

Archie - And he was all shook up. I said forget about it. Why would they want to take a bunch of ours. I said who for well this one guy. I said where did you find out. He said well you know where they found out, this guy that knew him see. I said how do you know he's the one that pushed him. Well we just know I said you just know. I said you can't even tell me let alone to over there in court and hold up your little right hand and swear to the fact that this damn guy was up there doing the shooting. ----- we didn't see no gaddammed shooting.

Baird - That's right you didn't see him.

Archie - I said that's the things with these young kids. I could fabricate something and leave it go. Down there within a time we can't call up a ----- you ----- yourself and do it. The son-of-a-bitch he's still on the muscle when you get there you get on the muscle ten times at home.

Baird - Yeah.

Archie - But you pull up and leave that son-of-a-bitch see the police car coming, look at you coming up, and then if there's any guilty partner they're gone. If it's anything very serious the people that still live will know who it is, right.

Baird - Yeah.

Archie - Therefore, if these people did their ----- action been taken who the hell would take the warrant. But if they like that son-of-a-bitch over there was shooting at my ----- come ----- his boy is involved in it see. They'd shoot his ass. Well that's just what I heard now. I mean something else ----- But that ----- he claims he don't know who's doing the shooting, and I recall real well when I was 13 years, no 14 years old a guy was carrying a gun for my use and I started carrying one for him. I knew who he was, of course, my mother and dad never did know that. But this punk, 53 years old, he's trying to come out and tell me that his 15 year old boy, which is bigger than I am, he don't know who started shooting his ass. Now if one of my boys comes in and tells me daddy someone out there tried to shoot me or did shoot at him I want to know who did it and if they say I don't know the next thing I'm going to do is to slap them back end quarter or someplace and ask them again. Because I remember that old repeat with going to school, running in and going out here and around and dating and all that, getting involved and that kind of shit. He's at least going to know a few nicknames or something.

Baird - Yes, that's right.

Archie - If the bastard isn't strong enough he'll come around, your house, ----- two eggs. You'll know who he is if you're 15 or 16 years old.

Baird - Yeah, that's right.

Archie - But you try tell some of these kids like Davis and Kenneth, or ah Stuart, Roger, oh, he's way out anyway. Well I sure appreciate it sir.

Baird - Good luck Mr. Blair, and we'll see you later.

Archie - That damn thing here is about ready to fall apart. ----- fall apart -----

Baird - -----

The following is an examination of this tape by the Technical Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

Because the HSCA tape was provided for only a brief period of time, only limited examination of the tape could be conducted. The following sets forth results of examination of the HSCA tape and technical analysis of the copy of the tape produced at FBI Headquarters:

Physical inspection of the HSCA tape revealed it to be standard 1/4-inch wide magnetic tape on a standard 5-inch diameter clear plastic reel. Into the plastic of the reel was scratched "BFB 1 4-5-77." The tape had the appearance of standard 1/2 mil (1 mil = .001 inch) thickness. A measured playback time of approximately 59.5 minutes at 3 3/4 inches per second supports the assumption that the tape is standard 1/2 mil thick. The tape backing was polyester plastic and no unusual visual characteristics or coloration of the oxide were noted.

In summary, the reel of tape furnished appeared to be commonly available standard tape and of a length within the expected tolerances of tape manufacturers. This type of tape would have been available in 1965.

Development of the magnetic patterns on the beginning of the HSCA tape revealed that it was recorded in a 1/2-track configuration, that is, the recorded information covers 1/2 the width of the tape. This is a standard tape recording configuration. For the purposes of convention, the recording of the pertinent conversation will be referred to as "side 1." There is present on the tape a second "side" (designated as "side 2") which is a second

track of recorded information. This information is recorded backwards relative to side 1, indicating the recorder used was probably 1/2 track monaural. This again is a standard recorder configuration and recorders of this type would have been common in or around 1965.

