PARISH OF ORLEANS

STATE OF LOUISIANA

198-059

VERSUS

1426 (30)

CLAY L. SHAW

SECTION "C"

PROCEEDINGS IN OPEN COURT, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1969

THE HOMORABLE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY, JR., BEFORE: JUDGE, SECTION "C"

Dietrich & Pickett, Inc. Stoustyphida 3335T. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1227

MEW ORLEAMS, LOUISIAN V 70130-532-311 b

THE COURT: I trust you Gentlemen had a nice Carnival. Is the State and the Defense ready to 3 proceed? 4 MR. OSER: 5 We are, Your Honor. MR. DYHOND: 7 Yes, Your Honor. MR. OSER: I think we left off with a question being propounded to the Doctor. 11 JOHN NICHOLS, M.D., 12 having been sworn and having testified previously, 13 resumed the stand for a continuation of the 14 DIRECT EXAMINATION 15 BY MR. OSER: 16 I will ask the Reporter to read the question 17 where we left off the other day. 18 (Whereupon, the question was read by the Reporter.) THE WITNESS: 28 May I see the two exhibits again, picason 22 I would like to correct the word "stimuli, 23 that is plural. I should have used the word "stimulus."

THE COURT:

I think Mr. Oser was using it plural.

Originally you used the word

"stimulus."

THE WITNESS:

In answer to that question, I would say
Governor Connally would have reacted almost exactly 7/5,670 of one
second later than President Kannedy.

BY MR. OSER:

3

5

5

7

10

11

12

13

14

17

18

21

79:07

23

24

Q I show you what has been marked as "5-53-1,"
and I ask you if you would describe what
is depicted in that photograph, please.

MR. DYMOND:

The photograph speaks for itself.
THE COURT:

Would you rephrase your question.

BY MR. OSER:

- O Doctor, would you state for the Court as an expert, what is your opinion as to the body movements and reactions of President

 Kennedy as depicted in that photograph.
- I cannot tell any body movements from this single photograph, I would have to compare it to the preceding photographs and subse-

quent photographs. 1 I show you, Doctor, what the State marked as 2 "S-53-H" and "S-53-H," and --3 MR. DYMOND: 5 Excuse me, Doctor. If the court please, we object to this testimony on the grounds that it is beyond the scope 7 of the expertise of this witness. I overrule the objection. 11 MR. DYMOND: To which ruling Counsel reserves a bill of exception, making the entire testimony up until this point, the object tion, the ruling of the Court, the 15 reasons for the objection, the witness's testimony, parts of the bill. 17 THE COURT: The Doctor has examined all of the photographs, he can use any one of them to give his opinion on. You may proceed. THE WITNESS!

Comparing "S-53-1" and "S- 3-14, AS 6 6 apparent that the President's head

· 自己,这个有效是是是不是一种。这个种种的

and shoulders have moved to the rear in "S-53-M."

BY MR. OSER:

IO

Now, Doctor, as an expert, and having viewed those particular 8 x 10 enlargements and 35MM slides, Frames 200 through 320, excluding those that are missing, 234 to 244, and having seen the Japruder film, I ask you, Doctor, as an expert, what is your opinion if a stimulus wes applied to the rear of President Kenned's head, as to -- correct that, if a stimulus had been applied to the rear of President Kennedy's head at the time of "S-53-I." what in your opinion as an expert would have been President Kennedy's reaction to a stimulus applied to the rear?

is the same magnitude as the stimulus

apparently delivered from the front, then

his head and body would have moved to the

front.

MR. OSER:

I tender the witness.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

2

3

5

6

7

10

11

12

13

14

16

17

20

Q Were you in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963

A No. I was in my research lab.

Q You did not witness the assassination. Is that correct?

A That is correct.

Now, what is your usual procedure in conducting

as autopsy where it appears that the

death was caused as a result of a head

wound?

In conducting the autopsy I would start by

X-raying the body completely in two planes
anterior-posterior and lateral, and after
these were developed and after I studied,
them, during this time of course I would
be taking those photographs with black
and white camera and with a color camera,
and I would be making measurements of

various points, I would be saided
ments of various lesions which might have
been involved, and having them studied the
X-rays, I would have proceeded along the
lines indicated, which would of course
include a full, complete and total examination. We would dissect the body and get

