

# CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Bob Richter  
 TO: Les Midgley  
 DATE: Jan. 10, 1967

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Jim Snyder of the CBS bureau in D.C. told me today he is personally acquainted with Dr. Humes. They go to the same church and are personally friendly. Snyder also knows Humes' boss in Bethesda; he is a neighbor across the street from Snyder. Because of personal relationships Snyder said he would not want any of the following to be traced back to him; nor would he feel he could be a middleman in any CBS efforts to deal with Hume.

Snyder said he has spoken with Humes about the assassination. In one conversation Humes said the X-ray of the Kennedy autopsy would answer many questions that have been raised about the path of the bullet going from Kennedy's back through his throat. Humes said FBI agents were not in the autopsy room during the autopsy; they were kept in an ante room, and their report is simply wrong. Although initially in the autopsy procedure the back wound could only be penetrated to finger length, a probe later was made--when no FBI men were present--that traced the path of the bullet from the back going downwards, then upwards slightly, then downwards again exiting at the throat.

One x-ray photo taken, Humes said, clearly shows the above, as it was apparently taken with a metal probe stick of some kind that was left in the body to show the wound's path.

Humes said that a wound from a high power rifle, once it enters a body, causes ~~xxx~~ muscle, etc. to separate and later contract; thus the difficulty in initially tracing the wound's path in the case of Kennedy. Also, once a bullet from a high power rifle enters a body its course can be completely erratic; a neck wound could result in a bullet emerging in a person's leg or any where else.

Humes refused to discuss with Snyder the "single bullet" theory in which the Warren Commission contends the same bullet described above went thru both Kennedy and Gov. Connally.

Humes also said he had orders from someone he refused to disclose --other than stating it was not Robert Kennedy--to not do a complete autopsy. Thus the autopsy did not go into JFK's kidney disease, etc.

Humes' explanation for burning his autopsy notes was that they were essentially irrelevant details dealing with routine body measurements, and that he never thought any controversy would develop from his having done this.

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Humes plans to retire from the Navy this July and has apparently agreed to accept a \$50,000 a year job at a local suburban hospital as a pathologist. Snyder mentioned this as one indication that Humes was not "just another hack Navy doctor," as some reports have made him out to be.

Snyder also mentioned that Humes recently spoke with a Saturday Evening Post writer (probably Richard Whalen) who promised Humes that he, the writer, would do away with the "sensationalism" of reports on the autopsy and deal with the matter accurately. However, the article--which has just come out--"ridicules" the autopsy, tries to tear it to pieces so much that Humes has since contacted an attorney and is investigating the possibility of instituting a suit against the writer and/or the magazine.

Snyder said part of Humes' story--should Humes ever agree to be interviewed--is the followup to his autopsy, the controversy, the inaccuracies, etc., as well as the facts of the autopsy itself.

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