

4937 Normandy Court
Cape Coral, Florida 33904
October 24, 1978

Mr. Donald A. Purdy, Jr.
Staff Counsel
Select Committee on Assassinations
U. S. House of Representatives, W.D.C.

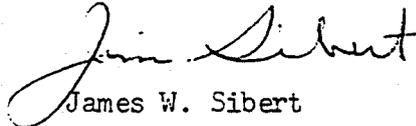
Dear Mr. Purdy:

In accordance with our telephone conversation on October 23, 1978, I am enclosing the affidavit which you prepared and which was enclosed in your letter dated October 18, 1978.

I am also enclosing a signed and sworn affidavit which I prepared and feel to be more detailed and accurate based on my interview conducted on August 25, 1977 at Ft. Myers, Florida.

I trust that such affidavit meets with the approval of staff counsel and the Select Committee. As stated in my most recent phone call, I will be in the Washington, D. C. area from approximately November 6 through November 18, and can be reached at telephone number 935-5294 (College Park, Maryland), should you desire to contact me.

Sincerely yours,


James W. Sibert

Enclosures (2)

JWS:es

AFFIDAVIT

I, James W. Sibert, a resident of Cape Coral, Florida, being duly sworn make oath as follows:

I was interviewed on August 25, 1977 at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Ft. Myers, Florida by James Kelly and Donald A. Purdy, Jr. of the staff of the Select Committee on Assassinations. During the interview I set forth the substance of the information which follows.

At this time I reaffirm that this information is accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge.

This statement is made freely, voluntarily, and without threats, promises, assurances, or remuneration from any sources.

I was assigned to the Baltimore FBI office at the time of the assassination, which has jurisdiction over both Andrews Air Force Base located at Camp Springs, Maryland, and the Naval Medical Center located at Bethesda, Maryland. Specifically, the FBI assumes jurisdiction over violations of certain State laws which are committed on U. S. Government property by civilians.

Upon receiving information that Air Force I was en route to Andrews with the body of the deceased President, I joined FBI Agent Francis X. O'Neill, Jr. at Andrews. Since it was assumed that many dignitaries, members of the news media, and other civilians would be present on arrival of Air Force I, we would be present should any jurisdictional problems arise. We would also be on location should we receive any assignments from our FBI Office at Baltimore or FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Air Force I was receiving landing instructions at Andrews when O'Neill and I were informed that Ed Tully, Agent in Charge of the Baltimore Division, had called the Hyattsville Resident Agency to relay to us instructions he had

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received from Bureau Headquarters in Washington. Tully had instructed us to:

- 1) get in the motorcade, 2) witness the autopsy and stay with the body,
- 3) preserve the chain of custody and take any bullets to the FBI Laboratory.

When the motorcade from the airport arrived at the Naval Hospital, Bobby Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy were let off at the Administration Building. Mr. O'Neill and I helped carry the damaged casket into the autopsy room with some Secret Service agents.

Since there were numerous people, both civilian and military, in the autopsy room, I told O'Neill that we would obtain the names of all individuals present. This was done and at all times, either O'Neill or I was present in the autopsy room with the exception of when photographs and X-Rays were taken, at which time everyone other than radiologists and photographers were asked to leave the room. Most of the time O'Neill and I were both present during the autopsy. Before the initial incisions were made, I recall someone mentioned "checking with the wife regarding a partial autopsy and getting clearances." I believe it was either Humes, Burkley or a Secret Service Agent who wanted to check with Mrs. Kennedy. X-Rays and photographs were taken before any incisions were made.

I recall three major wounds, namely: a large head wound in the upper back of the head with a section of the skull bone missing, a second anterior neck wound characterized by someone as a tracheotomy incision, and a third wound in the upper back. I recall that one thing that struck me was when the President's body was turned on its side, I noticed the scar in the lower back region from the injury which occurred during the P. T. boat incident.

I recall the doctors looking for a bullet in the body in connection with the back wound and becoming frustrated during their search. They probed the wound with a finger and Dr. Finck probed it with a metal probe. They concluded

that the wound went in only so far and they couldn't find the bullet. It was my impression that both Finck and Humes agreed that there was no exit wound of the bullet through the back. The doctors also discussed a possible deflection of the bullet in the body caused by striking bone. Consideration was also given to a type of bullet which fragments completely.

