

In The Matter Of:

*Assassination Records Review Board
In Re: President John F. Kennedy, Jr.*

*Deposition of James W. Sibert
September 11, 1997*

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Original File 0911sibe.asc, 166 Pages
Min-U-Script® File ID: 2967493562

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BEFORE THE
ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

IN RE: :
ASSASSINATION OF :
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY :
Thursday, September 11, 1997
College Park, Maryland

The deposition of JAMES W. SIBERT, called
for examination in the above-entitled matter,
pursuant to notice, at the National Archives II,
6381 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland, convened
at 1:10 p.m. before Robert H. Haines, a notary
public in and for the State of Maryland, when were
present on behalf of the parties:

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APPEARANCES:
On Behalf of the Plaintiff:
T. JEREMY GUNN, ESQ.
General Counsel
The Assassination Records Review Board
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ALSO PRESENT:
Douglas P. Horne, Senior Analyst
Thomas E. Samoluk, Esq.
Joan Zimmerman, Ph.D.
Sarah Ahmed
Carrie Fletcher

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PROCEEDINGS
Whereupon,

[1] JAMES W. SIBERT
[2] was called for examination by counsel for The
[3] Assassination Records Review Board and, having been
[4] first duly sworn by the notary public, was examined
[5] and testified as follows:
[6] EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE ARRB
[7] BY MR. GUNN:
[8] Q: Could you state your full name for the
[9] record, please?
[10] A: Yes. That's James W. Sibert, S-i-b-e-r-t.
[11] Q: Mr. Sibert, I'm here on behalf of the
[12] Assassination Records Review Board. As a part of
[13] our work, we have taken the depositions of several
[14] people who have been affiliated with issues related
[15] to the autopsy and to medical evidence. And we are
[16] - wanted to talk to you today, in the light of
[17] this other work that we're doing.
[18] We have a few other people here from the
[19] Review Board, whom I would like to introduce you
[20] to. On my immediate right is Doug Horne, whom you

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[1] have met, and Tom Samoluk. At the back is Dr. Joan
[2] Zimmerman -
[3] THE WITNESS: How do you do?
[4] BY MR. GUNN:
[5] Q: - Sarah Ahmed, and Carrie Fletcher.
[6] THE WITNESS: How do you do?
[7] BY MR. GUNN:
[8] Q: Mr. Sibert, is there any reason that you
[9] feel that you would not be able to speak with us
[10] today candidly and openly about your memories of
[11] issues related to the assassination of President
[12] Kennedy?
[13] A: No, there is not.
[14] Q: What I would like to do during the course
[15] of this deposition is ask you a series of
[16] questions.
[17] If I ask a question that isn't clear to
[18] you, please don't hesitate to ask me either to
[19] rephrase the question or repeat the question.
[20] If there's anytime during the deposition
[21] you'd like to take a break, don't hesitate to
[22] request. That matter can be easily arranged.

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[1] Mr. Sibert, did you do anything in
[2] preparation for the deposition today?
[3] A: Yes, I did. I reviewed my 302. I had a
[4] copy of that out of Popkin's book, "The Second
[5] Oswald", which I have at home. I kept a file
[6] drawer on the Kennedy assassination.
[7] And from time to time, I've received
[8] telephone calls or written communications from
[9] people regarding this autopsy. And some of them
[10] were answered.
[11] And with those that I didn't correspond, I
[12] had the notes that I brought with me today. For
[13] example, David Lifton, author of the book "Best
[14] Evidence". A couple of times, he called. And I've
[15] got those notes with me.
[16] Q: Were you -
[17] A: Also -
[18] Q: Go ahead.
[19] A: Also, I sort of reviewed his book - I
[20] hadn't read the last edition. I read everything he
[21] had in it. This was just out of curiosity, to sort
[22] of brush up on the contents.

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[1] Q: You're referring to Mr. Lifton's book?
[2] A: Lifton's. "Best Evidence"; right.
[3] Q: Okay. Are you acquainted with Frank
[4] O'Neill?
[5] A: Yes, I am.
[6] Q: Have you spoken with him since the
[7] deposition was set up?
[8] A: No, not since this was set up.
[9] Q: Other than Mr. Lifton's book about the
[10] assassination, have you read any other books?
[11] A: Yes. I don't have the list of those
[12] books, but there's several of them that I have.
[13] They're at home.
[14] My memory on authors here.
[15] But Crenshaw's book, I read it when -
[16] paperback, when it came out. One of the Dallas
[17] doctors.
[18] And one of the other books that I can't
[19] recall. He was designated, I think, by the Kennedy
[20] people to write a book -
[21] Q: Was it William Manchester?
[22] A: Manchester's book; right.

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[1] And another thing, anytime I go to the
[2] bookstore down in Fort Myers and see a new book, I
[3] always check and go back to the name index and see
[4] if my name appeared in that. I figured I had
[5] better check and see what they said about me.
[6] So, I purchased some of those books, I
[7] didn't purchase too many, but I have kept an
[8] interest in books on the subject.
[9] Q: Would it be fair to say that you have some
[10] familiarity, at least, with the literature on the
[11] Kennedy assassination?
[12] A: I think you could say that.
[13] Q: Okay. What I'd like to do is try and get
[14] a survey of several possible things that you may
[15] have done related to the assassination. Then we
[16] would go back and talk about some in greater depth.
[17] Now, the first one would be the events on
[18] November 22nd and 23rd that you were involved in.
[19] What I'd like to do is, again, skip from that one,
[20] and then find out what other things that you did
[21] do.
[22] You made a reference just a moment ago to

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[1] your 302. I would like to show you a document -
[2] for purposes of this deposition has been marked
[3] MD 151 -
[4] A: Right.
[5] Q: - and ask you if this is the document
[6] that you were referring to when you said your 302?
[7] A: No, this is not the original 302. Oh, I'm
[8] sorry. Yes, this is.
[9] Q: Just so that the record will be clear
[10] here. You are looking, I believe, at the first two
[11] pages that were - are typically known as
[12] administrative pages of the document. And, so,
[13] when you went further into the document - that you
[14] saw the 302.
[15] A: Yes. This was a letter enclosure, I
[16] guess, which I do recognize. When Lifton called me
[17] one time, first he said, "I've got your FD 302."
[18] And I had no knowledge that this was even in
[19] circulation and had been taken out of the Archives.
[20] And I said, "Well, let me ask you a
[21] question." I said, "My name is down at the bottom.
[22] And Frank O'Neill is at the bottom." I said, "Is

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[1] there any other initial there?"
[2] And he said, "Yes, DFL."
[3] And I knew that was it. That's the chief
[4] steno that took this dictation in Baltimore,
[5] Doris F. Leibknecht, L-e-i-b-k-n-e-c-h-t.
[6] Q: Okay. We'll also come back to the 302. I
[7] believe that you also did some interviews shortly
[8] after the assassination with some people. Do you
[9] remember having conducted any interviews?
[10] A: Yes. And I brought along with me, - I
[11] managed to keep a few records. I've kept these
[12] Week-at-a-Glance every year that I was in the
[13] Bureau, 21 years. I've brought '63 and '64 here.
[14] Q: I assume you're talking about the
[15] interviews over at the White House with Behn and
[16] Kellerman and Greer - who were Secret Service
[17] personnel.
[18] A: Yes. We received a call from Bureau
[19] headquarters - I guess, it was probably
[20] transferred through our Baltimore headquarters that
[21] they wanted these Secret Service agents
[22] interviewed. O'Neill and I went over and

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[1] interviewed them.
[2] And let's see, that's - Do you have a
[3] date on that? The 27th? Okay, that's November
[4] 27th. Here it is in my 1963 "Week at a Glance".
[5] Notation for Wednesday, November 27th and
[6] a file number, which appears on the FD 302, 89-30,
[7] interviews of Gerald Behn, B-e-h-n; Roy Kellerman,
[8] K-e-l-l-e-r-m-a-n, who was sitting in the right-hand seat
[9] beside Bill Greer, the driver; and
[10] William Greer, the driver of the limousine. That
[11] was all conducted at the White House on the 27th.
[12] Q: In addition to those interviews -
[13] Actually, let me withdraw that.
[14] Let me show you a document that is marked
[15] MD 152, and ask you whether this document contains
[16] the 302s that were the interviews of Messrs. Behn,
[17] Kellerman, and Greer?
[18] A: Yes.
[19] Q: In addition to - or were there any other
[20] interviews that you formally conducted related to
[21] the assassination beyond those of Messrs. Behn,
[22] Kellerman, and Greer?

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[1] A: As far as the White House, I think, those
[2] are the only interviews that were conducted.
[3] I was thinking, in '64, I had one. That
[4] was on March the 12th of 1964, when O'Neill and I
[5] went over to Washington, D.C. from our Hyattsville
[6] resident agency, where both of us worked and were
[7] interviewed by Arlen Specter, who was, I believe,
[8] the staff counsel for the Warren Commission at that
[9] time.
[10] We didn't keep any notes on that. He
[11] conducted the interview.
[12] Q: After that interview, do you recall
[13] talking to anyone at the FBI about the substance of
[14] that interview - with Mr. Specter?
[15] A: When we left Mr. Specter, we went over to
[16] headquarters. And I believe it was Jim Malley - I
[17] can't be sure, but he sat on the desk there that
[18] was handling this assassination - and told him
[19] basically what we could recall. Questions that
[20] were given to us, and our responses.
[21] Q: When you were interviewed by Mr. Specter,
[22] was there anyone else from the FBI present, in

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[1] addition to Mr. O'Neill?
[2] A: No.
[3] Q: So, you three - Was there anyone else
[4] from the Warren Commission staff present?
[5] A: No, just the three of us.
[6] Q: Okay. Did you ever see a report written
[7] by anyone at the FBI about the interview - that
[8] you had with Mr. Specter?
[9] A: No, I have not.
[10] Q: I'd like to show you a document that's
[11] marked Exhibit No. 153, and ask if this refreshes
[12] your recollection whether you have seen a document
[13] that reports on the interview?
[14] A: [Examining.]
[15] Q: Mr. Sibert, let me withdraw the pending
[16] question, and ask you another question. Have you
[17] had an opportunity to read Exhibit No. 153 just
[18] now?
[19] A: This?
[20] Q: Yes.
[21] A: No, I've never seen this before.
[22] Q: But you have - now have read the report?