all of the disease or affected parts out, and make microscopic slides of these, make detailed drawings with measurements, 3 and after all was put together, it would probably be a month before I would be able to issue a final diagnosis; however, in most gunshot wounds one is able to issue a provisional diagnosis shortly after you finish with the body, but to do the complete aktopsy, it requires considerable time. 11 So ordinarily it would take a month or more 12 to perform an autopsy. Is that correct? 13 Well, with a gunshot wound it is reasonable, 14 and if there are no complicating factors 15 otherwise, it is reasonable it could be 16 done within a month; yes. 17 How would you go about determining the point 18 of entrance and the point of exit of a 19 gunshot wound in the head? 20 It depends an awful lot upon the nature of the gunshet wound, if it is a small 22 22 it is relatively simple, if it is somethin 23 such as a 6.5 Manlicher Carcana, it is a 24

little more difficult, but you nee are:

bit of evidence that you have on hand. Well, tell us some of the procedures which you would ordinarily follow in doing that, in conducting an autopsy. Oh, if motion pictures had been taken of the 5 subject during the assassination, I would study those first, and I would have eyewitness testimony, and then sometimes a 8 small caliber --We are talking about a 6.5 --10 Every situation is different, and I have to go with what we have at hand. 12 Ordinarily, now, Doctor, is it your testimony you would not examine the remains of the 14 person shot in connection with determining 15 the point of entrance and exit? - 16 No, I didn't say that at all, I say we do a 17 complete total autopsy. 13 Now, what does this complete total autopsy 19 consist of which you would perform under 26 these conditions? 21 It consists of first X-raying the bidy comreleased to a selection of the selection back, and then side pictures, from the 24 side, localized wissizes and then for

the sake of completeness it requires taking gross photographs of the body for Identification, for the political of Astenio, such things is that - and the grant to College Control of the State College C and converse to the same to the same CITIES OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE P 经产品的通信系统的 地名美国西班牙斯 CONCERNIA FOR PONCE AND CONTRACT CONTRACTOR GITTE FATTER OF THE STATE OF TH Lateroscope unit die matter is usees any to hix the last to a comment Wal-sor we week units Comparing a transfer The Carlotte Contains the Carlotte A COMPANY OF THE PARTY OF THE P

in the orthogonal entire in an

APPRICE EXPENSIONS BY AND BOTTOM CONTRACTOR

1	remains of President Kennedy?
2	A I requested to do so, sir, but I have been
3	denied that privilege. I have requested
4	on many occasions to do so in telegrams
5	and registered letters.
6	Q But you have not examined these X-rays. Is
7	that correct?
8	A Not yet.
9	O Doctor, have you ever before performed an
0	autopsy without having reviewed the re-
1	mains of the person upon whom the autops
2	was being performed?
3	A I have expressed opinions on such sutoputes.
•	to some lawyers who come to my office.
5	O You have never actually performed one without
5	having examined the subject?
1	A You cannot perform an autopsy by remote gon-
	THE COURT:
,	Never mind, proceed.
	BY MR. DYMOND:
	Q Doctor, when was the first time that you say

Two wasks ago, where did you see that?

I suppose it was about two week

- Archives of Pathology?
- A Yes, I have written --
 - Q None pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy?
 - A None, sir, I have never written an article

 pertaining to the assassination of

 President Kennedy anywhere.
 - Q You never have?
- A No.

2

3

5

6

10

17

15

20

22

- Q ___ You have no published work --
- A No published work on the assassination of President Kennedy.
- 13 Q Doctor, do you hold yourself out as a ballistic
 expert?
 - A In the case of the assassination of President

yes, this consisted of purchasing 6.5

Manlicher Carcana ammunition, I have fired
this into human wrists and into human ribs
I have recovered the bullets, yes, I proclaim a degree of profisiency in ballistic
to this extent.

- of ballistics, Doctor?
- All well, this consisted of a one-hour leading.

suppose it was a locture in Medical School and I have attended ballistics experts 2 examining other bullets at the College of Virginia, I have talked with meny police officers, I have identified bullats and have testified to them on those 7 points, yes. On the basis of that, you consider yourself 8 a ballistics expert? I consider myself an expert in the field of 10 ballistics as I have testified in this 11 12 Court. What formal training in the field of ballistics 13 have you had on the ballisties points in which you have testified in this court? 15 I have created my own, sir, my experience. I chronographed the speed of a bullet emerging at 1,890 feet, at a distance of 30 feet, then I would cately the country and I would also shoot through human wrists 20 and ribs and catch the bullets and I would 21 compare them, sir. The bullate coming 22 through the wrists and through the real 23 injuries similar to Governor Company 24

were mutilated whereas bullets a lesson

3 bullets traversing a rib and a wrist 2 producing wounds similar to that sustained 3 by Governor Connally are mutilated bullets whereas bullets that ere mevely short into a mattress in which I checked them, they are pristine. I have, siz, copyrighted 7 results of my work here. May I show them to you, please? Mr. Oser, do you have the THE COURT! Do you have them? 12 MR. OSER: 13 We can send for the Doctor's briefcuse, 14 which is down in my office. MR. DYNOND: 16 Actually, Your Honor, I am not interested in these. THE WITNESS: 18 19 I have them right here, though. OHE COURT, IN THE 20. I think he has a right to give an amster 22 THE WITNESS Perhaps we can give a becter answer to 23 the Jury if I could set up the sildes and project then onto the

