

Typically, every thing the government says about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy leaves more questions than it answers. In the case of the pi autopsy pictures and Xrays, few questions are answered, none unequivocally, and entirely new questions are raised.

The Washington Post for November 4, 1966, quotes two of the autopsy doctors as concluding the pictures they saw the previous day are actually those of the autopsy. There is nothing stronger they can say, for they never saw the pictures before. Why, then, can the doctors see pictures <sup>when the government is in distress</sup> three years after the assassination when the autopsy pictures were denied them - and they knew this would be the case - as the basis for their testimony. During the testimony, to meet the requirements of the legal test of "best evidence", these pictures and Xrays were requisite.

It may, of course, be true that the doctors are confident these are the pictures, and it is horrible to conceive that these could be other than the genuine pictures taken at the time of the autopsy and delivered undeveloped to the Secret Service. But what is conspicuously lacking in the government's statements is another legal requirement, a chain of evidence linking these pictures from the autopsy bench to the archive. (I discuss this at some length in my <sup>new</sup> forthcoming book, WHITEWASH II: WHO DID IT!)

The doctors are quoted as saying "the pictures showed just what we testified to." Here again, substantial questions, for the doctors testified to much, including the impossibility of that one magical bullet, Exhibit 399, having inflicted seven non-fatal injuries on both the President and Governor and emerging from this unprecedented history virtually intact, unutilated and the word the Report of the President's Commission shuns, undeformed. The doctors also testified that the rear non-fatal injury to the President coincided with the damage to his garments. This damage was approximately six inches below the collar, not in the neck, as the doctors also testified. This conflict in the medical testimony cannot be reconciled by claims of dissaray in the President's tailored clothing.

The junior of the doctors, J. Thornton Boswell, is further quoted as saying, "The pictures proved that 'the drawing we submitted' to the Commission " was identical with the photographs." There is but a single drawing fitting the singular description. That is the drawing made on the autopsy bench and reproduced on page 197 of WHITEWASH. It shows a back injury and no neck injury. The doctors also submitted several artist's conceptions prepared from recollection and verbal descriptions, not the available pictures. Two of these are on page 196 of WHITEWASH. They show a neck injury. Assuming Dr. Boswell meant his artist's conception rather than the genuine autopsy chart, the conflict here, utterly destructive to the Report, remains entirely unresolved. It is not even addressed, as I first pointed out in WHITEWASH.