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[1] A: Now I have read it, yes.
[2] Q: And, so, the answer to the preceding
[3] question was, you have not previously seen the
[4] document 153.
[5] A: This is the first time I've seen this.
[6] Q: Okay. As you read through that - and I
[7] understand that you read it quickly - was there
[8] anything that stood out in your mind as something
[9] that appeared to you to be inaccurate, or refreshed
[10] your recollection about something that you had
[11] forgotten?
[12] And, again, I'm not asking for a
[13] comprehensive statement, but -
[14] A: No, I understand. [Examining.]
[15] On this page three here: "Question:
[16] Prior to SA Sibert's calling the FBI laboratory,
[17] did either Dr. Hume or Dr. Finck express an opinion
[18] as to whether the bullet wound in the back was a
[19] point of entry or a point of exit?"
[20] In connection with the probing, I
[21] remember Humes saying that, it looked like a 40- or
[22] 60-degree downward angle that the bullet had

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[1] entered the back.
[2] And as close as we were to the autopsy, I
[3] was as close as - closer than here to the recorder
[4] here - when we're looking at that. And we were at
[5] the rear most of the time there at the head. And
[6] you could see this tremendous head injury.
[7] Q: When you say as close to the reporter,
[8] you'd mean somewhere in the area of six to - eight
[9] feet?
[10] A: I'd say I was this - this close. Arm's
[11] length.
[12] Q: Arm's length.
[13] A: Yes.
[14] Q: Somewhere around three feet?
[15] A: About that. Right.
[16] Q: Three to four feet.
[17] Does Exhibit 153, to the best of your
[18] current recollection, reasonably fairly record the
[19] statements that you made to the FBI official about
[20] the interview with Mr. Specter?
[21] A: It looks like it is accurate. It's been
[22] so long, and with no notes, - I can't recall

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[1] exactly what was said.
[2] Rosen, of course, was the - the head of
[3] that unit. And Malley, Jim Malley was his number
[4] one man, that O'Neill and I talked to when we went
[5] over there on March 12, 1964. It seemed like that
[6] there was one other occasion when we were called
[7] telephonically on something about whether it was
[8] our wording or the doctor's wording.
[9] And, of course, our position in that was
[10] that we were there in an observatory capacity that
[11] night. We had no authority or jurisdiction to
[12] conduct an investigation. We were there to
[13] observe, obtain any bullets, hand-carry them to the
[14] laboratory to preserve the chain of evidence.
[15] And that, in particular, there was the
[16] statement that Humes made when we first arrived
[17] when the body first came in, and they opened the
[18] casket. It was wrapped in sheets, a sheet around
[19] the body and a separate sheet around the head,
[20] which was blood-soaked.
[21] But it was either then or when they placed
[22] the body on the autopsy table, that Humes made the

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[1] statement that there's been an apparent tracheotomy
[2] and surgery in the head area.
[3] And this was in my FD 302. I've often
[4] said since then, that in looking back, which we can
[5] all do after something happens.
[6] After the big piece of bone came in from
[7] Dallas - which was found in the limousine out in
[8] Dallas, a piece of the skull - that if I would
[9] have had the presence of mind to ask a question.
[10] Of course, things were happening fast, and you had
[11] brass and rank there that went to the ceiling.
[12] If only I had asked - Dr. Humes, I'm
[13] speaking of, the pathologist: "Dr. Humes, now that
[14] this piece has come in, does this account for your
[15] first statement about there being surgery in the
[16] head area?" Which didn't occur to me at the time.
[17] In Lifton's book, this was a central
[18] theme, about surgery in the head area. And looking
[19] back, I would say that that's been one thing I've
[20] always regretted; that I didn't do.
[21] And maybe this have clarified a lot, and
[22] eliminated a few calls from the Bureau. Well, let

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[1] me just cite one example here.
[2] Q: Actually, if I could - stop you for a
[3] moment. I would like to go through all of these
[4] things - in detail.
[5] A: Right.
[6] Q: What I'd like to do is get some
[7] preliminary - things on the record, and
[8] identify - some documents. Then we'll go through
[9] it in very careful, sequential order.
[10] So, just sort of the pending question now
[11] is, does this document appear to you to be
[12] accurately reflecting the words that you said,
[13] either to Mr. Malley or Mr. Rosen at the FBI?
[14] A: Well, I think, basically, I can't see
[15] anything, unless there's something that you might
[16] have found that you'd want to ask me.
[17] Q: Again, the purpose of the question now is
[18] just, does this seem to reasonably accurately
[19] reflect the discussion that you had with Mr. Malley
[20] at the FBI?
[21] A: Yes.
[22] Q: Okay. In addition to the discussions that

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[1] you've already mentioned - that is, with
[2] Mr. Specter and with the interviews of other people
[3] - are there any other interviews that you recall
[4] having had regarding the Kennedy assassination
[5] during the time that the Warren Commission was in
[6] existence?
[7] So, I'm - I'll rephrase that.
[8] During the period 1963-64, were there any
[9] other interviews or any other activities that you
[10] were engaged in that you now recall -
[11] A: Well, when was this House Select
[12] Committee?
[13] Q: That's in the late 1970s.
[14] A: '70s, yes. I was thinking that I was
[15] interviewed, of course, by Mr. Purdy and Kelly. I
[16] can't think of any, offhand.
[17] Q: Okay. Between the time of the Warren
[18] Commission, which ends in 1964, and the time of the
[19] House Select Committee on Assassinations, do you
[20] have any recollections of any activities that you
[21] were involved in that related to the Kennedy
[22] assassination?

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[1] So, again, up to but not including the
[2] House Select Committee.
[3] A: Yes. And you say that started in -
[4] Q: 1978, 1977.
[5] A: By this, you mean any telephone calls,
[6] inquiries by individuals? That's what you're
[7] referring to here?
[8] Q: Right now, it would be anything that would
[9] be official or semi-official U.S. government. So,
[10] speaking with Secret Service, FBI, any government
[11] agency.
[12] A: I can't recall any further contacts with
[13] government agents, no.
[14] Q: Let me show you a couple of documents,
[15] Nos. 157 and 158. And see if this helps refresh
[16] your recollection - of any other activities you
[17] may have -
[18] A: Thirty-four years, you get a few cobwebs.
[19] Q: Sure.
[20] A: I remember this name, Raupach. Now, I
[21] don't think I can recall him.
[22] Q: While you're looking at those documents,

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[1] I'll just be identifying them for the record.
[2] MR. GUNN: Document MD 157 appears on its
[3] face to be a letterhead memorandum, dated June
[4] 29th, 1966, from Special Agent Francis O'Neill and
[5] James Sibert to SAC, Baltimore. It is a two-page
[6] document.
[7] THE WITNESS: Yes.
[8] MR. GUNN: And MD 158 appears on its face
[9] to be a one-page letterhead memorandum - excuse me
[10] - two-page letterhead memorandum, dated October
[11] 13th, 1966, from James W. Sibert to SAC, Baltimore.
[12] THE WITNESS: I said I hadn't had any
[13] other contacts but now I recall those
[14] communications on November the 2nd of 1966, I was
[15] on annual leave, down visiting my sister who lives
[16] in Quitman, Georgia. David Lifton called me the
[17] first time. And that was when I made notes, and
[18] I've got those with me.
[19] And when I came back off of leave, I
[20] called over to headquarters. And I don't remember
[21] the supervisor - whether it was Fletcher Thompson,
[22] or it could have been Malley. But, anyway, whoever

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[1] I talked to over there, I told them that Lifton
[2] didn't mean anything to me, other than what he had
[3] said.
[4] He called me from out in California, and
[5] he read me this 302 that appears in this "Second
[6] Oswald" a book by Popkin. It was an appendix. I
[7] wasn't aware that he even had it. But I made this
[8] known to the Bureau.
[9] They said, "Well, give us an airtel on
[10] what he said to you that night on the phone call,"
[11] which I dictated from Baltimore, because O'Neill
[12] wasn't, of course, even in on this. I was on
[13] leave, when Lifton got hold of me. So, that would
[14] have been an official contact with the Bureau
[15] supervisor.
[16] And then, at different times, Fletcher
[17] Thompson would call over. And he'd say, "See, this
[18] wording here in - your 302," on measurements or
[19] something like that, "is this your statement, or is
[20] this the doc's?"
[21] And I made it very clear. I said, "Look,
[22] I'm not a doctor." I said, "Any measurements that

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[1] are given were obtained from the doctor." And if
[2] there was any question about the measurements or -
[3] hearing it correctly, he was asked to repeat it.
[4] And, also, any statement like this
[5] tracheotomy and surgery to the head area, this was
[6] voiced by Humes. And we just merely made a note
[7] right at the inception of the autopsy as to what
[8] was said.
[9] BY MR. GUNN:
[10] Q: Let me show you a document that has been
[11] marked MD 171, and ask you whether that is the
[12] Airtel - to which you just referred?
[13] A: Yes. When he called Hyattsville, that was
[14] my son. He was a University of Maryland student
[15] then. And he said, "He's not here. He's down in
[16] Quitman, Georgia." And that's how Lifton got my
[17] sister's phone number down there.
[18] I told him one other thing in there, too,
[19] that I didn't put in this airtel. He put it in his
[20] book. And that was - he said, "Well, this 302
[21] here, here's your name and everything." He said,
[22] "And you told me it's something that you couldn't

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[1] go any further on, that I would have to contact the
[2] Bureau."
[3] And I said, "Well, let's just let the
[4] record stand."
[5] And in his book, it was rather amusing to
[6] me when I read it, because he said that he didn't
[7] want to put that in his letter to the Bureau,
[8] because Mr. Hoover might not have taken a good view
[9] of that, and I would end up in Alaska. I think
[10] Liefler, the other fellow, said I might end up in
[11] Alaska somewhere on a disciplinary transfer or
[12] something.
[13] But I did tell him that.
[14] Q: Just to make - make sure that the record
[15] is clear. You did tell him that you wanted the
[16] record to stand.
[17] A: I did.
[18] Q: And you did tell him something about
[19] Mr. Hoover.
[20] A: He was quoting this 302. And once I asked
[21] him about this DFL and everything, I said, "Well,
[22] you've got the 302." And I said, "And all I can

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[1] say is, we'll just let the record stand."
[2] Because we had two different autopsy
[3] reports by this time. This is '66. You had the
[4] Navy autopsy, which we never saw. And we weren't
[5] even advised that there had been a change in the
[6] original autopsy from what was contained in our FD
[7] 302.
[8] Q: Just so - again, so the record is clear.
[9] The point that you made about Mr. Hoover and being
[10] sent to Alaska -
[11] A: Oh.
[12] Q: - that was what Mr. Lifton added. And
[13] that's -
[14] A: He put this in his book. He said -
[15] Q: No, you said.
[16] A: No, no.
[17] Q: Okay.
[18] A: He put that in his book. And Liefler, I
[19] think, was the fellow, that he did graduate
[20] study under at the University of California, who
[21] made the statement about Hoover sending me to
[22] Alaska.

[1] Q: Wesley Liebler?
[2] A: Liebler, that's correct. I was pretty
[3] close.
[4] And Liebler had made that statement to him
[5] that, "It's a good thing you didn't put that in
[6] your letter." And, of course, I didn't have any
[7] feeling one way or the other about that.
[8] But that was the only thing I could say,
[9] "Well, you've got the accurate copy of my FD 302,
[10] so let's just let the record stand. And if you
[11] have any further inquiry, write to FBI
[12] headquarters."
[13] Q: Okay. Back to Exhibits Nos. 153 and 157,
[14] are those - do you recognize those two documents?
[15] A: [Examining.]
[16] Q: Excuse me. Let me withdraw the last
[17] question. And, again, I'm asking whether you
[18] recognize Exhibits Nos. 157 and 158.
[19] A: Yes. I might mention - on this Exhibit
[20] 157 - that when we were in that autopsy room. One
[21] of us was present all the time, with the exception
[22] of when photographs and radiology work and X-rays

[1] were done.
[2] Of course, you can see the reason for
[3] that. We didn't have lead jackets to wear, like a
[4] doctor does working in that environment. But,
[5] otherwise, one of us was always present.
[6] When I went out to make this call over to
[7] Killion, O'Neill was present. And I think we had a
[8] bite to eat. And one - ate, and the other one
[9] stayed. And, so, we were there at all times. So,
[10] - that's - the only thing I'd add on that, 157.
[11] Q: So, just to interrupt and make sure the
[12] record is clear. You do recognize Exhibit No. 157
[13] as having been written - by yourself?
[14] A: Me and O'Neill. And 158 here is my airtel
[15] - or communication, rather.
[16] Q: Let me just try just phrasing a question.
[17] Do you recognize Exhibit No. 158 as having been
[18] written by yourself?
[19] A: I do.
[20] Q: Now, let me try just one last series of
[21] questions on overview. Again, the time that I'll
[22] be referring to is prior to the time of the HSCA in