MR. DYMOND: If the State wants him to do that --MR. ALCOCK: This is in response to his question, Your Honor. MR. DYMOND: Anybody can copyright anything that is unique and original. THE COURT: I think the Doctor can give you a yes or 10 no answer and tell you and show you II. what training he did have. MR. DYMOND: Training, yes. THE COURT: That is what he is trying to do. 16 MR. DYMOND: I am willing to hear testimony about Commission of the second secon for, but a man writing an article 20 does not constitute training 21 THE COURT: wouldn't the articles denote you ap 10 whether he did have any trasming in

the subject?

I have never heard or seen of the arti-

THE COURT:

Tell of your training without going into

THE WITNESS:

No such article exists, it is a figment

of somebody's imagination. My training, sir, in the field of ballistics

consists of a one-hour lecture,

conferences with ballistics experse
in the office of the Chief Medical

Examiner, Richmond, Virginia, it

consists also, sir, of my cwn studion
which is training, with a Manlicher

Carcana Rifle, 6.5 amountaion, bein

fired into human wrists and ribs and

collecting the bullets, this is train
ing, sir, and this is the result of
it, and with your monor's parameters.

I would like to show these to the

THE COURT:

I think you have answered the question.

Jury in cetail.

You call that being a ballistics expert?

No, that is the extent T have gundfeles

THE COURT:

2

3

9

11

16

17

18

It would depend on the Judge whether or not you would have been qualified, it is not what a person himself thinks he would be. It is what his qualifications are assessed in court by the court.

BY MR. DYMOND:

Do you hold yourself out as a photograph pert?

would you tell us the extent of your training in photography.

> The extent of my training a drted, six, I mappose, when I was about ten years old, I purchased or was given a comera and Y had many cameras since them, I have access to a far range of cameras within the pathology department of the University of kansas and they are used for the auticidity purpose of identifying wounds on harrs bodies . Lying person co. Sill pro and I teach this to meets, i referently a tre residents and I take the free committee of

1		my own autopsies and on other autopsies
2		I supervise, the residents take their
3	A 632	pictures.
4	Ω	What formal training in photogra by have you
15		had?
-6	A	I have never had a minute of formal training
7		as far as anybody giving me lectures.
. 8	4	but the results speak for themselves.
9	Q	Now, do you know how many frames per second
10		are run by the Zapruder film?
11	*	I think it was described to me in the courtroom
12		as being 18 and 3/10ths, sir.
13	Q	Was that the first time you knew the speed of
14		the Zapruder film?
13	A	I don't know what the speed is yet, sir.
16	9	You don't, you don't know how many frames par
17		second?
18	A	I am assuming that is correct.
19	Q	When did you start assuming that, posters
20	A	Well, I really don't know, I suppose a couple
21		of years ago.
23	0	Didn't you sey that you had learned her in this
23		. courtroom it was 18.3 per scroad
24		I think it was confirmed to me. I am not enter
25		

1	sir.
2	Q You said practically constant?
3	A Within those three frames, yes. I do not think
4	it had accelerated or any deceleration
5	in those three frames.
6	o bo you know what the speed of the limousine
7	to the second of
80	A mo, sir.
9	o Do you know whether it was going fast or slow
0	at the time of the assassinction?
	THE COURT:
2	I am not trying to assist the withers, but
3	can you tell us what you mean by
4	"fast," or what you mean by "slow"?"
5	MR. DYMOND:
6	If the Court please, I am talking to an a
7	expert here.
8	THE COURT:
9	But your question is confusing.
0	-MR. DYNOND:
15.00	

any lides as to the speed, low bear which apparently he does lets.