As indicated previously, the playback time of the tape at standard 3 3/4 inches per second speed was measured to be approximately 59.5 minutes. The recorded information on side 1 and 2 is, however, of substantially shorter duration. The recordings have the effect of continuously slowing down causing the voices to drop in pitch and requiring constant upward speed adjustment of the playback recorder to normalize the speech. The observed effect is however opposite to that which normally occurs when batteries grow weak on battery-operated recorders. There might be other explanations for this effect based upon mechanical considerations of the recorder transport mechanism but exact cause cannot be determined without specific knowledge of the type of recorder used. Speed-correction of the recording revealed that the side 1 recording was approximately 34 minutes duration. The conversation on side 1 ran off the end of the tape. The side 2 recording was measured at approximately 34 1/2 minutes duration and the conversation terminated prior to the end of the tape.

The following additional information is provided concerning specific items of interest:

1) Nothing unusual about the physical characteristics of the HSCA tape to indicate the age of the recording was observed. Some oxide was missing from the very end of the tape which usually indicates the tape has been used to a considerable extent. It is entirely possible that the tape could have been used to record a conversation in 1965.

2) There is no clear indication of whether the HSCA tape was an original or a copy. This kind of determination is dependent upon availability of the recorder used to make the recording as well as further detailed study of the HSCA tape.

3) The acoustic characteristics of the recording (reverberation, enhanced low frequency components to the voices, extraneous noises) indicate the recording could have been made in an automobile or other vehicle. If a remote microphone was used, it would not be necessary that the recorder itself be in the passenger compartment. At approximately 21 minutes 23 seconds into side 1, the recording indicates Blair to be returning to the vehicle. The sound

of the vehicle door slamming shut behind him is audible. Little other vehicular traffic is evident on side 1. At 5 minutes 4 seconds a passing vehicle is audible, at 5 minutes 55 seconds a sound similar to squealing tires is present and at 6 minutes 35 seconds a series of distant explosions is audible to which Baird comments "Backfires."

The side 2 recording was made in an environment similar to side 1. On side 2 considerable more extraneous noise is evident. At 1 minute 3 seconds, 2 minutes 48 seconds and at 5 minutes 13 seconds traffic is heard to pass. At 25 minutes 36 seconds and again at 28 minutes, 44 seconds jet aircraft are audible and quite pronounced, indicating the vehicle is parked relatively close to an airport. It should be kept in mind, however, that sides 1 and 2 are independent recordings and could have been made at substantially different times. There is, further, no technical indication of which side, side 1 or side 2, was recorded first.

4) It is very likely that the "introduction" did not occur in sequence with the remainder of the side 1 recording. For approximately 8 seconds prior to the "introduction" the recorder was activated. Although no voice is audible there are audible tones present on the recording. Frequency measurement of these tones indicate the tape was running slower than normal speed and was continuously decreasing in speed (discussed previously).

Beginning 8 seconds into the recording and continuing for another 50 seconds (the segment which includes the "introduction") the tones suddenly shift upward in frequency and the recording occurs at normal speed. Immediately following the "introduction", 58 seconds into the recording, the tones shift downward in frequency discontinuously to a point comparable to the first 8 seconds of the recording. The "introduction" begins with an apparent recorder start transient, a recorder stop transient is evident at the end of the introduction, but no similar start transient is apparent. The above suggests that the "introduction" may have been inserted over the existing recording but a more definitive conclusion on this point cannot be reached without developing and examining the magnetic patterns on the HSCA tape.

5-6) The recorder appears to have been activated manually. Bumping and handling of the microphone is audible prior to recorder turnoff during the conversations. This suggests that the remote switch which activates the recorder may be incorporated in the microphone housing. During the

conversation on side 1, the recorder was stopped and started on two occasions, at 14 minutes 40 seconds and again at 21 minutes 10 seconds. These stops do not occur during the pertinent conversations.

7) Indications are that the tape was manually turned over to obtain recordings on both sides. No auto-reverse markings or sensor tape was observed on the HSCA tape and there is no time relationship between the respective recordings on side 1 and 2 to indicate auto-reverse had occurred.