[1] 1977.
[2] Did you have any other official contacts
[3] with any person in the U.S. government related to
[4] the Kennedy assassination, other than those that we
[5] have spoken about now?
[6] A: I can't recall any others. Which now,
[7] memory comes back on Raupach there, and Fletcher
[8] Thompson, and those. But I can't recall any
[9] additional ones.
[10] Q: Okay. Let me try some names, and see if
[11] you had any - have any recollection of having ever
[12] spoken to them about issues related to the Kennedy
[13] assassination.
[14] J. Edgar Hoover?
[15] A: None with him.
[16] Q: Cartha DeLoach?
[17] A: No.
[18] Q: William Sullivan?
[19] A: No.
[20] Q: James Fox, from the Secret Service?
[21] A: No.
[22] Q: Robert Knudsen, affiliated with the White

[1] House?
[2] A: No.
[3] Q: Other than at the autopsy, did you ever
[4] speak again with Drs. Humes, Finck, or Boswell?
[5] A: No.
[6] Q: Did you ever speak with Robert Bouck of
[7] the Secret Service?
[8] A: Not that I can recall.
[9] Q: Mr. Bouck was responsible, to some extent,
[10] for autopsy materials. Does that help refresh
[11] recollection, as to whether you might have met with
[12] him?
[13] A: Autopsy materials. You mean - like
[14] photographs -
[15] Q: Yes.
[16] A: I don't believe so. We got that inventory
[17] that Humes gave us, which I included in my FD 302.
[18] But I can't recall Bouck conversing with myself
[19] or O'Neill. I don't know about O'Neill, but I
[20] think he would have probably contacted both of us.
[21] Q: Okay. Do you recall that there was an
[22] investigation conducted by Jim Garrison, the

[1] District Attorney of New Orleans?
[2] A: Yes, I've read about it.
[3] Q: Did you have any involvement with that,
[4] one way or the other?
[5] A: None whatsoever.
[6] Q: So, you were never - contacted by Mr.
[7] Garrison, for example?
[8] Mr. Sibert, when did you join the FBI?
[9] A: April the 2nd, 1951.
[10] Q: And would that make it fair to say that by
[11] 1963 you had been with the FBI for approximately 12
[12] years?
[13] A: Right.
[14] Q: What was your position in 1963?
[15] A: In '63, when this incident happened, I had
[16] been assigned to Baltimore. And I was sent down to
[17] Hyattsville in 1956. At that time, we had a Senior
[18] Resident Agent there that retired later on. And I
[19] followed him as the Senior Resident Agent.
[20] And that was in '63 - early '63, I think,
[21] because I remember we moved our resident agency
[22] location. And Agent O'Neill was the Alternate

[1] Senior Resident Agent.
[2] Q: Prior to the assassination of President
[3] Kennedy, had you ever witnessed, yourself, an
[4] autopsy?
[5] A: Yes. I had witnessed - let's see how
[6] many - I think, two before this happened. Neither
[7] one of them involved gunshot wounds.
[8] The first one was a murder case that
[9] happened in Prince George's County, Maryland. A boy
[10] had been kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and killed.
[11] And I witnessed that autopsy there in Prince
[12] George's County, Maryland.
[13] Then I witnessed a second autopsy over at
[14] the hospital at Andrews Air Force Base. It was
[15] conducted on the wife of an FBI clerk, they both
[16] worked at Ident. He had left that morning. And
[17] she was several months pregnant, and claimed that
[18] she felt real bad - with terrific headaches.
[19] He went on to work and kept trying to call
[20] her, and couldn't get in touch with her. And when
[21] he came home that night, he found her dead and
[22] laying across a bed with blood running out of her

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[1] nose. And she had a blood vessel rupture -
[2] Q: Cerebral hemorrhage?
[3] A: Cerebral; right.
[4] So, the reason I witnessed that, of
[5] course, was to clear the husband, because no one
[6] had seen her that day. And it was a ruptured ring
[7] of blood vessels in the brain. One of the vessels
[8] had a slit, like in a sidewall on an automobile
[9] tire, was the way the pathologist explained it.
[10] And then after that, I - Let's see,
[11] that's two of them. And then the Kennedy autopsy.
[12] I witnessed one more after the Kennedy
[13] autopsy while I was senior resident agent. Two of
[14] our agents, interviewing an individual, and he
[15] pulled a gun on them. He said, "When you leave
[16] here tonight, one of your wives is going to be a
[17] widow."
[18] So, it developed later on, he wanted some
[19] cigarettes. And they threw them on the floor near
[20] him. And when he reached down for them, one of the
[21] agents pulled his gun and told him to freeze. And
[22] he swung around like he was going to shoot. And

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[1] the agent fired three gunshot rounds right up his
[2] side.
[3] And if I could - This is a point here
[4] that I've always contrasted with the Kennedy
[5] assassination, if I'm at liberty to do that.
[6] When I went over to - witness this
[7] autopsy, it was -
[8] Q: Which autopsy?
[9] A: This autopsy conducted by Dr. Burns at the
[10] Prince George's Hospital at Cheverly, Maryland.
[11] Q: Okay.
[12] A: This was the one where the agent had to
[13] shoot this fellow. And they had him on kidney
[14] dialysis for awhile and later he died, so, I
[15] witnessed the autopsy.
[16] And Dr. Burns there at the Prince George's
[17] General Hospital in Cheverly, Maryland, said, "Now,
[18] I wasn't on duty when this patient came in that
[19] night." He said, "The fellow is upstairs that was
[20] - the doctor that attended him." And he said,
[21] "I'm going to get him down here before I start."
[22] He also said, "I think I can look at this.

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[1] And I'll tell you which are sutures for drainage,
[2] and which are bullet wounds, but I wasn't there. I
[3] want to get it from the horse's mouth."
[4] So, he called this other doctor down. And
[5] the other doctor said, "Well, when I got this
[6] patient in," he said, "these were bullet wounds.
[7] These three." And he said, "These were sutures
[8] that I made."
[9] Burns said, "Fine." He said, "That's what
[10] I assumed, but I wanted to get it straight from
[11] you."
[12] Now, I contrast this with all the books
[13] I've read and with what happened there with
[14] Kennedy - I mean, at Bethesda.
[15] Here they were doing the autopsy. One of
[16] the cardinal rules that I've always heard is
[17] anytime you get a body in from another
[18] jurisdiction, and it has received any medical
[19] attention or anything, and you're going to do the
[20] autopsy in another area, you always establish
[21] contact and say, "What was done there surgically?"
[22] What was the condition of the body when you had

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[1] it?" Of course, we didn't have that information
[2] from Parkland.
[3] Now, when I came back in after that phone
[4] call about this bullet being found on the
[5] stretcher, here was another clue that would have
[6] given reason for a call, but that was made Saturday
[7] morning. And I think that's sort of unfortunate.
[8] I mean, this - for a guy that witnessed
[9] the autopsy and has since learned what went on,
[10] these are my personal reflections.
[11] Q: One thing I need to think about in doing
[12] this is how the words are appearing on the page.
[13] And there's something you said a minute ago, but
[14] I'm concerned about how they appear on the page.
[15] A: Sure.
[16] Q: So, I'm going to ask you a question.
[17] A: Yes.
[18] Q: Did you have any evidence that there had
[19] been an autopsy in Parkland Hospital?
[20] A: We didn't know a thing that had gone on at
[21] Parkland.
[22] Q: When you made reference to an autopsy in

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[1] Parkland, you were not aware of any autopsy that
[2] had been -
[3] A: I - No. Did I say autopsy? That's a
[4] misstatement if I said it. There wasn't.
[5] Q: Okay. I just want to make sure that -
[6] A: No. I mean, any medical. When I said
[7] that, I think if they would have called to find out
[8] anything done medically over there. Not an
[9] autopsy.
[10] Q: So, in other words, if I can sum up. What
[11] I understood - that you were saying is, that your
[12] experience in another autopsy was that contact was
[13] made between the autopsy physician and the treating
[14] physician.
[15] Whereas, you did not see that that had
[16] been done - you didn't have evidence that that had
[17] been done for President Kennedy's autopsy.
[18] A: No. In looking back at, you know, when
[19] you're involved in something like this, you become
[20] a part of it. I've often thought about how events
[21] took place.
[22] Of course, we all know what went on over

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[1] there in Texas. The conflict, I mean, about where
[2] the autopsy should be done, Texas law and all that.
[3] But it seems the smart thing would have
[4] been to put a doctor, - one of the doctors from
[5] Parkland right on Air Force One, go right into
[6] Bethesda and say, "Well, here's what we did." Then
[7] you're getting off on the right foot.
[8] Q: Okay. Let me go back to when you first
[9] heard about the assassination. When did you first
[10] hear that you would have some responsibility
[11] connected with investigation of the assassination?
[12] A: Well, this goes back to O'Neill, one of
[13] his regular assignments was contact with Andrews
[14] Air Force Base. That involved anything to do with
[15] Air Force One, and any type of violations of
[16] Federal Laws that occurred on the base involving
[17] civilians, and that type of thing.
[18] So, it was at noon. We had just completed
[19] an annual inspection of our resident agency that
[20] morning. And we had lunch together with the
[21] inspectors, Vic Turyn and another man who was down
[22] there with him.

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[1] And we came back up to our office. They
[2] were leaving our resident agency, going over to
[3] inspect Silver Spring, which is the other resident
[4] agency out of Baltimore that covers the lower part
[5] of Maryland, and joins up with D.C. and Virginia.
[6] So, we came back, turned the radio on the
[7] standard radio broadcast there in our office and we
[8] heard this broadcast about Kennedy being shot, -
[9] President Kennedy in Dallas.
[10] So, I went right over to the radio. And I
[11] picked it up and called the car that contained
[12] these two inspectors that were leaving our place
[13] and going to Silver Spring, and said:
[14] "Are you aware that we just heard a radio
[15] broadcast that the President was shot in Dallas?
[16] Thought we'd let you know. Maybe you want to alter
[17] plans, or call headquarters, or something."
[18] So, then I got in touch with O'Neill. He
[19] had gone on out to Andrews. And contacted Major
[20] Best, who was in charge of the OSI, where he got
[21] word later on that Air Force One was coming in
[22] there with the President's body. And, so, O'Neill

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[1] called that in to me.
[2] I called my boss up in Baltimore, and told
[3] him that I was going to join Frank O'Neill out
[4] there. And that we'd be at Andrews if he wanted to
[5] get in touch with us through OSI there at the base.
[6] Q: When you say OSI, you're referring to the
[7] Office of -
[8] A: Office of Special Investigations in the
[9] Air Force -
[10] Q: That's the Air Force intelligence.
[11] A: Intelligence; right.
[12] Q: Okay.
[13] A: And, luckily, as I recall what happened,
[14] we were out there, and Air Force One was in a
[15] traffic pattern. And they were probably on base
[16] leg, getting ready to come in on their final
[17] approach.
[18] And Tully, my boss in Baltimore, the
[19] special agent in charge there, called me and said
[20] he just got a call from Bureau Headquarters and I
[21] think that a call was made to the Hyattsville
[22] resident agency, too, that they wanted us to get in

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[1] the motorcade, go to Bethesda, observe the autopsy,
[2] obtain any bullets removed, and hand-carry them to
[3] the FBI laboratory to preserve the chain of
[4] evidence.
[5] So, that was it. We were already there.
[6] We wouldn't have been there, if we hadn't
[7] anticipated future developments and gone out there.
[8] And, so, I spoke to Jim Rowley, who was
[9] the head of the Secret Service, comparable to
[10] Hoover's position with the FBI. We showed him our
[11] credentials, told him what our instructions were
[12] from the Bureau, and they put O'Neill and I in the
[13] number three car of the motorcade.
[14] Q: Let me ask you to do the best that you can
[15] to think back, and this may be a little bit
[16] difficult.
[17] In the media at the time, November 22nd,
[18] 23rd, 24th, it was not clear that there had been an
[19] autopsy performed at Bethesda. So, if one were to
[20] read The New York Times, The Washington Post, that
[21] wouldn't necessarily be clear. And I'll just say
[22] that for your information.

