

2/1/70

Possible leads from Jim Bishop

Although he is in the Manchester class in unreliability, because he claims to have access to people not available to critics, it would be wrong to totally ignore what Bishop says they told him. He may also have spoken to them and not understood them may have decided he knew better than they, or that what they told him was not congenial and required improvement. Nonetheless, the fact remains that what he says may in some instances be close to the truth or even actually truth.

I have just completed the Bantam edition, with a special epilogue. Citations are to it.

On page 599, he is ecstatic about "the unqualified assistance of Chief James Rowley and the Secret Service, and Cartha de Loach" and the FBI..."the agents of both services were made available to me for individual questioning. Their report sheets showed exact times on events, even small ones..."

xviii (earlier memo), anonymous fan in Dallas sent him X copy, which he says he burned. Certainly the latter part is amply substantiated by the entire work, but how someone in Dallas could have had a print is provocative

9: DPD Channel 1 for "superior officers", Ch 2 all other traffic.

118-20 This part of his discussion of the cabinet-level trip to Tokyo end with the pretty broad hint of changed JFK policy: "They may also have discussed how best to extricate the U.S. from Saigon;..."

138: (President) "was half way down ~~Madison, Kentucky~~ in the crowd stood an Army intelligence agent and James Hosty/..."

151: (this may come from text., I do not now recall): "Postal Inspector Harry D. Helms kept his binoculars on the car...distinctly saw dust fly up from the street after the first crack..."

209: Audrey Bell, "When she got to the nurses working table, she found a group of bullet fragments, and turned them over to the police." (While this is most likely what for Bishop passes for accurate reporting, it also is worth noting because maybe there were fragments not now accounted for. I have no reason to believe this.)

252: "At the door, a policeman whispered to Fritz, 'I hear that Oswald had a furnished room on Beckley'."

"Fritz decided that he did not want a stenographer to take notes while he questioned this prisoner."

261: Quoting LED on polygraph test, "OOn, no. I turned one down with the FBI and I certainly won't take one now." When and why did the FBI ask him to take such a test before the assassination?

285: DPD had an unmarked room "for reducing taped confessions" etc "to the written word".

303, car: " and the Secret Service detail was sorry that hospital orderlies had sponged it out."

Bishop notes-2

306: Gen Clifton "...phoned the Army's Walter Reed Hospital and said that the autopsy would be performed there". Is there any other reference to this, or any reason to believe there had been such a decision or request? It is seemingly minor but may have importances not immediately apparent.

Burkley, to Mrs. JFK: "For security reasons, it should be a military hospital" where the autopsy would be performed. After murder for security reasons?

This page, if accurate, would seem to indicate Burkley deliberately kept Mrs. JFK from knowing a full autopsy would be performed and was necessary. When she asked why the Pres had to be taken to a hosp, sharply, as Bishop says, he told her, "The doctors must remove the bullet".

353 says Burkley sat on a lap in the front seat of the ambulance taking the corpse to Bethesda.

368 f Account of arrival casket at Beth, handling by brass, agents present in hall, etc. 369, Kellerman "took a census of personnel. The Federal Bureau of Investigation was also interested." This would seem to indicate that Kellerman made notes fairly easily, listing who was there, and that the FBI did not visibly make notes, which would not be out of keeping with so many reports to me of FBI agents neither taping nor writing notes during interviews. This could explain the DEI incompleteness and misspellings, but where are the alleged SS names?

In earlier memo I have indicated the deepest mistrust of Finck's N.O. testimony that a general announced he was "in charge". I believe I then indicated the only generals present of whom I knew were two of the Pres's aides, not at all likely to say such a thing, and the MDW commander, Wehle, who quite obviously had to be aware of fun eral arrangements and likewise would not likely have said such a thing. With addressing the Finck point, if dependable, Bishop gives an answer: "Major General Wehle announced he was present only to ask when the body would be returned to the White House. He had no desire to remain..." Without any reference to Kenney, Bishop says, "The senior officer was Admiral C.G. Holloway (sic)". Also, "oral notations" by the doctors. Someone making notes from them? 390: "The doctors began to speak their observations; notes were taken." 391 "The left eye was black and blue".

396, minor explanation police fiction LEO changed clothes: "He's not dressed in the same clothes," Brennan whispered.

404, re FBI: "everything that was learned was put on teletype". Reasonable. Does anyone recall any from the WC files? Offices listed here, but says "all over". Unlikely, but quotes Elmer Rodd as delivering 399 to Frazier as "given to him by a Secret Service man at Andrews Field."

405 Immediately, on this teletype circuit, "New Orleans came in, offering a detailed report on Oswald's arrest for distributing Free Cuba leaflets on the streets they also had a detailed report on his recent trip to Mexico." Hardly likely, but suppose either or both are true?

