

MEMORANDUM

October 16, 1995

To: David G. Marwell
T. Jeremy Gunn
cc: Thomas Samoluk

From: Dennis J. Quinn

Subject: Status of Search For Parkland Statements of Medical Treatment

Researchers Thomas Battocletti and Kathleen Cunningham¹ have requested that the Review Board locate and release the “Statements of Medical Treatment” prepared by the physicians at Parkland Hospital and allegedly “given to Admiral George G. Burkley and ‘the Secret Service’ prior to 2:08 PM CST on November 22, 1963.”

I. Background

On the afternoon of November 22, 1963, at some point after the President had been declared dead, Parkland Memorial Hospital Administrator Charles Jack Price requested, through Dr. Kemp Clark, that each of the physicians who had treated the President prepare a written summary of that treatment.² Those statements were written between 4:00PM and 5:00 PM that afternoon and given to Dr. Clark, who used them to prepare a summary of the treatment provided to the President. That summary was sent to Admiral Burkley on November 23. Both the summary and the statements written by the treating physicians are appended to the Warren Commission Report as Commission Exhibit 392.³

The Researchers specifically state they are not referring to the medical reports written by the Parkland doctors at 4:00 PM, but statements apparently prepared before the President’s body was removed from the hospital and transported to Love Field.

¹ In addition, these documents are included as Item #14 on the petition submitted by Aguilar, Crenshaw, Cunningham, et al, requesting that the Review Board locate some 83 missing “medical” records.

² Warren Commission Hearings, Volume VI, p. 148, Testimony of Charles Jack Price.

³ Warren Commission Hearings, Volume XVII, p. 1.

II. Discussion

The Researchers cite an FBI report by SA James W. Swinford as evidence of the earlier medical reports. In his report, dated November 25, 1963, SA Swinford writes that Jack Price, Parkland Administrator, advised him that:

The Death Certificate and Statements of Medical Treatment relating to President John F. Kennedy had been taken by George G. Burkley, MD, White House, Washington, D.C. and Secret Service Agents.⁴

While Swinford's language is imprecise, the implication is that both the Death Certificate and the Medical Treatment Statements were handed to Admiral Burkley before he left Parkland with the (JFK) Presidential party at approximately 2:08 PM. Therefore, these Medical Statements would have to be different than those prepared two hours later. Unfortunately, Swinford is the only one who mentions these earlier statements.

In an attempt to locate these documents, I have personally looked at all of the original medical records up at the Archives. I have reviewed the depositions and hearings testimony of all relevant witnesses before the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee. I have searched all of our databases for any reference to Parkland Hospital. I have checked all FBI reports dealing with the treatment of the President, and I have read every Secret Service report or document that is in the JFK Collection. In addition, I have re-read Manchester's *The Death of A President*, Bishop's *The Day Kennedy was Shot* and Lifton's *Best Evidence*. Other than the Swinford Report, I can find no reference to any Medical Statements prepared by the doctors while the body was still at Parkland.

The Swinford report also mentions the Death Certificate.⁵ The fact that this document was signed by Dr. Clark and handed to Dr. Burkley is referenced in numerous sources, including statements by both doctors. But neither say a word about the earlier treatment statements.

There is ample evidence to suggest that there were no earlier statements of medical treatment. This evidence comes from the treating physicians themselves during their depositions for the Warren Commission. Arlen Spector asked four of the doctors to authenticate the written statements they made after 4:00PM. After doing so,

⁴ FBI Report DL 89-43

⁵ As discussed in previous memoranda, this first Death Certificate (there were three in all) was thought to have been missing by several of the researchers requesting the earlier Medical Statements. A copy of this Death Certificate was recently located at the Archives. According to Steve Tilley, it has been there for many years.

he asked each of them if there were any other written reports they had prepared concerning the treatment of the President. They all replied no.

For example:

Mr. Specter: Doctor(Kemp Clark), did you prepare certain written reports based on your participation in the treatment of President Kennedy?

Dr. Clark: Yes, sir; I did.

Mr. Specter: And now I show you a document which has been supplied to the President's Commission, which we have marked as Commission Exhibit No. 392, and now I show you the second and third sheets, which purport to be the summary made by you and ask if that was prepared by you?

Dr. Clark: Yes, sir; it was.

Mr. Specter: And are the facts set forth in those two sheets true and correct?

Dr. Clark: Yes, sir.

Mr. Specter: And now I show you a 2¾-page summary which purports to bear your signature, being dated November 22, 1963, and I ask you if that, in fact, is your signature?

Dr. Clark: Yes; it is.

Mr. Specter: And, was, in fact, this report made in your own hand concerning the treatment which you rendered to the President?

Dr. Clark: Yes, sir.

Mr. Specter: And are the facts set forth therein true and correct?

Dr. Clark: Yes, sir.

Mr. Specter: Have you made any other written report or other writings of any sort concerning this matter?

Dr. Clark: **No I have not** (emphasis added).⁶

Doctors Carrico, Jenkins and Giesecke respond similarly to the same questions (copies attached). When Mr. Price, the Administrator cited in the Swinford Report, was asked whether the documents identified as CE 392 were all the records made by the examining doctors, he replied yes.⁷

III. CONCLUSION

The testimony of the doctors and Mr. Price, as well as the lack of any additional reference to the "missing" medical treatment statements, lead me to conclude that these documents never existed. I believe that in his conversation with SA Swinford, Mr. Price was in fact referring to the medical statements prepared by the doctors after 4:00 PM. Perhaps Mr. Price was confused about the timing and transmittal to Dr. Burkley. Or maybe Swinford misunderstood Price's description of the events of that afternoon. This is not a signed statement by the administrator, but merely a recounting of his conversation with the FBI Agent. It is very likely he made a error in his report.

In the absence of any additional leads, I recommend that the search for these records be closed.

⁶ WC Hearings Vol VI, p. 26-27. Testimony of Dr. Kemp Clark.

⁷ WC Hearings Vol VI, p.146.