In connection with a possible deflection of the bullet entering the back, some discussion ensued regarding X-Rays of the lower body and the femur areas. There was talk about consultation with Mrs. Kennedy before going ahead with contemplated X-Rays and incisions. I believe that there were a couple of liaison people to Mrs. Kennedy present. I had the impression that the doctors were getting clearances for certain phases of the autopsy from the Kennedy family.

Following discussion among doctors relating to the back injury, I left the autopsy room to call the FBI Laboratory and spoke with Agent Chuch Killion. I asked if he could furnish any information regarding a type of bullet that would almost completely fragmentize. Agent Killion then asked if we knew about a bullet which had been found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital and had been received at the Laboratory from a Secret Service Agent. After this phone call, I returned to the autopsy room and told Dr. Humes about this bullet. I don't recall Secret Service Agent Kellerman saying anything about it. Neither do I recall any of the doctors that night at Bethesda calling Parkland Hospital at Dallas relative to what medical attention was performed on the President while there.

In reference to the head wound I was present when the piece of the missing bone from the skull was brought in during the course of the autopsy. This piece had reportedly been found in the limousine in which the President was riding. This piece of bone was X-Rayed and doctors determined it had evidence of metal

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particles. When the body was first observed on the autopsy table, it was thought by the doctors that surgery had possibly been performed in the head area and such was reflected in my notes made at the time. However, this was determined not to be correct following detailed inspection and when the piece of bone found in the limousine was brought to the autopsy room during the latter stages of the autopsy.

After being developed, the X-Rays of the head were being examined in the autopsy room and the X-ray showed many flecks like the Milky Way. Part of the bullet had fragmentized or disintegrated and most of the metal fragments were very tiny.

As for the anterior neck wound which was described as a tracheotomy incision, I don't recall the neck wound being opened up for examination and nothing was mentioned about it being a possible bullet exit wound.

During the autopsy O'Neill and I took notes, recording such in typical agent size notebooks. We were always close to the doctors and as measurements were made by Dr. Humes or other doctors we would write them down. If I didn't understand the measurements, I requested Humes to repeat them.

When interviewed on August 25, 1977 by staff members James Kelly and Donald A. Purdy, Jr. of the Select Committee on Assassinations, I was shown and examined the autopsy descriptive sheet found in the Warren Report which was prepared by Dr. Boswell. The general location of the wounds appear to be accurate. CE 385 and CE 386, which I also examined, looked accurate as well.

On reflection, I believe Humes was the one who measured the location of the back wound and I personally wrote it down. I also wrote down his measurement of the delivered piece of skull bone, but I have no recollection of hearing or writing down measurements relating to the entrance wound in the President's head.

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At the termination of the autopsy O'Neill and I took possession of a small glass jar with a black metal top. This jar was received from Dr. Humes and contained two metal fragments that he had removed from the head. Both Agent O'Neill and I marked the top of the jar for identification. Prior to leaving for the FBI Laboratory, we signed a receipt for the metal fragments. The Secret Service retained the undeveloped photographs and X-Rays and neither O'Neill nor I handled them. Regarding the listing of those materials in my report, Humes told us the number of X-Rays and photographs; we had no independent verification, we didn't count them.

Regarding the receipt for the "missile", I do not recall exactly how the receipt described the fragments but it was certainly not for a whole missile, rather it was for "some fragments." A single "missile" to me means considerable substance, more of a whole bullet. This receipt was prepared by someone else and typed up by a naval corpsman. If I had prepared the receipt, I would have listed the items as metal fragments. In reference to the fact that one of my reports states that a copy of the receipt for the missile is attached, it is possible that the Baltimore FBI Office may have custody of the original receipt. I never retained any of my notes. The notes made during the autopsy were used to dictate the report and in accordance with Bureau procedures were destroyed after reading the typed report and ascertaining that it was correct.

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I understand that this affidavit may be introduced and received into evidence by the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States House of Representatives, and may lead them to make various findings of fact, and the statutes applicable to Congressional investigations, including but not limited to those concerning false statements, obstruction, or misleading, would subject me to criminal penalties for not telling the whole and complete truth in this affidavit which consists of six (6) pages.

James W. Sibert
James W. Sibert

: ss

Signed and sworn to before me this 24th day of October,
1978.

Kathleen M. Weaver
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA AT LARGE
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES FEB. 13 1982
BONDED THRU GENERAL INS UNDERWRITERS

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