

~~16~~
Deposition of Dr. William Kemp Clark, 6H18, March 21,
questioning by Mr. Specter.

Dr. Clark is the Director of Neurosurgery at Parkland Hospital. His time sequences show him notified of the President's injuries before they happened and put him in the emergency room ¹³ ~~12~~ minutes before he said in his statement (report page 516) the arrival of the President. His handwritten note of ~~the~~ November 22, 1963 dated 1516 hours, says also the incident began at 12:20 ~~11:14/1220~~ p.m.. Other doctor's statements show Clark was not the first at the scene. On 6H20 he identifies four who certainly preceded him; there is a possibility of as many as seven.

The press conference at 2:30 on November 22, 1963 he says was arranged by the White House (Kilduff). He described the head wound and Perry (6H22) as saying he "felt that the (neck) missile had entered the President's chest." and he says Perry reported the wound was "small and clean so it could have been an entrance wound."

The contradiction perhaps involving perjury between his version of Perry's telephone conversation with the Bethesda Naval Hospital and that of Perry is summarized under Perry.

In connection with the Commission's noted unusual treatment of Dr. Perry and some of the other doctors this contradiction perhaps is a clear indication of why. What is not easy to understand however is why if the doctors had been wrong in saying that the anterior neck wound was initially one of entrance they couldn't simply say that ^{the} ~~it~~ in/light of other evidence they had made a mistake and freely admit what the mistake had been. This could have been done on behalf of the doctors by other government officials. And why should Dr. Perry have lied if not worse about what Dr. Humes

2

had told him? And if Dr. Perry did commit perjury are we to assume that he committed it ~~in~~ ^{entirely} on his own? Would he, for no apparent reason, run the risk of jail and ^{the} ruin of his career, perhaps even a ^{unique} niche in the annals of infamy?

Dr. Clark says that Price and Shires may have been present when Perry made his statement.

Connally was conscious until anesthetized for surgery (page 24).

On page 26 Specter asks Clark to identify two statements he made--the only ones he made, Clark said. Specter said of one "I now show you the second and third sheets, which purport to be the summary made by you and ask if that was prepared by you?" and of the second Specter said, "And I now show you a 2³/₄-page summary which purports to bear your signature, being dated November 22, 1963, and I ask you if that, in fact, is your signature?" Then Specter asks "And, was, in fact, this report made in your own hand..." All Clark's responses were affirmative.

The facts are not as represented. There is a two-page handwritten report virtually illegible because of the nature of the paper upon which it was written and the introduction, signed, dated November 22, 1963, 1615 hours in the report on pages 524 and 525. There is also a typed document (report 516-8), not in Clark's "own hand" about which there is some mystery. It is, in fact, ^{not} ~~dated~~. It is signed. The third page is numbered 2 and the second page which appears to be the first is numbered 1. The first page is not complete and is less than a half page in length with the ~~word~~ word "Statement" written in a neat hand in the upper right. The rest of the sheet has been cut off and the reproduction

3

shows only the part of the page with the typing. It seems to be in a different typing than the other two pages. It is this part which begins with the statement that the President arrived at exactly 12:43 p.m.. The second page has a heading, "Summary". This also is one of the cases the time of 12:43 wasn't changed to 12:38, important if the tenuous Oswald time reconstruction isn't to be destroyed. Elsewhere () it is indicated that this cut-off sheet of typing was a letter addressed to the President's doctor.

Clark had been earlier interviewed by ^{both} the FBI and Secret Service twice. On ~~one~~ one occasion the Secret Service asked if he "had a copy of the written report submitted by Dr. Ronald Jones, and I told him I did not."

Copies of all the reports of all the doctors were kept under lock and key at the hospital. It seems unlikely that the Secret Service was in need of the report. What would seem more likely is that the Secret Service didn't want extra copies of this or any other report kicking around.

Dr. Clark also was rehearsed.

He was questioned by Specter again four days later, on March 25, 1964. He was asked whether he ever made statements quoted from the translation of an article from the February 20, 1964 issue of "L'Express", which in turn quotes the New York Times of November 27, 1963 as its source. Note that the New York Times is not quoted here but the French paper. Specter reads "Dr. Kemp Clark, who signed the Kennedy death certificate, declared that a bullet hit him right ~~at~~ where the knot of his necktie was." The story also

4

quotes Clark as saying "this bullet penetrated into his ^{chest} ~~chest~~ and did not come out." The ~~surgeon~~ surgeon went on to say that the second ~~wound~~ wound of the President was 'tangential' and that it had been caused by a bullet which hit 'the right side of his head'".

The last item quoted should be considered in the light of the efforts of some of the doctors to make it seem as though they considered that one bullet might have done all the damage, hence attempting in this fashion to explain their original implied opinions that the wound in the neck was one of entrance. Dr. Clark does not deny making the statement. He admits using a phrase "where the knot of his necktie was". He says "I do not recall ever specifically stating that this was an entrance wound". Dr. Clark also says of Dr. Perry that he "assumed" the "penetration of the missile into the chest." The addition to Dr. Clark's testimony was also rehearsed.