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[1] A: Yes.
[2] Q: Now, the question for you is, are you
[3] certain there was a discussion about an autopsy, in
[4] terms of your orders to go with the President's
[5] body to Bethesda?
[6] A: I know that there was something said about
[7] an autopsy to be conducted, and we were to witness
[8] the autopsy. And I'm positive of that.
[9] Q: Okay. When Mr. Rowley spoke with you, was
[10] he at Andrews Air Force Base?
[11] A: Yes. He was right on the scene.
[12] Q: All right. Who else did you recognize
[13] from the Secret Service who was at Andrews Air
[14] Force Base?
[15] A: Well, I'll tell you. Things were moving
[16] fast, so I don't remember seeing anyone else from
[17] Secret Service there. And our first contact with
[18] them was when we were getting the casket out of the
[19] ambulance.
[20] And I went up to Roy Kellerman, and showed
[21] him my credentials, and told him our instructions.
[22] He said, "Yes." He said, "Jim Rowley has already

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[1] told us about O'Neill and you being here."
[2] Q: Okay. Did you see the casket unloaded
[3] from Air Force One?
[4] A: I believe I did. Because it was unloaded,
[5] and put in the Navy ambulance. And we were in the
[6] third car. I don't have any distinct recollection
[7] of that, but I was right down there on the tarmac,
[8] and near the location where the motorcade was being
[9] formed right there by the plane.
[10] Q: Did you see the casket actually put into
[11] the hearse; do you recall?
[12] A: I can't say that I did. I don't have that
[13] distinct recollection.
[14] Q: All right. I'm just corrected that it
[15] wasn't a hearse, but a Navy ambulance.
[16] A: Navy, yes.
[17] Q: I assume your answer would be the same.
[18] A: Yes it would.
[19] Q: From the time that you first - Did you,
[20] at any time while you were at Andrews Air Force
[21] Base, see the casket in the Navy ambulance?
[22] A: No, not while I was at Andrews, because we

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[1] were getting arrangements made and as I say, I was
[2] contacting Rowley. And they were getting us placed
[3] in the number three car.
[4] Q: Did you at any point ever see the casket
[5] in the Navy ambulance?
[6] A: Only when we unloaded it.
[7] Q: Okay. Were you able, at least in a
[8] general way, to see the ambulance from where you
[9] were riding in the third car of the motorcade?
[10] A: Well, Suitland Parkway goes out to Andrews
[11] Air Force Base. As you know, it's sort of a
[12] straight shot. And there were many overpasses.
[13] Well, I can't say, because, as I recall, we were in
[14] the back seat, O'Neill and I.
[15] I think the President's valet was in the
[16] front seat and a lady who had some association with
[17] Jackie Kennedy, maybe her secretary - now, I can't
[18] be sure of that, was also in the rear seat of the
[19] car. So, our view was sort of obstructed. I mean,
[20] it's not like sitting up where you can look out the
[21] windshield and see the ambulance. Furthermore, it
[22] was beginning to get dark.

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[1] But one thing I might mention - I think I
[2] mentioned to somebody else here - that the
[3] motorcade really rolled. From the time it left
[4] Andrews Air Force Base, that motorcade never made
[5] one stop until it pulled up in front of Bethesda.
[6] In Washington, D.C. the Metropolitan
[7] Police Department assisted with motorcycles. And
[8] they'd clear one intersection; you'd go through it.
[9] They'd play leapfrog, go around the motorcade and
[10] be clearing another intersection up ahead. So, it
[11] never stopped for anything.
[12] Q: When you arrived at Bethesda, did you at
[13] that point see - This is, say, at the front of
[14] Bethesda Naval Medical Center - Bethesda Hospital.
[15] Did you see the casket in the ambulance, or was it
[16] until - not until later?
[17] A: My recollection is, the ambulance went on
[18] around, and we followed it. Now, whether rode in
[19] the car, or whether we went on foot - Because as
[20] I recall it - I could be wrong, but it wasn't that
[21] distance.
[22] But, anyway, we were right there before it

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[1] was taken out of the ambulance and then I had my
[2] conversation with Roy Kellerman. And we helped
[3] carry it into the autopsy room.
[4] Q: Could you describe how that happened,
[5] the - Now referring to a gray Navy ambulance. Is
[6] that - is that fair?
[7] A: That's fair.
[8] Q: Okay. Were you there when the door was
[9] opened to the ambulance?
[10] A: The rear door, you mean?
[11] Q: The rear door.
[12] A: Yes.
[13] Q: And who helped lift the casket out of the
[14] ambulance?
[15] A: Of course, I've read something about
[16] casket teams but I don't have any recollection of
[17] any casket teams on the scene at that time.
[18] I recall there was Kellerman and Greer -
[19] who was the driver - O'Neill and myself. And
[20] there were some others. There had to be. And I
[21] don't know who assisted in that, but we carried it
[22] through the door and right on into the autopsy

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[1] room, and set it on the floor there before it was
[2] opened.
[3] Q: The floor of the autopsy room, or the
[4] floor of the ward, generally?
[5] A: Well, it was sort of an anteroom there, I
[6] think.
[7] Q: Were there any military officials who
[8] helped unload the casket with you, as best you
[9] recall?
[10] A: I can't recall that, either. And I'm
[11] pretty sure there were others who assisted, but I
[12] can't remember any specific officers or anything.
[13] Q: Did you place the casket onto any kind of
[14] stretcher, or cart, or vehicle that would enable
[15] you to roll it; or did you physically carry it?
[16] A: As I recall, I don't think there was any
[17] cart there. I think we hand-carried it right in.
[18] Q: Did you stay with the casket from the time
[19] that you unloaded it from the ambulance until it
[20] was opened, or was it out of your sight at any
[21] time?
[22] A: I was there until it was opened. I

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[1] remember the sight when they opened the lid of the
[2] casket, and the body was wrapped in sheets. You
[3] know, you've heard a lot about body bags. And I'd
[4] like to insert one thing here.
[5] I was a squadron commander and a B-24
[6] pilot in World War II. And when I came home, I was
[7] a base operations officer. And that means going
[8] out to every crash scene. And I've gone out to
[9] those, where they've put bodies in body bags and
[10] zipped them up and everything.
[11] Lifton, one time, called and asked me
[12] about body bags. And I told him, "Don't worry
[13] about me knowing what a body bag is."
[14] But the body was in sheets.
[15] Q: And it was not in a body bag?
[16] A: Not there.
[17] Q: After the casket was opened, did you have
[18] any role in lifting the body out of the casket?
[19] A: No, I think that was medical technicians
[20] or people there that were assigned to the medical
[21] unit that put it on the autopsy table.
[22] Q: Did you see the body lifted out of the

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[1] casket and put onto the autopsy table?
[2] A: I believe I do. I remember that.
[3] That was just before. They cleared the room, that
[4] I mentioned. The photographs and the X-rays that
[5] were taken right after that.
[6] Q: Now, I just want to make sure that we've
[7] got a - I'll call it a chain of custody.
[8] A: Yes.
[9] Q: Although, I'm using the term loosely. But
[10] you were - I mean, from what I understand you were
[11] saying - that you were with the casket, at least
[12] from the time it was unloaded from the Navy
[13] ambulance until the body was lifted out of that
[14] same casket - and put on the autopsy table.
[15] A: Yes.
[16] Q: And when the body was unwrapped, were you
[17] able to identify the body as that of President
[18] Kennedy?
[19] A: Oh, there was no doubt.
[20] Another thing, too. During the autopsy,
[21] when the body was positioned on one side, here was
[22] this scar in the lumbar region of the back

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[1] resulting from the PT boat incident.
[2] But that thick hair and scar, and his face
[3] wasn't distorted that much. You could tell it was
[4] President Kennedy.
[5] Q: Could you describe, very briefly, what the
[6] casket looked like, if you recall?
[7] A: Well, it was a - Now, there was another
[8] thing, about shipping caskets. This was an
[9] expensive display-type - Not display, but -
[10] Ceremonial?
[11] A: Ceremonial, viewing-type casket. And I
[12] remember a handle had been broken off. There'd
[13] been damage, I think, either in loading or
[14] unloading. I don't know which. Loading at Dallas
[15] or unloading at Andrews.
[16] Q: Could you bear with me just a second?
[17] A: Sure.
[18] Q: Mr. Sibert, I previously showed you a
[19] document that was marked 153, which was the notes
[20] taken on your interview with Mr. Specter. I'd like
[21] you to look at page two of the - that memorandum,
[22] and look at the question.

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[1] I will read it for the record, if you
[2] could read along with me.
[3] "Question: What was the time of the
[4] preparation for the autopsy at the hospital?
[5] "Answer: Approximately 7:17 p.m."
[6] Do you see those words?
[7] A: Yes.
[8] Q: Can you tell me what your understanding is
[9] of the meaning of those?
[10] And if my question is unclear I can try it
[11] a different way.
[12] A: As I say, I know there was probably some
[13] discussion there about photographs and X-rays.
[14] This would have occurred before the Autopsy began.
[15] And this 8:15 is when the first incision,
[16] was made.
[17] And then is another thing that was, I
[18] think, in one of the other exhibits you showed me.
[19] I think there were clearances - the impression
[20] that I had - that there were clearances being
[21] given by maybe Burkley, who was the President's
[22] personal physician, Admiral Burkley, or maybe Mrs.

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[1] Kennedy, about a complete autopsy.
[2] And this could have been this going on,
[3] talking about preparation, because if you're
[4] preparing for a complete autopsy, you're probably
[5] going to have a little different planning than for
[6] a more limited type. So, this could have been part
[7] of the preparation.
[8] Q: Well, I guess my question, in part, is:
[9] Does the time that is provided here, 7:17 p.m.,
[10] help you identify the approximate time that the
[11] casket was unloaded from the Navy ambulance?
[12] A: Well, that could have been about the time
[13] that it was unloaded, the 7:17 - or just a short
[14] time thereafter when they got it in there. And, of
[15] course, they had to take the body out of the
[16] casket, put it on the autopsy table and this would
[17] all be preparation, too.
[18] Q: Do you have any independent recollection
[19] - that is, recollection separate from Exhibit No.
[20] 153 - that would tell you approximately when the
[21] casket was unloaded from the Navy ambulance?
[22] A: You say, any recollection or -

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[1] Q: Any recollection or knowledge about when
[2] - the time that the casket was unloaded.
[3] A: Well, I don't know. You weren't looking
[4] at your watch too much with all this going on.
[5] Q: Sure.
[6] A: I know the incision. I checked that. I
[7] had a time on that in my notes.
[8] Q: What was the time of the incision?
[9] A: That was 8:15, as I recall. I think that
[10] was in my 302.
[11] Q: As you think back now, approximately how
[12] much time had the body been at Bethesda between the
[13] time it first arrived and the first incision? Is
[14] that, you know, approximately an hour, or
[15] half-hour, or -
[16] A: I would say somewhere probably between
[17] three-quarters of an hour and an hour, somewhere in
[18] there.
[19] THE WITNESS: Am I speaking loud enough?
[20] COURT REPORTER: Yes, thank you.
[21] BY MR. GUNN:
[22] Q: I'd like to show you a document that has