THE COURTE

If the State objects, I will sustain the

	objection that the question is not
- 185 A	properly before the witness tre
	not a proper question, was be soon
	fest or slow.
10	9 311)
11	A so.
-11	
	A Nowhere do The
14	A Nowhere do I know how fast the Lincustre was
15	
16	Q Mowhere in the Zapruder do you know how cares
17	limousine was goings
	acive any idea as to the teleptor
	The West State Comment of the State of the S
	Q Doctor, Would you tastify the audest about
	tion of a vehicle would not be
	Occupane hacky and a second se
	AP did not throw the other consumer but

1	Q	It did not?
2	A	It did not.
3	0	You are sure about that?
4	A	It is demonstrated with the Zapruder film it
•		did not, sir.
6	Q	And you did not take into account any account
7		tion or speed?
	. 	I assume it did not because the other occupants
2.		retained their relative positions
10	Q	Are there any other assumptions upon which your
11		testimony has been based?
	3	Not at the present time. You might drig out
13		some that I am not aware of.
14	0	Well, Doctor, it's your testimony, don't you
13		know whether it was based on assumptions?
16.	2	Well, the sun striking the object from the
17		camera, I don't know whether it was
18		Kodachrone film, I don't know the details
E		of the development, no, I confidence There
20		things.
7.2		in Dallas at the time of the Carabi W
		Praise SEC
STATE OF THE PARTY OF	The state of the s	

11

14

13

23

I will change the form of the question.

BY MR. DYMOND:

- o pid your calculations take into account the speed and direction of the wind in Dallas at the time Frame 313 was taken 7
- A The speed and direction of the wind ma related
 to the traversing of the bullet path age
 lasignificant sir
- Doctor, please answer the question, and if you didn't understand it, I will have it was
- will tell them to me, I will take them in to secount.
- O You have not taken them into eccount up until
- H A No. but, if you will, I will do so.
 - such a thing as a delegate searcion of paint
 - A If a person is unconscious or under anachusta.
 - Q Would you say that is the only educately index

1	A	It depends on your definition of "delayed,"
2		sir.
3	Q.	Have you ever heard of a person having bean
		stabled or shot and not realizing that
3		anything happened to him?
6	A	Not realizing it in the cerebral cortex of his
7		brain, that is correct.
8	0	Have you sver heard of a person stabbed or shot
9		and not showing any immediate reaction to
10		147
11		Not in a normal person riding in an automobile
12		with the attention of a growd, waving to
13/		the crowd, no, sir, I do not,
	0	Have you ever seen a person waving in an auto-
15		mobile to a crowd shot?
46	A	No. I haven't, sir.
17	0	Have you made any investigation into the
18	1 (1)	normalay of the people that on light the first
		1963, in Dallas?
20	A	In relation to the President 1 have a series
	Q	What:
.22	A	Re vas Acces, sir.
23.	Q	In all the same of
24		His doctor had examined him and sopra-
25		telding this visit to the city of the last and

riding in the automobile, sir, his dector had taken this into account. And from that you would conclude his reaction 3 to pain, trauma, would be normal. that correct? Yes. 6 Was that the only information upon which that 7 assumption is based? Yes. 9 Prior to November 22, 1963, did you ever have 10 occasion to meet President John Kennedy? I think I shook hands with him, sir. 12 How about Governor Connally? Not Governor Connally, I tried several times 14 to get an appointment with Governor Connall 15 and he rejected mo. 16 Governor Connally rejected you, you say? 17. Yes, he did not answer my letters. Now, Dr. Nichols, have you ever heard of differences in thresholds of pain, that is, some people being able to stand or endure 21 pain better than others can? I am quite well aware of that I have conducte experiments on that myself You have? Did you feel that that was a conside 25

	-mail and 10 Feb	and have the a constant of the constant management and the constant of the con
1		tion which should be taken into account
2		by you at arriving at your conclusion?
3	. A	Yes, and I did so, I took that into account
		when I assumed the President was in good
5		health and Governor Connally weathr and
6		state of good health, they were not in-
		toxicated.
		is good health and intoxication, are those
9		the only two factors that would have any
10		thing to do with the threshold of pain?
11	ň	They are the two most important things.
12	0	What other factors are there?
13	N.	Let me modify that and say they are the only
14		factors.
15	0	What other factors did you have is mind?
16		I have changed
17	o -	What did you mean when you say they were the
		two most important?
19	A	I can't think of anything now,
20	a	You changed your mind, you say, postage 1
	14	At the present time, Bir, I can only the say
		en - one thing, as a matter of fact, that
		changes the threshold of Palm and School
		nealth and the second of the s
/ \$		

That is the only one, sir. All right, I see. Now, Doctor, have you ever attempted to determine the direction of the shot from photograph c evidence only prior to this time? 5 Yes, I have, sir. 6 can you tell us about that, please. It is very tricky and very misleading. With a low caliber bullet, it can be done, with es en are de la superior de la constant de la const brain, sir, the head? 11. Any shot. Any shot? Right. Certainly if you established the bullet entering in one part of the anti-one (no (n)) in 16 in another part of the anatomy and you 17 assume the person as an an am remedia position, y have we then all a on sale articles, it is reasonable some that it 20 re-ve at an approximate angle that to the police. Is the pest may to determent the entraines and point of cell of

- A To see the offender fire the shot.
- 0 You would not want to examine the body of the victim?
 - A You asked me the bost, sir.
- Q The best is to see the shot fired?
 - A Yes.