408: the doctors "made small and sometimes indecipherable notes on pads. Commander ~~Robert~~ J.J. Hynes and Commander Thornton Boswell joined in a medical ritual of exaltitude...The left eye was swollen and black and blue, obviously from the shot which hit the right rear of the head and pressed the brain violently forward toward the left optic...The doctors were observing. They moved about the body slowly, looking, pointing, noting". 410: "The doctors finished their pre-autopsy (my emph) examination and called for the radiologist to take X-rays".

414(Tippit): Agent odum of the FBI continued to watch and make his personal notes....The doctor fished into a small stainless steel tray. There was a battered uniform button in it and some bullets....

bishop notes-3

417- JFK Autopsy authorization- Naval of icer brought typed form, gave it to Paul Nendis, who gave to RFK.

424- introduction of Lyva Mamantov as translator because Mrs. Paine could not act so because "she was also a witness. If there had to be a reason, perhaps this would fool these women, but it is unpersuasive, unreasonable and untrue. Why the lie, then? Why not ignore it?

429: x-rays taken: 14 large, inc. front shot of head, lateral shot, posterior "picture", 23 "The positions were repeated for the thoracic cavity and the abdomen. Several pictures were made of the complete head and torso"...Navy photographer used the pause to get on a ladder and make color photographs and black and white pictures of the body as it appeared front, side, and back - when received at the hospital"...."the burning of erroneous notes"-did they tell him this, is that official account so soon abandoned to one trusted?

420, Humes conscious of his lack of competence, so, "when he was offered an opportunity to secure the services of a qualified second assistant", Finck "he agreed". This on time of Finck's arrival, "The preparatory ~~photography~~ examination and the photography were completed by the time Colonel Finck arrived.... just as the X-rays were being placed on a big illuminated, opaque screens. Dr Humes invited the laymen witnesses to come over to the screens and listen to the dissection on the initial findings" The agents and Burkley present. "A radiologist took the frames one by one...(431)..."The FBI and Secret Service men listened and made notes".

444, finding of 3" piece skull, two front frags, by Paterni, others.
"Humes made notes on pads; sometimes Boswell made notes on the same sheets..."

445: "Boswell made a schematic drawing of the back of a head on a pad and, at the entry point, added an arrow pointed to the right left side of the head...Two fragments of skull fell off and rolled on the table (sic)....The X-rays of the skull were studied again and again." And Humes recovered 12 grains of metal from the head.

458: "The doctors stood behind the head, peering, making notes...When the brain was removed, more photos were taken." 459 (see above): "The smashing speed of the bullet had jammed the front portion of the brain against the right orb, causing a black eye."

473: "(Burkley's) Chief Petty Officer William Martinelli and Thomas Mills watched as the Secret Service men completed the examination of the President's limousine." (finding of piece of skull). Then Martinelli removed "some of the whitish tissue from the back seat. He also ran "his hand across the rug under the windshield, found a metallic fragment and turned it over to the Secret Service...The petty officers signed receipts for the material and started out for the hospital..."(474) "The notes kept by the doctors were in scribbles, sometimes only a phrase, to remind them of an entire event: 'Blood & Hair upper medias', 'only a few in size 3-5mm', 'no missile in the wound'."

485: "Sibert and O'Neill of the FBI were receiving a glass container with metal slivers taken from the brain".

493: "Fresh bruises were found in the upper tip of the right pleural area near the bottom of the throat. There were also contusions in the lower neck. Humes called his doctors away and asked the Navy photographer to shoot additional Kodachrome pictures...a few of the contused neck muscles were removed for further examination."

522: stuff on Dallas ACLU getting fobbed off.

bishop notes-4

547, on charging of Oswald: "David Johnston thought it over. He has not been advised of the charge of the murder of the President because he is on capital offense on the other'."

554: Under midnight. "Two agents, Sibert and O'Neill, were on their way in. They said they were returning from the autopsy", to see Frazier, who "didn't have time to listen to a summary of the results".

559: this apparently says that en route Washington, Lawson made notes of the evidence Drain was taking to Washington.

568-70, dissertation on the systematic denial of LHO's rights re arrishments

587:C-2766 order clipped from 2/63 issue "American Rifleman"

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There is fantastic foolishness throughout the book. It would, perhaps, be somewhat amusing on any other subject. What is ludicrous I think I have screened from the above. I plan the use of these brief notes in various ways. They are fragmentary, but I hope you will understand the reason I have for noting each. Some are for the suit(s), some for writing, some for further checking.

If anyone has any confirmatory comment on any of this, I'd welcome it. Or the opposite.