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[1] been marked MD 163 - which I have no reason to
[2] believe that you have seen previously, though.
[3] If you could just take a quick look, and
[4] tell me whether you recall having previously seen
[5] that document.
[6] MR. GUNN: While Mr. Sibert is looking at
[7] that, I will identify the document.
[8] As it appears on its face is entitled
[9] The Joint Casket Bearer Team, which is a six-page
[10] document, with The Joint Casket Bearer Team
[11] appearing to be a cover sheet.
[12] And it is followed by a document entitled
[13] Company E Honor Guard, First Battalion, Third
[14] Infantry, Fort Myer, Virginia, dated December 10th,
[15] 1963.
[16] THE WITNESS: This first line here in
[17] paragraph two, is that 1810 hours? That would be
[18] 6:10 p.m.; wouldn't it? Yes. It's blurred. I
[19] couldn't tell what -
[20] BY MR. GUNN:
[21] Q: Sure. I mean, just - I mean, the first
[22] question will be: Have you previously seen this

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[1] document before?
[2] A: No, I have not.
[3] Q: What I'd like to do is draw your attention
[4] to a couple of points on this.
[5] A: All right.
[6] Q: And see if it helps refresh your
[7] recollection - or if you have an opinion on the
[8] accuracy of the document.
[9] All right. Under Arabic numeral one, it
[10] says -
[11] Let me just state, it appears from its
[12] face that this document has certain times that the
[13] military honor guard was involved in issues related
[14] to the transfer of the body of President Kennedy.
[15] And it refers - by the way that I would
[16] read it, and it is a little bit unclear - on
[17] Arabic numeral one, from the ambulance to the
[18] morgue, Bethesda, 2000 hours, 22nd November '63.
[19] Now, that would suggest in military time
[20] 8:00 o'clock p.m.
[21] A: Yes, 8:00 p.m.
[22] Q: The document also suggests that there was

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[1] a casket team that was involved with removing the
[2] casket from the ambulance, putting it in the morgue
[3] at approximately 8:00 p.m.
[4] Now, I don't know, of course, whether this
[5] document is accurate or not accurate.
[6] But this would seem to conflict to some
[7] extent with your own experience. Do you have any
[8] information that could illuminate this apparent
[9] discrepancy?
[10] A: No, I don't.
[11] Q: Did you see, at any point at Bethesda
[12] Hospital, a military team unloading any casket on
[13] the night of November 22nd?
[14] A: Not that I recollect.
[15] Q: What is your best estimate on the time
[16] that it took from - for the Navy ambulance to get
[17] from Andrews Air Force Base to Bethesda Hospital?
[18] A: I wouldn't have an estimate on the time.
[19] But as I say, there was no delay whatsoever. It
[20] just rolled, and at a good rate.
[21] Q: If you can't answer my next question
[22] please don't hesitate to say so. But do you have a

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[1] sense of whether it was close to an hour, 45
[2] minutes, a half-hour, or is it really difficult to
[3] say?
[4] A: In thinking of that distance, you'd be
[5] coming in Suitland Parkway, up East Capitol, on in
[6] through the District, up to Bethesda.
[7] Well, it would have to take, even rolling,
[8] more than a half-hour to travel that distance. And
[9] - and then when we got there, we waited a little
[10] bit out in front.
[11] Q: Mr. Sibert, could you turn to the third
[12] page of the document that you have in front of you,
[13] Exhibit No. 163, and look at the portion that is
[14] down under Part 2B. Now, I will read that into the
[15] record while you're reading along with me.
[16] "While the casket was being removed -"
[17] Excuse me.
[18] "While the casket was being moved inside
[19] the hospital, Brigadier General McHugh relieved
[20] YN/2 Barnum, USCG, from the casket team, and
[21] awkwardly took his place.
[22] "After the President's body had been

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[1] removed from the casket, a mahogany casket was
[2] exchanged for the original bronze one. This was
[3] necessary because the bronze casket had been
[4] scratched and marred from its being poorly handled.
[5] A handle on the side was also broken."
[6] A: I recall McHugh - General McHugh. I
[7] think that was President Kennedy's aide - Air
[8] Force aide, if I recall correctly. And he was
[9] listed as being there in the room during the
[10] autopsy. But I don't recall this switch, relieving
[11] this other bearer.
[12] And I don't recall this other casket being
[13] brought in right then, either. It was exchanged.
[14] They don't say any time there; it was soon
[15] exchanged or anything. But I don't know what time,
[16] well, that could have been exchanged when the
[17] people from Gawler Funeral Home came out.
[18] Q: President Kennedy was buried in a mahogany
[19] casket. So, that would make sense for that - for
[20] that second casket.
[21] Mr. Sibert, could you look at Exhibit No.
[22] 151, which just as a reminder, is the 302 that you

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[1] wrote afterwards.
[2] A: All right.
[3] Q: I'd like to draw your attention to page
[4] one of the 302, towards the bottom. And I'll just
[5] read this into the record, and you can read along
[6] with me.
[7] "A tight security was immediately placed
[8] around the autopsy room by the naval facility and
[9] the U.S. Secret Service. Bureau agents made
[10] contact with Mr. Roy Kellerman. The Assistant
[11] Secret Service Agent in Charge of the White House
[12] detail advised him of the Bureau's interest in this
[13] matter."
[14] A: Yes, the sequence of events is off there.
[15] Contact was made with Kellerman, right before the
[16] casket even came out of the Bureau ambulance. But
[17] the tight security, believe me, it was tight.
[18] About every 10 feet they had a guard posted in the
[19] hallway.
[20] And when I went out to make this phone
[21] call over to Chuck Killion, a guard went right
[22] along with me to use a phone there in another room

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[1] when I called Chuck. So, it was tight security
[2] there was no question about that.
[3] Q: When you just referred to the Bureau
[4] ambulance, did you mean the Navy ambulance?
[5] A: Navy ambulance. I'm sorry.
[6] Q: Okay. We don't want any extra ambulances
[7] there.
[8] A: Yes, that's my old age creeping in here.
[9] Q: Mr. Sibert, I'd like to show you a
[10] document that's been marked 164, that has some
[11] photographs of the unloading of the ambulance - or
[12] of the casket at Bethesda - or at - I'm sorry -
[13] the Andrews Air Force Base.
[14] Can you tell by looking at the photographs
[15] of this casket whether that is the casket - or
[16] that appears to be the casket that you unloaded
[17] from the Navy ambulance on the night of November
[18] 22nd?
[19] A: Well, that's a massive-looking type
[20] casket, the same type that would have been
[21] unloaded.
[22] Q: Now, just a moment ago, you referred to

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[1] the telephone call that you made to Mr. Killion.
[2] Can you tell me, was the phone call made
[3] to Mr. Killion before or after the body was
[4] unloaded from the casket?
[5] A: Oh, that was after the body was removed it
[6] was on the autopsy table, and the autopsy was in
[7] progress. Because the reason I made that call was
[8] that the pathologists said, "There's no exit to
[9] this back wound," and probed it with rubber glove
[10] and a chrome probe.
[11] Q: Okay.
[12] A: So, that's when I called and thought maybe
[13] there was some type of bullet that would
[14] disintegrate. There just was no bullet that could
[15] be located.
[16] Q: Do you recall seeing more than one
[17] ambulance in the motorcade?
[18] A: No.
[19] Q: Did you see any other ambulances or
[20] hearses at Bethesda Hospital on the night of 22nd,
[21] other than the one you've referred to?
[22] A: No, this is the only one I saw.

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[1] Q: Do you have any recollection of seeing a
[2] helicopter at Bethesda Hospital on the night of the
[3] 22nd?
[4] A: I know they have the pad there, because we
[5] used to get our physicals - annual physicals
[6] there. But I don't recall any helicopter being
[7] there that night.
[8] Q: Okay. Earlier, we talked about the agents
[9] who were involved in unloading the casket. You
[10] mentioned Mr. Kellerman, Mr. Greer, and some
[11] others. What was the approximate total number of
[12] people who helped unload the casket from the
[13] ambulance?
[14] A: There, again, I say I can't recall. I
[15] assume that there had to be more than just the four
[16] of us, because that was a heavy casket. And, so,
[17] there had to be other people there. And I don't
[18] recall.
[19] Q: Okay. Now, previously, you've said, if I
[20] recall correctly, that the autopsy began at
[21] approximately 8:15; is that correct?
[22] A: That was the first incision.

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[1] Q: First incision. How much time was there
[2] between the time that the body was unwrapped from
[3] the sheets and the first incision was made?
[4] A: Well, this is the time that you would have
[5] had the X-rays and the photographs. And I don't
[6] recall. And I think they probably may have waited
[7] a little bit to get those X-rays developed.
[8] Now, the photographs were undeveloped.
[9] They weren't developed that night for use at the
[10] autopsy.
[11] But I think that they probably - And
[12] here again, I'm just assuming that they probably
[13] wanted those X-rays before they started the real
[14] detailed part of the autopsy, you know.
[15] Q: What is your best recollection of the time
[16] that you left Bethesda on the night of November
[17] 23rd - 22nd/23rd?
[18] A: I would say it was sometime between 11:00
[19] and midnight. That's about as near as I can place
[20] the time. My Bureau car was out at Andrews, and so
[21] was O'Neill's. We had to get transportation into
[22] D.C. and we had to hand-carry this down to the

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[1] laboratory.
[2] Q: When you say "hand-carry this", you're
[3] referring to -
[4] A: The two fragments in this little jar. We
[5] turned those over to Bob Frazier down there at the
[6] lab.
[7] And then we had to have a clerk drive us
[8] out to Andrews Air Force Base from Bureau
[9] headquarters. And I got in at 4:00 o'clock there
[10] at my residence in New Carrollton, Maryland.
[11] So, that was the sequence. So, I would
[12] say it was between probably 11:00 and midnight that
[13] we left Bethesda.
[14] This receipt - I guess, you'll get into
[15] that "missile" later on.
[16] But this receipt, we signed it. And we
[17] assumed that for all practical purposes, the
[18] autopsy was over with, and the body would be turned
[19] over to the Gawler Funeral Home attendants that
[20] were there on the scene.
[21] We got their names, so, they had to be
[22] there.

