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ASSASSINATION HIGHLIGHTS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, NOV. 23 (AP)-FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VOLUMES OF TESTIMONY ON PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION TAKEN BY THE WARREN COMMISSION FROM SOME KEY WITNESSES:

JACQUELINE KENNEDY:

WE COULD SEE A TUNNEL IN FRONT OF US. EVERYTHING WAS REALLY SLOW THEN AND I COULD REMEMBER THINKING IT WOULD BE SO COOL UNDER THAT TUNNEL...

I GUESS THERE WAS A NOISE, BUT IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE ANY DIFFERENT NOISE REALLY BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH NOISE, MOTORCYCLES AND THINGS. BUT THEN SUDDENLY GOVERNOR CONNALLY WAS YELLING "OH, NO, NO, NO."

AND MY HUSBAND NEVER MADE ANY SOUND. SO I TURNED TO THE RIGHT. AND ALL I REMEMBER IS SEEING MY HUSBAND, HE HAD THIS SORT OF QUIZZICAL LOOK ON HIS FACE, AND HIS HAND WAS UP, IT MUST HAVE BEEN HIS LEFT HAND. AND JUST AS I TURNED AND LOOKED AT HIM, I COULD SEE A PIECE OF HIS SKULL AND I REMEMBER IT WAS FLESH COLORED. AND I JUST REMEMBER SEEING THAT. NO BLOOD OR ANYTHING.

AND THEN HE SORT OF DID THIS, PUT HIS HAND TO HIS FOREHEAD AND FELL IN MY LAP.

AND THEN I JUST REMEMBER FALLING ON HIM AND SAYING, "OH, NO, NO, NO," I MEAN, "OH, MY GOD, THEY HAVE SHOT MY HUSBAND." AND "I LOVE YOU, JACK," I REMEMBER SHOUTING. AND JUST BEING DOWN IN THE CAR WITH HIS HEAD IN MY LAP. AND IT JUST SEEMED AN ETERNITY...

THERE WERE PICTURES LATER OF ME CLIMBING OUT THE BACK BUT I DON'T REMEMBER THAT AT ALL.

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LYNDON B. JOHNSON:

I WAS STARTLED BY THE SHARP REPORT OR EXPLOSION, BUT I HAD NO TIME TO SPECULATE AS TO ITS ORIGIN BECAUSE AGENT YOUNGBLOOD TURNED IN A FLASH, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FIRST EXPLOSION, HITTING ME ON THE SHOULDER AND SHOUTED TO ALL OF US IN THE BACK SEAT TO GET DOWN. I WAS PUSHED DOWN BY AGENT YOUNGBLOOD. ALMOST IN THE SAME MOMENT IN WHICH HE HIT OR PUSHED ME, HE VAULTED OVER THE BACK SEAT AND SAT ON ME...

I REMEMBER ATTEMPTING TO TURN MY HEAD TO MAKE SURE THAT MRS. JOHNSON HAD BENT DOWN. BOTH SHE AND SENATOR YARBOROUGH HAD CROUCHED DOWN AT AGENT YOUNGBLOOD'S COMMAND...

WHEN THE CAR CAME TO A STOP, A CORDON OF AGENTS FORMED AROUND ME. AND WE WALKED RAPIDLY INTO THE HOSPITAL AND THEN WENT INTO A ROOM THERE...THE SHADES WERE DRAWN...

MRS. JOHNSON AND I ASKED IF WE COULD SEE MRS. KENNEDY AND MRS. CONNALLY. AGENT YOUNGBLOOD TOLD ME THAT I COULD NOT LEAVE THE ROOM, AND I FOLLOWED HIS DIRECTION. MRS. JOHNSON WAS ALLOWED TO LEAVE FOR THIS PURPOSE...

IT WAS KEN O'DONNELL WHO, AT ABOUT 1:20 P.M., TOLD US THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DIED. I THINK HIS PRECISE WORDS WERE, "HE'S GONE."...

I FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THIS HAD HAPPENED. THE WHOLE THING SEEMED UNREAL--UNBELIEVABLE...I WAS SHOCKED AND SICKENED...

I SUPPOSED, ACTUALLY, THAT THE ONLY OUTLET FOR THE GRIEF THAT SHOCK HAD SUBMERGED, WAS OUR SHARP, PAINFUL, AND BITTER CONCERN AND SOLICITUDE FOR MRS. KENNEDY...WE TRIED TO COMFORT HER, BUT OUR WORDS WERE INADEQUATE...I SHALL NEVER FORGET HER BRAVERY, NOBILITY AND DIGNITY.

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LADY BIRD JOHNSON;

SUDDENLY THERE WAS A SHARP LOUD REPORT--A SHOT...THEN A MOMENT AND THEN TWO MORE SHOTS IN RAPID SUCCESSION. THERE HAD BEEN SUCH A GALA AIR THAT I THOUGHT IT MUST BE FIRECRACKERS OR SOME SORT OF CELEBRATION...OUR SECRET SERVICE MAN WHO WAS WITH US, RUF YOUNGBLOOD, I BELIEVE IT WAS, VAULTED OVER THE FRONT SEAT ON TOP OF LYNDON, THREW HIM TO THE FLOOR AND SAID, "GET DOWN." SENATOR YARBOROUGH AND I DUCKED OUR HEADS. THE CAR ACCELERATED TERRIFICALLY FAST--FASTER AND FASTER...

AS WE GROUND TO A HALT--WE WERE STILL THE THIRD CAR--SECRET SERVICE MEN BEGAN TO PULL, LEAD, GUIDE AND HUSTLE US OUT. I CAST ONE LAST LOOK OVER MY SHOULDER AND SAW, IN THE PRESIDENT'S CAR, A BUNDLE OF PINK, JUST LIKE A DRIFT OF BLOSSOMS, LYING ON THE BACK SEAT. I THINK IT WAS MRS. KENNEDY LYING OVER THE PRESIDENT'S BODY...

SUDDENLY I FOUND MYSELF FACE TO FACE WITH JACKIE IN A SMALL HALL...YOU ALWAYS THINK OF HER--OR SOMEONE LIKE HER--AS BEING INSULATED, PROTECTED; SHE WAS QUITE ALONE. I DON'T THINK I EVER SAW ANYONE SO MUCH ALONE IN MY LIFE. I WENT UP TO HER, PUT MY ARMS AROUND HER, AND SAID SOMETHING TO HER. I'M SURE IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE, "GOD, HELP US ALL," BECAUSE MY FEELINGS WERE TOO TUMULTUOUS TO PUT INTO WORDS...

WE ALL SAT AROUND THE PLANE...I WENT IN TO SEE MRS. KENNEDY AND, THOUGH IT WAS A VERY HARD THING TO DO, SHE MADE IT AS EASY AS POSSIBLE...MRS. KENNEDY'S DRESS WAS STAINED WITH BLOOD. HER RIGHT GLOVE WAS CAKED--THAT IMMACULATE WOMAN--IT WAS CAKED WITH BLOOD, HER HUSBAND'S BLOOD...

THE RIDE TO WASHINGTON WAS SILENT, STRAINED--EACH WITH HIS OWN THOUGHTS.

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SA114WE

GOV. JOHN B. CONNOLLY;

ONCE I HEARD THE SHOT IN MY OWN MIND, I IDENTIFIED IT AS A RIFLE SHOT...THE ONLY THOUGHT THAT CROSSED MY MIND WAS THAT THIS IS AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

SO, I LOOKED, FAILING TO SEE HIM, I WAS TURNING TO LOOK BACK OVER MY LEFT SHOULDER INTO THE BACK SEAT, BUT I NEVER GOT THAT FAR IN MY TURN...THEN I FELT SOMEONE HAD HIT ME IN THE BACK...

