, that this forward exit wound does exist, as well as a second wound in the rear. Autopsy eyewitnesses were correct in asserting that two exit wounds were readily identifiable.

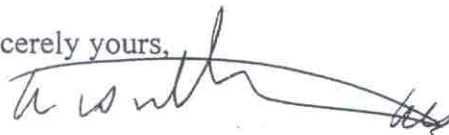
In their Warren Commission testimony, the autopsists also stated that they could not orient the large skull fragment bearing a portion of an exit wound in the large defect at the top of the President's head. In the 1967 review, in direct contradiction to their Warren Commission testimony, they were able to orient the large skull fragment to the frontal exit wound. The Zapruder film and the anatomic considerations which I have sketched above demonstrate that this is untrue. I believe that it was also perjurous. A careful reading of the Warren Commission testimony of others present at the autopsy and recently released HSCA interviews shows that the correct rearward orientation was known the night of the autopsy. An interview which Dr. Boswell gave just days before the 1967 Justice Department review further supports this. Boswell told Prof. Josiah Thompson, author of Six Seconds in Dallas, that one of the edges of the large fragment matched

up with an edge of skull in place so that it was possible to locate this bone fragment at the very crown of the President's head on the midline. This, of course, is the exact rearward orientation which my studies and the Zapruder film shows.

I am attaching a paper further substantiating my findings and conclusions which I submitted for peer review and publication in the Journal of Forensic Sciences. The editor of that journal has recently informed me that although there "appears to be nothing wrong with this work from a technical standpoint" his journal did not wish to "reopen this controversial subject" because "the whole subject is best left alone." This is a political response rather than one which evinces dedication to the pursuit of forensic truth. I believe that as Attorney General of the United States, sworn to uphold and enforce the laws of our nation, you do not have the luxury of responding to this letter in a political manner. If I am correct, as I think the evidence clearly shows, the greatest crime to befall America this century remains unsolved. Immeasurable damage to the credibility of government also has been done, since the majority of Americans simply do not believe the pronouncements of their Government on this issue.

Finally, I have made a serious charge against the Navy medical doctors who testified before the Warren Commission. I understand that they cannot now be charged with perjury for their testimony to the Warren Commission because the statute of limitations has run. However, the Assassinations Records Review Board (AARB) has recently taken the depositions of Doctors Humes and Boswell. If they repeated the parts of their Warren Commission testimony which I have recounted above, then they have committed fresh perjuries on which the statute of limitations has not run. Such obstruction of justice in a President's assassination should be fully prosecuted by your office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Robertson", written over the typed name below.

Randolph H. Robertson, M.D.

Enclosures

cc: R.E. Gaensslen, Ph.D. Editor Journal of Forensic Sciences  
Richard Rosner, M.D. Pres. American Academy of Forensic Sciences  
John Tunheim Chair AARB  
Henry F. Graff Board AARB  
Kermit L. Hall Board AARB  
William L. Joyce Board AARB  
Anna K. Nelson Board AARB  
David G. Marwell Exec. Dir. AARB  
Jeremy Gunn Gen. Counsel AARB  
James Lesar  
Prof. Burke Marshall