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[1] Q: What was taking place with the body at the
[2] time that you left? Were the autopsy surgeons
[3] still there? Had Gawler's started working on the
[4] body? What was happening?
[5] A: Well, the autopsy surgeons were still
[6] there. I mean, Boswell, Humes, and Finck. But, of
[7] course, we were interested in getting this evidence
[8] and getting it over to the lab.
[9] We knew they were fragments. Probably
[10] wouldn't be too valuable in identifying weapons -
[11] I mean, matching them with weapons.
[12] I don't recall much activity, because they
[13] were getting things together, Boswell had been
[14] making some drawings there. And Humes had his
[15] notes and material. And I think it was sort of a
[16] summation getting together, the receipt and all
[17] that, and the photographs and "the packs of film
[18] and X-rays.
[19] Q: But it was your impression that the
[20] autopsy had been completed?
[21] A: Yes.
[22] Q: And were people from Gawler's doing

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[1] anything with the body at the time that you left?
[2] A: Not that I can recall. I don't recall
[3] them starting to wheel the body out or anything
[4] like that.
[5] If we had thought there was any more to go
[6] on in the way of an autopsy, why, O'Neill and I
[7] wouldn't have left. It wasn't necessary that we
[8] rush over to the lab. We figured that was the
[9] termination of the autopsy.
[10] Q: During the time towards the beginning of
[11] the autopsy when you left the room for the
[12] photographs and X-rays, where were you waiting
[13] during that time?
[14] A: As I recall, we were out in the hall. But
[15] they cleared the room for the X-rays. And they
[16] said they were going to take photographs. So,
[17] everybody except the personnel involved in those
[18] two functions - Medical personnel, were the only
[19] ones who were, theoretically, in there.
[20] Q: Okay. I'd like to go back to the time of
[21] the first incision. And if you could - Before
[22] the very first incision was made, if you could

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[1] describe various parts of the body and what you
[2] were able to observe at that time. And let's just
[3] start with the head, if we could.
[4] Could you give the best description of the
[5] wounds to the head that you can, prior to the time
[6] that any manipulation or incisions were made by the
[7] doctors?
[8] A: Well, there was a massive wound - oh, I'd
[9] say right back in this part of the head.
[10] Q: You're touching the part - that I would
[11] call, in non-medical terms, the cowlick area of the
[12] head.
[13] Would that be right?
[14] A: Yes.
[15] Q: And the size of this would be something -
[16] A: Well, it was difficult to see in this
[17] wound, because the hair was just matted and he had
[18] thick hair. It was just so blood-soaked and tied
[19] together that it was difficult to - to see any
[20] distinct outlines of where these bones had been
[21] literally blown out of the skull.
[22] Q: Now, it was also your understanding that

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[1] at the time that you observed those wounds, the
[2] photographs had already been taken?
[3] A: Yes.
[4] Q: Is that correct?
[5] A: Yes.
[6] Q: And your own description of the wound was
[7] that it was messy and bloody.
[8] A: Oh, yes.
[9] Q: And you had - saw no -
[10] A: Right. And the brain matter there and
[11] everything, you know, it was a terrible sight.
[12] Q: Were you able to tell whether there was
[13] any part of the scalp that was actually missing, as
[14] opposed to just being torn?
[15] A: Well, there was a big cavity there. I
[16] mean, that you could look into. So, in other
[17] words, the skull wasn't intact - the bones weren't
[18] in place.
[19] Q: So, both scalp and bone - scalp and skull
[20] were missing at the back part of the head that you
[21] pointed to?
[22] A: Well, as I recall, there was tissue, of

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[1] course, in this area. But there definitely was a
[2] large cavity and I think this probably accounts for
[3] what Humes mentioned at the first about surgery to
[4] the head area. I mean, it was just that apparent
[5] that there was that much skull missing.

[6] Q: In terms of the appearance of the wound,
[7] did it appear to be jagged, torn? Or was there any
[8] part of it that seemed neat and sharp, or -

[9] A: Not that I can recall.

[10] Q: How would you describe it?

[11] A: Well, there again, of course, I viewed it
[12] from this arm's length here. Now, Humes, Boswell
[13] and Fink got right up over it.

[14] But I couldn't tell whether there was any
[15] sharp or beveled edges or anything like that. I
[16] wasn't in a position to tell that. But you could
[17] see this wound. In fact, I even got closer than
[18] arm's length there at one time.

[19] And I mentioned to Frank after that, I
[20] said, "Frank, you realize the serious,
[21] confidential, secret, and all types of information
[22] that's gone through that brain. And look now."

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[1] Q: I'd like you to imagine, if you could,
[2] President Kennedy standing upright.

[3] A: Yes.

[4] Q: And think of where his ear is. Was there
[5] any injury to the part of his head or face that was
[6] in front of the ear? Now, this is - again,
[7] imagine him standing up. So, forwards from the
[8] ear.

[9] A: No. I don't recall any. Of course, he
[10] was lying on his back, and I don't recall too much
[11] injury to the facial part of the body itself.

[12] Q: Let's say now the part from the ear
[13] forward, but not to the face. So, the ear - the
[14] end of the hairline. Was there - did you see any
[15] injury in that area?

[16] A: I don't recall. Of course, here again,
[17] the emphasis was on this massive wound. And that
[18] might have taken my interest off of any of the
[19] facial area. But I don't recall anything that
[20] disfigured the face or any injuries that did that.

[21] Q: I'd like to show you a copy of the
[22] document that, it's our understanding, was prepared

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[1] by you in 1977 for the House Select Committee on
[2] Assassination.

[3] It's attached to our Exhibit MD 85, and
[4] it's also part of what appears, on its face, to be
[5] a memo from Jim Kelly and Andy Purdy to Ken Klein,
[6] dated August 29th, 1977.

[7] I'd like to show you this document, and
[8] ask you whether this is a drawing that you recall
[9] having previously made?

[10] A: Oh, I don't recall making this -

[11] Q: Perhaps not the outline or the silhouette
[12] of the document but indicating where there was an
[13] injury.

[14] A: Now, this is a - We're looking at this
[15] from the rear view; right? From here?

[16] Q: There are two drawings on this page. I'll
[17] say for the record, there's a top one that is a
[18] profile view. And there's one that appears to be
[19] from behind.

[20] A: Behind, yes.

[21] Q: Do you recall having made the marks on
[22] these drawings?

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[1] A: I don't recall that.

[2] Q: Do you recall making any drawing or
[3] markings on any drawings for the House Select
[4] Committee?

[5] A: They showed me some material that I had
[6] never seen before, and they said, "Have you seen
[7] this before?" And I didn't recall.

[8] But I don't recall making any markings. I
[9] think if I would have made this, I would have moved
[10] it over a little bit to the right on the back of
[11] the head here, rather than dead center.

[12] I may have. I won't say I didn't. But I
[13] don't recall doing so.

[14] Q: Could you look towards the bottom right of
[15] the page, and tell me whether that appears to be
[16] your handwriting?

[17] A: Yes. That's my signature; and 8/25/77.

[18] That's at Fort Meyers, Florida. Isn't that
[19] misspelled?

[20] Q: On the second page of drawings, is that
[21] your signature and do you remember either of those
[22] figures at all?

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[1] A: Yes. I think there was some mention made
[2] of that back wound.

[3] Q: When you say "back wound", you're
[4] referring to -

[5] A: I'm referring to this wound below the
[6] shoulders here marked with the dot.

[7] Q: Okay.

[8] A: Now, I may have, but I have no
[9] recollection of making that mark in the back of the
[10] head. It's in the back of the head here. But I
[11] think I would have - probably moved it a little
[12] over to the right.

[13] Q: Mr. Sibert, I have here a document that
[14] I'm numbering right now, MD 188, which shows the
[15] back of a skull.

[16] [ARRB MD Exhibit No. 188

[17] marked for identification.]

[18] BY MR. GUNN:

[19] Q: And I'd like to ask you if you'd be
[20] willing to draw on that skull, showing the back of
[21] a head, approximately where your understanding of
[22] the injury - what you've described as the massive

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[1] head wound.

[2] A: Well, these are teeth here, I guess. But
[3] that's just for -

[4] Q: Showing it -

[5] A: Disregard that; right?

[6] Q: That would be showing it from behind.

[7] A: From behind. Looking at it from this way,
[8] yeah. Well, I would think - Of course, this
[9] isn't to scale, but something in that area.

[10] Q: When you say this isn't to scale, you're
[11] referring to the drawing itself and not the mark
[12] that you made on it?

[13] A: The mark I made, yes. But it's off to the
[14] right is my recollection of that. It wasn't in
[15] the middle. If you draw a midline up from the back
[16] of the neck and the collar, it wouldn't bisect. It
[17] would be over to the right.

[18] Q: Okay. Now -

[19] A: It could be larger - a little larger than
[20] that.

[21] Q: The wound could have been a little bit
[22] larger than what you have drawn there?

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[1] A: Right.
[2] Q: Would you mind putting your initials just
[3] right next to that, please?
[4] A: Do you want the date?
[5] Q: Sure, I think the date is the 11th.
[6] A: Oh, I'm sorry. My watch has the 12th.
[7] So, I'm wrong.
[8] Q: So, September 11th, 1997. Thank you.
[9] A: Getting behind.
[10] Q: With the wound that you have drawn on this
[11] document now marked Exhibit 188, was that the
[12] largest wound that you saw - on the skull?
[13] A: That was the largest wound.
[14] Q: You referred to, a moment ago, that you
[15] were shown some things by the HSCA staff. Do you
[16] recall what you were shown?
[17] A: I can't even recall that. I can't
[18] remember whether they were schematic drawings, or
[19] what they were.
[20] But he said, "Have you ever seen this
[21] before?"
[22] And I looked at it. And, I said, "No, I

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[1] haven't." And that was my recollection.
[2] Q: Now, were there any other wounds that you
[3] could identify as being on the head or skull area
[4] from the time before the first incision was made?
[5] A: No.
[6] Q: Did you see any wounds or injuries on the
[7] neck?
[8] A: The front of the neck, you're speaking of?
[9] Q: Any part of the neck.
[10] A: Yes. This tracheotomy incision was very
[11] evident.
[12] Q: Okay. Were there any other wounds that
[13] you noticed at that time on the body?
[14] A: No.
[15] Q: Later in - during the course of the
[16] autopsy, did you ever see any additional wounds?
[17] So, maybe you did not see them before the first
[18] incision.
[19] A: No.
[20] Q: You referred earlier in this deposition to
[21] a wound on - I think you said below the shoulders.
[22] A: Right.

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[1] Q: Do you recall that?
[2] A: Yes.
[3] Q: Can you tell me where that wound was, or
[4] describe that for me?
[5] A: Well, that drawing you gave me there, it
[6] was below the scapula or the shoulders. And down
[7] far below the base of the neck.
[8] Q: Okay.
[9] A: Now, Humes, as I recall, didn't give any
[10] measurement on that. He did on this piece of skull
[11] that was brought in and the fragments. It was
[12] below the shoulders and to the right of the midline
[13] of the body.
[14] Q: Okay. When you said just a moment ago the
[15] drawing that I had shown you, you were referring to
[16] the drawings that were attached to Exhibit No. 85;
[17] is that correct?
[18] A: Right. The back wound.
[19] Q: Okay. From the time that you first saw
[20] the body until the time that you left the morgue to
[21] return to headquarters and then to Andrews,
[22] approximately what percentage of the time were you

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[1] with the body?
[2] Let's say, other than the time of the
[3] photographs and the X-rays, what percentage of the
[4] time were you actually with the body?
[5] A: Oh, we went out to eat one time,
[6] separately. But I'd say that I was with the body
[7] at all other times, with the exception of when we
[8] were excluded for autopsy - for the X-rays and
[9] photography, and when I made the phone call. I'd
[10] say 80 percent or better. More than that, because
[11] we - both of us, were there most of the time.
[12] Q: At the time the first incision was made,
[13] could you describe approximately how many people
[14] were in the room and what the tenor of the room
[15] was? Was it sober? People talking, or what was
[16] the -
[17] A: Yes. Well, as I say, there was a lot of
[18] rank there, with the Bethesda personnel,
[19] and others. Of course, everybody was, I think, in
[20] an anxious state there. It wasn't pandemonium or
[21] anything, but there was just a large group of
[22] people in there.

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[1] And some of them came in later as I
[2] mentioned in the 302. They weren't there at the
[3] beginning, but they came in to ask a question or
[4] get some kind of ruling or something, and went out
[5] again. But it was a busy place.
[6] Q: Would you characterize it as noisy? Would
[7] that be right?
[8] A: I would say it was fairly noisy.
[9] Q: I'd like to ask you about any kind of
[10] record that you saw being created that night, and
[11] we'll talk about - more about them later. But you
[12] previously made reference to X-rays and photos.
[13] You also said, if I recall correctly, that
[14] Dr. Humes was making notes; is that correct?
[15] A: My recollection was that he was making
[16] some notes. And Boswell, I think, was making some
[17] schematic drawings, similar to the one on that last
[18] exhibit. What was that number?
[19] Q: Fifty-three, I think. I'm sorry. It was
[20] 85.
[21] A: Oh.
[22] Q: Exhibit No. 85.