I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT THAT HIS--THAT I HAD BEEN SHOT. I KNEW IT WHEN I LOOKED DOWN AND I WAS COVERED WITH BLOOD...SO I MERELY DOUBLED UP, AND TURNED TO MY RIGHT...I JUST SAT THERE, AND MRS. CONNALLY PUSHED ME OVER TO HER LAP...I RECLINED WITH MY HEAD IN HER LAP, CONSCIOUS ALL THE TIME, AND WITH MY EYES OPEN; AND THEN, OF COURSE, THE THIRD SHOT SOUNDED, I HEARD THE SHOT VERY CLEARLY...IMMEDIATELY I COULD SEE ON...MY CLOTHING, I COULD SEE ON THE INTERIOR OF THE CAR... BRAIN TISSUE, WHICH I IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED, AND I RECALL VERY WELL ON MY TROUSERS THERE WAS ONE CHUNK OF BRAIN TISSUE AS BIG AS MY... THUMBNAIL, AND AGAIN I DID NOT SEE THE PRESIDENT AT ANY TIME EITHER AFTER THE FIRST, SECOND OR THIRD SHOTS...

MRS. CONNALLY. WHEN SHE PULLED ME OVER INTO HER LAP, SHE COULD TELL I WAS BREATHING AND MOVING, AND SHE SAID "CT

MRS. CONNALLY. WHEN SHE PULLED ME OVER INTO HER LAP, SHE COULD TELL I WAS BREATHING AND MOVING, AND SHE SAID "DON'T WORRY, BE QUIET. YOU ARE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT." SHE KEPT TELLING ME I WAS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT...

WE BEGAN TO PULL OUT OF THE CALVACADE, OUT OF THE LINE, AND I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AND DIDN'T REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS UNTIL WE GOT TO THE HOSPITAL...

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MRS. JOHN B. CONNALLY:

HE (PRESIDENT KENNEDY) DID NOT SAY ANYTHING. MRS. KENNEDY SAID THE FIRST THING I RECALL HER SAYING WAS, AFTER THE FIRST SHOT, AND I HEARD HER SAY, "JACK, THEY HAVE KILLED MY HUSBAND," AND THEN THERE WAS THE SECOND SHOT, AND THEN AFTER THE THIRD SHOT SHE SAID, "THEY HAVE KILLED MY HUSBAND. I HAVE HIS BRAINS ON MY HAND," AND SHE REPEATED THAT SEVERAL TIMES, AND THAT WAS ALL THE CONVERSATION...

WE GOT TO THE HOSPITAL AND...JOHN HEAVED HIMSELF OVER...SOMEONE SCOOPED HIM UP IN THEIR ARMS AND PUT HIM ON A STRETCHER. THERE WERE TWO STRETCHERS THERE, AND THEN THEY TOOK HIM OFF IMMEDIATELY TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM, AND THEY RAN DOWN THE HALL WITH THE STRETCHER, AND I JUST RAN ALONG WITH THEM...

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SEN. RALPH YARBOROUGH, D-TEX.:

I SAW PEOPLE FALL TO THE GROUND ON THE EMBANKMENT TO OUR RIGHT, AT ABOUT THE TIME OF OR AFTER THE SECOND SHOT, BUT BEFORE THE CALVACADE STARTED UP AND RACED AWAY...

DUE TO THE SECOND CAR, WITH THE SECRET SERVICE MEN STANDING ON THE STEPS ON THE SIDE OF IT, I COULD NOT SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAR DURING THE SHOOTING...

ALL THE SECRET SERVICE MEN SEEMED TO ME TO RESPOND VERY SLOWLY, WITH NO MORE THAN A PUZZLED LOOK...KNOWING SOMETHING OF THE TRAINING THAT COMBAT INFANTRYMEN AND MARINES RECEIVE, I AM AMAZED AT THE LACK OF INSTANTANEOUS RESPONSE BY THE SECRET SERVICE MEN WHEN THE RIFLE FIRE BEGAN.

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