

Alsop in particular and the WH and its supporters in general have overplayed, exaggerated and distorted the possibilities of error and the consequences if there were error in the report of the panel of experts on the missing 18 minutes. Their desperation is apparent because they are not waiting to learn if it is possible that they know what they are talking about and perhaps more, because there are other erasures and those others can't be Rose Mary's BooBoo. Or the Uher's alleged malfunction.

The Alsop onslaught seems to be based upon inaccurate representation of repair of the machine by these experts, including of loose connections. He reported wrongly that they had also removed an electrical bridge and thrown it away. They preserved it.

No nowhere have I seen any description of the kind of loose connection that was repaired. It depends on what circuits they were in before they could be causative and then on their nature and then whether they were loose mechanically or electrically. What is not generally understood is that a loose mechanical connection can still be a tight electrical connection. If it were at a terminal where the conductor was looped around the terminal, whether or not secured with screws or nuts the electrical connection could still be quite secure. If the conductor were of a rigid material a connection that could slide, as on a thin bolt, could still be electrically snug. In fact, in a device that is not being moved, even a loose connection is generally in contact if it works at all. Two wires that merely touch, while not called a connection, may be all the connection needed. They are enough to cause disasters from fire and explosions.

There is another and entirely ignored factor. Everyone assumes that the Rose Mary Uher was, when the tape was erased, in exactly the condition in which it was so long thereafter when it was used in tests. Entirely aside from all the moving it sustained near Washington, it was on planes, used in Florida, I think at Camp David, and helicopters vibrate much, etc. And over and above this, it was deliberately altered after the erasures. This means that those who were inside its works were fooling around with wires and connections. It also means that a sophisticated tamperer could have installed the defective part (in the absence of any proof it was original equipment). So, the alteration(s) that are pivotal in any testing are not those of the experts, who are being criticized for them, but those prior to this by the WH, which are not even being mentioned.

HW 2/22/74