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[1] A: Right.
[2] Q: Did you see anyone else taking notes that
[3] night?
[4] A: No, I don't recall.
[5] Q: As between you and Mr. O'Neill, was one of
[6] you taking notes rather than the other?
[7] A: We both took notes.
[8] Q: Okay. Do you recall whether Dr. Finck
[9] took any notes?
[10] A: I don't recall.
[11] I do recall he helped probe the back
[12] wound.
[13] Q: Do you recall there being any motion
[14] picture or video recordings that were made?
[15] A: No.
[16] Q: Did you hear - have any - ever hear
[17] anything about there being any audio recordings at
[18] the autopsy?
[19] A: No.
[20] Q: Did you see any tissue preparations or
[21] samples being made, paraffin blocks or things of
[22] that sort?

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[1] A: No.
[2] Q: Were you at the - in the autopsy room at
[3] any time when photographs were being taken?
[4] A: No, I don't think I was.
[5] Q: You mentioned it first that you left the
[6] room while photographs were taken. I just want to
[7] make sure that no photos, as far as you're aware,
[8] were taken after the procedures -
[9] A: I don't recall any additional photos being
[10] taken while I was there.
[11] Q: After the first round of X-rays was taken,
[12] do you recall needing to leave the room again for
[13] additional X-rays to be taken - subsequent X-rays?
[14] A: I don't remember being excluded like we
[15] were on that first one when X-rays were taken.
[16] Q: Do you remember any discussion among the
[17] doctors about the need for performing additional
[18] X-rays during the course of the autopsy?
[19] A: No.
[20] Q: Did you ever see anyone whom appeared to
[21] you to be a photographer at the autopsy?
[22] A: No.

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[1] Q: Did you see any cameras at all?
[2] A: I don't remember. When they went in there
[3] to take photographs and the X-rays, someone may
[4] have had a camera.
[5] Q: Did you ever see any film being taken out
[6] of the camera and exposed to light?
[7] A: No.
[8] Q: Do you ever recall having seen any film
[9] that was present in the morgue that night that was
[10] being labeled, or sent to somebody, or being
[11] counted, or anything of that sort?
[12] A: No. Only this film that they had in packs
[13] that was turned over to the Secret Service. That
[14] was all in packs. I didn't see any other film.
[15] Q: Were you acquainted with what is called
[16] large-format review cameras? Do those terms mean
[17] anything to you?
[18] A: No.
[19] Q: In the 302 that you've mentioned, which is
[20] marked as Exhibit 151, you record the numbers -
[21] some numbers of films. Can you tell me where you
[22] got those numbers? I'm referring to page five.

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[1] A: Yes. Well, it's my recollection that
[2] Humes gave us this data. And this was always
[3] being done by him of course, he was the chief
[4] pathologist. And we copied down what he gave us.
[5] Q: When did you first - Let me withdraw
[6] that. Did you ever see any of the developed
[7] X-rays?
[8] A: They were brought into the autopsy room.
[9] But I didn't get up close and look at the X-rays,
[10] because not being a medical person or doctor, they
[11] wouldn't have meant a lot to me. But I know they
[12] were brought back, the developed X-rays. And I
[13] think Humes used them.
[14] Q: In your 302 - again, this is marked as
[15] Exhibit 151 to this deposition - you make
[16] reference to the X-rays and some - what the -
[17] part of what the X-rays show.
[18] A: Yes.
[19] Q: The question for you is, what is the
[20] source of this information? Is that based upon
[21] your own observation, what you were told, or a
[22] combination of both?

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[1] A: I'm trying to recall whether they had a
[2] projector there. And I'm sure that they probably
[3] did, but -
[4] Q: While you're looking at that -
[5] A: Let's see, where was that? That was -
[6] What paragraph was it? Oh, here.
[7] Q: Let me read part of this for the record,
[8] but you can take a look at this yourself.
[9] "X-rays of the brain area, which were
[10] developed and returned to the autopsy room,
[11] disclosed a path of a missile which appeared to
[12] enter the back of the skull. And the path of the
[13] disintegrated fragments could be observed along the
[14] right side of the skull. The largest section of
[15] this missile, as portrayed by X-ray, appeared to be
[16] behind the right frontal sinus."
[17] A: As I recall now, this was all given to us
[18] by Humes while observing these. It wasn't based on
[19] our observations, but his.
[20] Q: We have here today the records that we
[21] understand to be the original autopsy X-rays. If
[22] you observed them that night and would be able to

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[1] look at them again, I would like to show them to
[2] you. If you think that you didn't really see them
[3] that night -
[4] A: There was one other thing in this
[5] connection that, I think, said - maybe that isn't
[6] in the 302, but - said it looked like the Milky
[7] Way. This was metal fragments in the skull.
[8] Q: I think that that appears in an affidavit
[9] that you - that you did later.
[10] A: It may have been but I distinctly remember
[11] that.
[12] Q: Now, with that description of the Milky
[13] Way as the path of disintegrated fragments, did you
[14] get that all yourself from your own observation?
[15] A: That was from Humes.
[16] Q: So, it wouldn't help you to look at the
[17] X-ray?
[18] A: No, I don't think they showed them to me.
[19] I think Humes was just looking at them and talking,
[20] and we were making notes as to statements relative
[21] to that.
[22] Q: The very last sentence of this same

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[1] paragraph - Again, it's on page three. It refers
[2] to, "The next largest fragment appeared to be at
[3] the rear of the skull." Is that observation, then,
[4] also from Dr. Humes?
[5] A: That's from Humes; right.
[6] Q: Okay. When you looked at the skull and
[7] what you have described as including being able to
[8] see brain tissue, were you able to see inside the
[9] skull cavity, and see the brain inside? Again,
[10] this is before the first incision.
[11] A: I think part of the brain was missing, as
[12] I recall, or a statement to that effect was made -
[13] due to this explosion caused by the gunshot wound
[14] in the head.
[15] Q: Do you recall seeing -
[16] A: I certainly don't recall seeing an intact
[17] brain, you know, like you see on a color photograph
[18] in med school or something like that.
[19] Q: Were you present during the autopsy when
[20] the skull was opened and the brain was removed?
[21] A: No.
[22] Q: Was the brain removed during the course of

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[1] the autopsy, as far as you're - as far as you
[2] know?
[3] A: Not while we were there. It could have
[4] been, but I don't have that recollection.
[5] Q: Did you ever see a brain at all during the
[6] night of the autopsy; that is, somewhat intact
[7] brain?
[8] A: No.
[9] Q: Was there any discussion during the course
[10] of the autopsy about the location of the brain?
[11] A: Not that I recall.
[12] Q: Mr. Sibert, earlier in the deposition, you
[13] referred to fragments that you took to FBI
[14] headquarters. Do you recall that?
[15] A: Yes.
[16] Q: Could you describe what the fragments
[17] were?
[18] A: Well, they were two small fragments. I
[19] don't recall the size of them; but they're
[20] described in my FD 302, and were measured by Humes.
[21] They were put in a little jar. Oh, I would say
[22] it's about this tall and - with a black screw-type

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[1] cap on it. And Dr. Humes put those in the jar.
[2] And Frank and I initialed it, scraped
[3] through the paint on the top with our initials and
[4] the date, so that we could identify them later on
[5] as evidence that we got from Dr. Humes and
[6] hand-carried over to the Bureau lab.
[7] Q: Something has remarkably appeared just
[8] behind you right now, a small jar with a black lid.
[9] A: Oh, yes.
[10] Q: And I'd like to ask you if that's the jar
[11] that you were referring to. And please take your
[12] time to examine the lid, and see if you can
[13] identify that as being the jar that you just
[14] mentioned.
[15] A: Living down in Florida, it's a long time
[16] since I've worn gloves.
[17] MR. GUNN: Let me state for the record
[18] that this is Warren Commission Exhibit No. 843 that
[19] Mr. Sibert is examining.
[20] THE WITNESS: Yes. And I'm looking on the
[21] top there. That's FXO. That's Frank's initials.
[22] 11/22/63. And I'm trying to find mine. Oh, here

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[1] it is. And JWS, 11/22/63. Those are my initials.
[2] BY MR. GUNN:
[3] Q: Do you see any other initials or
[4] identifiers that you can observe on the top of the
[5] lid?
[6] A: Yes, here's one up here: RF. I assume
[7] that would be Robert Frazier, who we hand-carried
[8] it to over in the lab.
[9] Then there's another initial. It looks
[10] like a C, but - Would that be CK? I can't make
[11] that one out.
[12] But there's two other initials there,
[13] other than Frank and mine. I see four sets of
[14] initials.
[15] Q: And is this the bottle, then, as best you
[16] can tell - that was used to carry the fragments?
[17] A: I said it was about that size. I was
[18] right on that, my recollection. And this black
[19] cap, and initialed, and everything. That's it.
[20] Q: Now, we've been referring to two
[21] fragments. And although everyone in this room
[22] knows what the fragments are that we're referring

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[1] to, could you identify what kinds of fragments they
[2] are?
[3] A: They're metal fragments that were removed
[4] by Dr. Humes from the skull.
[5] Q: Did you see Dr. Humes remove the
[6] fragments?
[7] A: I don't recall seeing him remove them, no.
[8] I'm sure it was done during the autopsy, and he had
[9] them there, and he placed them in this jar.
[10] Q: Do you know whether you were in the room
[11] at the time the fragments were removed?
[12] A: I'm almost certain I was. As I said 80
[13] percent. But I would be willing to go to even a
[14] higher percentage of the time that we were in the
[15] autopsy room.
[16] Q: But, nevertheless, you don't have a
[17] recollection of actually seeing the fragments
[18] removed?
[19] A: No, not the removal where he took them out
[20] of the brain.
[21] Q: Did Dr. Humes tell you where he had
[22] located the fragments?

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[1] A: Yes, from the right side of the brain.
[2] This was mentioned in the 302. That was his
[3] terminology and his statement in connection with
[4] removing these.
[5] Q: Okay. Did you ever see the fragments
[6] again after the night of November 22nd/23rd?
[7] A: Never again after that.
[8] Q: Okay. I'd like to show you a document
[9] that is marked MD 69, and ask you whether you have
[10] seen that document previously?
[11] MR. GUNN: I will state for the record
[12] that MD 69 appears on its face to be a memo from
[13] Francis X. O'Neill and James W. Sibert to Captain
[14] J.H. Stover, dated 22 November 1963.
[15] THE WITNESS: Yes, I recall. I'd like to
[16] elaborate a little further on this. Here, we get
[17] to this term "missile".
[18] Now, some things I've read about the
[19] agents giving a receipt - This receipt was
[20] prepared by Navy personnel. I think a Navy
[21] corpsman typed it up.
[22] And this terminology is U.S. Navy about

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[1] the "missile". Now, had I been preparing or making
[2] out a receipt and giving it to them, I would have
[3] said "fragments" here.
[4] This is another thing that's been kicked
[5] around a lot in books and everything. I've got
[6] some notes here from a guy who called me about this
[7] very thing, a "missile".
[8] BY MR. GUNN:
[9] Q: Other than the document that's now marked
[10] Exhibit No. 69, did you sign any other receipts on
[11] the night of November 22nd/23rd related to
[12] fragments or missiles?
[13] A: No.
[14] Q: So, to the best of your recollection -
[15] A: To the best of my recollection on this,
[16] this is the only receipt that was signed.
[17] Q: And the document that we have here,
[18] Exhibit 69, was attached in a sense to Commission
[19] Exhibit 843 - the bottle that's in front of you.
[20] A: Right.
[21] MR. GUNN: Let me go off the record for a
[22] minute while Steve takes the bottle.

