

MEMORANDUM

April 4, 1997

To: Jeremy Gunn
cc: Douglas Horne

From: Eric Scheinkopf

Subject: HSCA Forensic Pathology Panel Interview of Drs. James J. Humes and J. Thornton Boswell

As you requested, I did a comparison of the transcript and tape of the September 16, 1977 interview of Drs. James J. Humes and J. Thornton Boswell by a panel of doctors and HSCA staffers concerning their work on the autopsy of President Kennedy.

The most important conclusion is that there were no important "deviations" between the tape and the transcript concerning the wounds sustained by the President. In that respect the transcript can serve as a good source for future researchers.

However, on several pages of the transcript, the wording differs from that of the tape recording.

Some words are misstated on the transcript and others are missed entirely.

For example, on page 246 in the fifth line the transcript says Dr. Humes mentions the "coronal wall" when in fact it sounds like the "cranial vault." On page 255 Dr. Davis is talking about "entry into the skull" when in fact the word is "scalp." While these incidents do not alter the fact that there were no important deviations concerning the wounds, future researchers would be better served by considering the tape to be the source to refer to in getting a precise record of what occurred at the September 16, 1977 interview. The transcript does not include certain words or phrases as was noted above.

There are times when interruptions in dialogue by alternate simultaneous speakers are not noted so that the words spoken following the interruption appear as if there had been no break in conversation.

For this reason the tape, and not the transcript, is the better tool for a researcher to use.

I do not recommend that the tape be retranscribed. It would require a considerable amount of time and probably expense. As the transcript and the tape do not differ in significant ways regarding President Kennedy's wounds, all that needs to be noted is that the tape is the tool researchers should use to get the most accurate understanding of the interview of Drs. Boswell and Humes.

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File 4.0.2 {JFK Medical}