

Alexander East only by witness. Filed under East

HSCA PM 11/9/78

Missed less than minute of Blakey's opening narration.

Committee attempted to draw on other scientific disciplines, as with NAAs on chair from Ray's auto but could not be matched with samples of "years later." Psychological study carefully examined but decided "not likely" to produce dependable results. Some they will go into in report:

Engineering firm on angles and distances to rooming house.

"Consistent with bathroom window."

Fingerprints analysis - Ray's. No other prints traced

Handwriting-Ray's

P OLYGRAPHS* in a.m.

Firearms:

Claims not exact science - quotes Lane in defense of FBI for not making definitive statement. Refers to lab work I got under FOIA and makes no mention of this. Or to my uses in F-U.

Makes no ref. to any NAA comparison between fired and unfired.

Says could not determine if all had been in same box.???

Claims that not giving panel results of FBI's earlier work made it impartial. Results well known. Selected panel when Kershaw was Ray's counsel and he would not participate. Some same as JFK panel.

Panel did its work last year. Examined rifle, empty case, box, unfired cartridges and other evidence. Nothing that I didn't get.

Issues to panel: did rifle fire bullet, was loaded by hand or by magazine; was bullet and case one; did rifle indent windowsill board; damage to clothing consistent? and others. Calls panel.

Wm Webb questions. Begins with explanation of firearms identification.

Described comparison microscope for observation. (Speaks like he is reading from prepared text in answer to also written questions)

No ref. to such photos. This is Neuquist (phon)

George Wilson, DC police dept. unit. Describes panel's procedures.

John Bates on results, rifle Q2 (F-145) He also appears to be reading.

Test fired rifle.. Demonstrates how rifle works. Includes clip. Says can be hand loaded but does not say how difficult or unreasonable.

Found "residue" in barrel and cleaned it with cotton. Dirt, soot, smoke, firearms discharge residues. (Not asked and does not say FBI fired.)

Says they found it at 3-power magnification and FBI report said they got it at 6 1/2 power magnification.) Says re scope that FBI fired.

Fauntroy asks next questions instead of counsel, begins with bullet Q64. Shown to Wilhelm. Bullet now in 3 parts. Uses photos taken through microscope. Used test bullets fired into water tank. Looked for striations. Conclusions: all agreed unable to find sufficient striae to say came from that rifle to exclusion of all other weapons. (Did they consider negative proofs - not from that rifle?) Explanation limits to positive comparison with Q64 when he goes over it again.

Fauntroy requests and ask why they can't make positive identification, not can they make negative identification. (Found variations in striae in test-fired bullets. Variations is not the same as saying they found no identification makes at all. But he says inconclusive which may be intended to include this.

Q3 casing next. With photos. Champagne testifies on this. Was fired in Q2 rifle. (Is he asked is this consistent with being planted, not only used in crime?) Compares with unfired cartridges of same manufacture Refers to military bullets without saying they had marks on them although unfired. (Does he testify to NAAs on materials of similar cartridge?) No.

Webb goes into clothing and windowsill. Lutz (phon) Examined shirt, other clothing. Does he go into what caused damage, esp. tie, and residues other than lead or powder (powder only from close shot). Chemical tests for powder residues. Negative. Tested only for lead, found some consistent with small particles from fragmenting bullet. Jacket, same examinations, Phone call here but think he says clothing damage consistent with bullet or fragments.

Windowsill: Examined one area indicated on photo with arrow pointing to "slight indentation" about 5/16. (There are two such places.) "Due to their irregular surface of the wood itself...we were unable to" make any identification. Chemical tests negative, no gunshot residues.

Dodd, Kinney pass. Fauntroy asks Bates about accuracy of scope and he limits to saying does not know enough about what could have happened since found. Does not comment on FBI's report. Dodd comes back and asks about magnification setting and asks if that is the difference he was referring to. Says he has seen no report on setting when found. Doesn't know if anyone checked with FBI. Asks counsel to "clear that up for me?" Counsel says he can't now but says "normal procedure to examine setting as he received it," not exact quote, meaning when FBI got it. Dodd goes over conclusions. Does not ask if proof bullet not fired from rifle.

Estimates that they can make ~~possibilities~~ identifications in 85% of cases.

Adjourn 2:30. Both sessions light and limited, as in keeping things simple for what they want in papers, not for taking most testimony possible morning or afternoon. About 230 on side 1 of tape 4. NPR concluding commentary included on tape, to end side. Incomplete.

Neither committee nor NPR note difference between panel and FBI on windowsill examination. Prosecution alleged microscopic markings on it consistent with rifle, panel said not.

Tomorrow on "possible motive."