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[1] [Discussion off the record.]
 [2] MR. GUNN: Okay. Back on the record.
 [3] BY MR. GUNN:
 [4] Q: Mr. Sibert, during the time that you were
 [5] present at Bethesda Naval Hospital, did you speak
 [6] at all to any other personnel at the FBI by
 [7] telephone?
 [8] A: Agent Killion was the only one that I
 [9] called. Is that who you referred to?
 [10] Q: That would be one - one possible.
 [11] A: When I called him over in the firearms
 [12] section.
 [13] Q: Other than Agent Killion, is there any
 [14] other person with - any other FBI official with
 [15] whom you spoke by telephone that night?
 [16] A: I don't recall. Don't recall speaking
 [17] with any other person.
 [18] Q: Do you know whether Special Agent O'Neill
 [19] spoke with anyone at FBI during the night of the
 [20] autopsy?
 [21] A: Frank wasn't with me when I made this
 [22] call, he was back in the autopsy room. And I don't

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[1] recall Frank making any calls to anyone over at
 [2] headquarters or the laboratory.
 [3] Q: I would like to show you a document that
 [4] is marked Exhibit No. 176, which appears on its
 [5] face to be a letterhead memorandum, dated November
 [6] 22nd, 1963, from A.H. Belmont to Mr. Tolson. We
 [7] have the original of the document here.
 [8] Although it's my presumption that you have
 [9] not seen the original document before, I'll,
 [10] nevertheless, ask you if you have seen the
 [11] document?
 [12] A: Well, this is the first time this document
 [13] has come to my attention.
 [14] Q: Mr. Sibert, I'll note that the document
 [15] appears on its face to be dated November 22nd,
 [16] which - I don't know whether that date is correct
 [17] or not.
 [18] A: Let's see. Was that '63?
 [19] Q: November 22nd, '63.
 [20] A: O.K.
 [21] Q: The stamps on the back have various times
 [22] that offices received that. The earliest one I can

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[1] see right now on the back of this is November 23rd,
 [2] 1963 at 5:00 p.m., though there may be another one.
 [3] I'm not certain whether this document was,
 [4] in fact prepared on November 23rd. There is
 [5] reference, I note, however, in the first paragraph
 [6] that there was -
 [7] "The Secret Service had one of the bullets
 [8] that struck President Kennedy, and the other is
 [9] lodged behind the President's ear. And we are
 [10] arranging to get both of these."
 [11] The question would be: Do you recall
 [12] having been, directly or indirectly, the source of
 [13] that information for Mr. Belmont?
 [14] A: When I talked with Killion that night,
 [15] "Chuck," I said, "is there any kind of a bullet
 [16] that would completely fragmentize? Maybe hit a
 [17] bone and go down in the lower extremities of the
 [18] body?" And I said, "They - the doctors, can't
 [19] find a bullet", and "they're at a loss to account
 [20] for the bullet causing the back wound."
 [21] He said, "Well, you heard about the bullet
 [22] that they found on the stretcher over in Dallas."

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[1] And I said, "No, I hadn't."
 [2] He said, "Well, the Secret Service is
 [3] bringing that bullet in to the laboratory."
 [4] They didn't know whether it was on
 [5] Kennedy's stretcher or on Connally's, but it was on
 [6] its way in.
 [7] So, with this information I went back and
 [8] relayed this to Humes immediately, because I
 [9] thought it was something that he'd probably want to
 [10] know. I thought he might even want to call Burkley
 [11] or others.
 [12] But that - Now, if that's the basis, I
 [13] wouldn't know. But, as I say, I've never seen this
 [14] communication before.
 [15] Q: The question particularly is the -
 [16] A: The one lodged behind the President's ear,
 [17] that's news to me. I'd never heard that before.
 [18] Q: So, as far as you were aware, that
 [19] information - that there was a bullet lodged
 [20] behind the President's ear - is incorrect?
 [21] A: Yes.
 [22] Q: Okay.

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[1] A: Nothing was mentioned at the autopsy about
 [2] that.
 [3] Q: I would like to turn to an issue that you
 [4] raised yourself earlier regarding the statement in
 [5] your 302, our Exhibit No. 151, related to surgery
 [6] of the head area.
 [7] Could you recount for us your best
 [8] recollection of what the words were that Dr. Humes
 [9] used when he made reference to that?
 [10] A: Well, that was it. It was just a real
 [11] short statement after the sheets were removed off
 [12] the body.
 [13] As I said before, I can't recall whether
 [14] it was before the body was removed from the casket,
 [15] or whether it was just after it was removed from
 [16] the casket and placed on the autopsy table.
 [17] And Humes said, "There's been an apparent
 [18] tracheotomy and surgery of the head area". And
 [19] that was it.
 [20] And as I say, I included this in my notes
 [21] that were being made during the autopsy.
 [22] Q: Did you ever hear Dr. Humes say anything

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[1] like, "I am mistaken." That there was not surgery
 [2] around the head area?
 [3] A: No.
 [4] Q: Did he ever say anything -
 [5] A: As I said a while ago in connection with
 [6] this, that has haunted me; that I didn't think at
 [7] the time to ask him when that piece was brought in
 [8] that they found in the limousine out in Dallas:
 [9] "Now, does this any way alter your first statement
 [10] about surgery of the head area?"
 [11] It might have saved a lot of time, books,
 [12] and opinions.
 [13] Q: I'd like you to refer now, if you would,
 [14] to - again Exhibit No. 151 - to the second
 [15] paragraph on page number five. And I'll read that
 [16] into the record.
 [17] "Also, during the latter stages of the
 [18] autopsy, a piece of the skull, measuring 10 by 6.5
 [19] centimeters, was brought to Dr. Humes, who was
 [20] instructed that this had been removed from the
 [21] President's skull."
 [22] Do you see those words?

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[1] Now, in this particular passage here,
[2] there's no reference made to a piece of the skull
[3] being found in the limousine, but refers to
[4] something that was removed from the President's
[5] skull.
[6] Were you, in fact, told at the time that
[7] the piece arrived that it was removed from the
[8] President's skull?
[9] A: I'm trying to think. There was an agent
[10] that brought that in - I think, a Secret Service
[11] agent - during the latter stage of the autopsy.
[12] Maybe he used that terminology, and we picked it up
[13] there.
[14] I didn't get this from Killion, because he
[15] didn't have anything to do with that. But I don't
[16] know where that word "removed" originated. But
[17] that was evidently, the terminology that was used
[18] that night.
[19] Q: Certainly, as I'm sure is apparent to you,
[20] that the question here is: When the explanation
[21] was made that the piece of the skull came from the
[22] limousine rather than having been removed, it would

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[1] be plausible to say that - or one might read this
[2] as saying, at the beginning of the autopsy, there's
[3] a presumption that there was surgery in the top of
[4] the head.
[5] Later in the autopsy, when it - when the
[6] piece arrives, it is assumed that that is the piece
[7] that was removed from skull. There isn't any
[8] explanation as far as I'm aware, in the 302 about
[9] this being found in a limousine or being anything
[10] other than having been removed from the skull.
[11] A: I think that was relayed later by someone.
[12] I don't know where I got that. And I cannot
[13] clarify that any further.
[14] Q: Do you remember - I'd like to show you a
[15] document that is marked Exhibit 149. And I will
[16] describe it while you're taking a look at it.
[17] A: All right.
[18] Q: And my question to you will be whether you
[19] have previously seen this document?
[20] It appears on its face to be a teletype,
[21] dated 11/23/1963, from SAC, Baltimore to Director
[22] and SAC, Dallas.

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[1] Mr. Sibert, do you recall having
[2] previously seen the document marked Exhibit 149?
[3] A: No, I've never seen this before.
[4] Q: Could you help me with understanding part
[5] of the document? What do you understand this
[6] document to be, at least in general? Not the
[7] specific content, but what kind of FBI document is
[8] it?
[9] A: Well, this was sent on Saturday, the 23rd,
[10] the day after the autopsy.
[11] Q: And this is - went on a teletype machine;
[12] is that right?
[13] A: Yes, the teletype out of our headquarters
[14] in Baltimore into - to Bureau headquarters in D.C.
[15] Q: Right - If you read along the top, where
[16] the teletype - It says "urgent". What does that
[17] signify?
[18] A: It's been so long, but - Top priority.
[19] I mean, it goes out immediately. It doesn't get
[20] stacked up in a pile of outgoing teletypes. There
[21] might also be administrative stuff going out, but
[22] this would be given priority treatment.

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[1] Q: If you look just to the right of the
[2] 11/23/63, there's a 2-00. Do you know what that
[3] signifies?
[4] A: This applies to the hour of the day.
[5] Q: The next two, if you keep going across,
[6] there's an "AM TRC". Are you able to tell what
[7] those are?
[8] A: This would be 2:00 a.m. and the initials,
[9] TRC, of the sender in Baltimore.
[10] Q: Could you look at the end of the teletype,
[11] the next to last line, where it says, "2-07 AM. OK
[12] FBI WA. JR." Are you able to tell me what any of
[13] that would signify?
[14] A: This would be the acknowledgement by FBI
[15] Headquarters in Washington, D.C. that the message
[16] had been received at 2:07 a.m. Furthermore, an
[17] O.K. was sent back by the Washington, D.C. teletype
[18] operator whose initials were furnished as JR.
[19] Q: Now, all of this would suggest, then, this
[20] document was probably created somewhere around
[21] 2:00 a.m. on the morning of November 23rd?
[22] A: Yes.

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[1] Q: So, again, according to the times that
[2] we -
[3] A: I don't remember, thinking back again -
[4] As I say, I got in at 4:00 o'clock Saturday
[5] morning. I know I didn't get my boss out of bed at
[6] 2:00 a.m. in Baltimore, but - I'm trying
[7] to recall.
[8] I do know that that late Saturday morning
[9] I called Baltimore and my boss, and asked him if he
[10] wanted us to come in on Monday? Monday was a day
[11] of mourning, if you recall, and everything was shut
[12] down.
[13] I said, "Do you want us to come in and
[14] dictate this FD 302 Monday, and bring in a steno
[15] off of annual leave?"
[16] And so Tully, my boss, said, "Well, let
[17] me think." "Jim," he said, "let me call
[18] headquarters."
[19] And he called over and later called me
[20] back and said, "No, get in the first thing Tuesday
[21] and dictate it."
[22] So, I don't know why this teletype would

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[1] have been sent out at 2:00 a.m. on Saturday the
[2] 23rd. What they're getting there at the Bureau
[3] seems like a summation of what went on there at the
[4] autopsy. I mean, the metal fragments, back wound,
[5] and everything.
[6] And I can't recall - I didn't call from
[7] Bethesda. I don't think I called Baltimore. If I
[8] did it would have been from Bureau headquarters
[9] while there at that firearms lab.
[10] I may have called the night duty agent at
[11] Baltimore and gave him this information. And then
[12] he may have called somebody there who said, "Send a
[13] teletype." I don't know.
[14] Q: Let me read the first sentences to you of
[15] the second paragraph, and you can read along with
[16] me. I read this as saying:
[17] "Total body X-ray and autopsy revealed one
[18] bullet entered back of head, and thereafter emerged
[19] through top of skull. Pieces of skull, measuring
[20] - excuse me. Piece of skull measuring 10 by 6.5
[21] centimeters later flown in from Dallas hospital,
[22] and X-rays Bethesda disclosed minute metal