13

14

13

19

20

O Let's assume you do not see the shot fired,
what would then be the best way of determining where the bullet entered of
exited?

of the human body, is a small affair it is smaller than the bullet is itself.

and as the bullet hits, enters, and the speed of the bullet rubbing against the skin produces a small burn, this appears blackened, I am assuming we are as a side where it emerges the bullet hole as larger, usually, not slwnys, but usually study the bullet hole entrance usually study the bullet hole entrance usually study the bullet hole entrance usually.

pinpoints it, but you eas here the test

tain. Now, Doctor, wouldn't some of the same factors apply to a head wound -3 I am suing ---- with a high velocity rifle? I am suing the Federal Government for permissio to look at the X-rays and the provides of the head in order to find out more Exactly than I have at the present time! vante de la comercia consider it very important from a petholog 11 cal standpoint to be given access to the 12 photographs and films of President Kennady for the purpose --It is very important. 15 It is very important? Yes. 17 And you feel that you could add to the exign There of your course was a law and a 19 A PREMIUM LINES ENGLISHED BEING I feel there is a reasonable resulting 1 might. Mon Duction From the standpoin pathologist, which is the perdeeting in determining the point of the said

It depends on who examines the body, slave were

when you say who examines the body, amount to appear the proof of the standpoint of

elon?

20

21

Ability and qualifications and provide (C)

perionco. Previous emperience is very important. . I take it then, sir, that assuming that much a determination were made but the progist of your ability and with your experience, after having examined the remains of the viciliar you sent a total end pute his findings on the basis of berg Photographic evidence such as you have had Is that correct? 10 the state of the s you speaking, sir? 12 In any case. 13 I can't talk about any case. Why not? I have to know all of the devails of the case. Yes, I do not know whether well a so high I would have to know the details, because 18 and shappear to hone to the Allie of the an LOSON TO CONTRACT OF Wouldn't it be fair to caveling you circus to see these to reve and

for yourself whether your opinion is correct? 3 I want to know the truth, the whole truth; and nothing but the truth -5 And you want to see whether your epinion is 6 correct. Isn't that right, a grate A I would like to confirm it. MR. DYMOND: That's all, sir. 10 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. OSERI TO BE THE PARTY OF 12 13 as vs. 18, " and I ask your to you have the 14 seen this particular rifle before, wir. MEN. I step down from the Wichelst at the Con-THE COURT Yes. THE WITHESE A 19 May I refer to my notes, sir? THE COURT! 21 ACCEPTANCE TAXABLE PROPERTY. weres. MR- CSERVE Do not read from your notes the

Yes, I purchased this rifle from

Smitty's Gun Shop in Kansas City

on October 10, 1968, sir, it is my

BY MR. OSERI

2

15

16

建

- Q And what type of gun is this, Doctor?
- A This is an Italian Army rifts, it is more

 commonly known as a Manlicher Caroena

 Rifts Caliber 6.5
- have occasion to use this rectorish.

 Tifle in your researchs
- Not this particular rifle, sir, ut : have

 used six other rifles similar to the

 in my research.
- that is on that viole, postor

blued for me at -- by another firm. MR. OSER: That's all. RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DYMOND: Doctor, are all Manlicher Carcana Rifles 6,5 millimeters? A No, sir, there are those that are 7.2 and 7.5, and there is a toy gun that Mussolini had cut down to train the 14-year-old children, also a Manlicher Carcana that 11 shoots blanks. 12 MR. DYMOND: 13 No further questions. 14 THE COURT: 15 Is there any further need for Dr. Nichols under his subpoena? MR. OSER: 18 No, sir. 19 20 24

81.

<u>CERTIFICATE</u>

I, the undersigned, a Deputy Official Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiane, authorized and empowered by law to administer oaths and to take the depositions of witnesses under L.R.S. 13:961.1, as amended, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing deposition is true and correct as taken by me in the above-entitled and numbered cause (s).

I further certify that I am not of counsel nor related to any of the parties to this cause or in anywise interested in the event thereof.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, on the

OFFICIAL COURT REPORT