

As of February 05, 1997

**DRAFT**

### Follow-On Questions for Dr. "J" Thornton Boswell

- I. Autopsy Report: Was There an Earlier Version than CE 387?
  - A. December 9, 1963 FBI Report (excerpt); (c)
  - B. Warren Commission Chief Counsel Rankin, in a 1/27/63 Executive Session transcript, speaks of an autopsy (report) in which the anterior throat wound was caused by a fragment from the head shot; (c)
  - C. Richard Lipsey told the HSCA in 1978 that he was certain, from his observations of the prosecutors at the autopsy, that a bullet exited the front of the throat, and Tom Robinson told the ARRB in 1996 that he remembers a probe passing from an area low in the rear of the skull through the anterior neck (throat) wound on the President's body;
  - D. Separate chains of transmission, for two original autopsy reports emanating from the Secret Service (one in April 1965, and one in October 1967), provide circumstantial evidence that there may have been two "original" autopsy protocols:
    - (1) Burkley/USSS joint receipt dated April 26, 1965 recorded the transfer of original autopsy report and 7 copies from Secret Service custody to Evelyn Lincoln (Robert Kennedy's representative);
    - (2) Letter from Chief, USSS dated October 2, 1967 transferred original autopsy report to National Archives;
    - (3) Receipt from Archives employee Simmons recorded receipt of original autopsy report from USSS on October 3, 1967;
  - E. Late Nov. '63 and early Dec. '63 newspaper accounts repeatedly mention that the anterior throat wound was caused by a fragment from the head shot, and that the back wound did not transit the body.

II. Photography Issues

A. There is evidence that the following photographs (now missing) were either exposed, or printed, or both:

(1) Hole in the back of the President's head (see Spencer, O'Donnell, Riebe);

(2) Small, round wound in forehead above right eye in forehead (see O'Donnell);

(3) Probes in the body (see Knudsen and Karnei);

(4) Bruise on top of the right lung (see Humes);

(5) President lying on stomach (see Riebe and O'Donnell);

(6) President lying on back--full body shot taken from ladder (see Stringer);

(7) President sitting up (legs horizontal, torso vertical), to show back of head wound (see Riebe, Knudsen);

(8) Close-ups of skull entry wound in low occipital region, with scalp reflected to show damage to exterior and interior of skull (see Finck);

(9) Serial sections of brain (see Stringer).

B. Evidence of additional photo formats (beyond present collection at NARA):

(1) Madonia (color negatives and 35 mm);

(2) Spencer (color negatives);

(3) Riebe (35 mm and B & W film packs)

(4) Knudsen (color negatives and B & W film pack)

III. Size of Hole in Back of Head

- A. Boswell 3-D skull
- B. Photowitnesses (see above)
- C. Others at JFK autopsy/Gawlers

IV. Supplementary Brain Examination

- A. There is some evidence that two brain examinations may have taken place: one, on or about Monday, 11/25/63, and the second, during the period between 11/29/63-12/02/63, inclusive: (c)

(1) Evidence for brain examination on or about 11/25/63:

(a) Boswell HSCA interview in 1977 and ARRB deposition in 1996;

(b) Stringer HSCA interview in 1977 and ARRB deposition in 1996;

(c) Humes ARRB deposition in 1996;

(d) Closson comments to HSCA re: when she prepared supplementary autopsy report;

(e) Benson comments to HSCA about preparing tissue slides Monday after the assassination.

(2) Evidence for brain exam between 11/29/63-12/02/63, inclusive:

(a) Finck's 1965 "Blumberg Report," and ARRB deposition in 1996;

(b) Boyers HSCA interview in which he states he prepared body tissue slides on 11/23/63, and brain tissue slides on 12/02/63;

(c) Humes' testimony before Warren Commission in 1964.

B. John Stringer sees enough inconsistencies between his recollections, and the actual brain photographs at NARA today, that he is reasonably persuaded that the NARA brain photos may not be those that he took; the implication here is that these NARA photographs are of a different (and therefore later) event.

(1) He recalled shooting only superior views; collection at NARA shows superior and inferior views;

(2) The B & W negatives at NARA are from a film pack (which he recalls he did not use), and are Ansco Super Hypan film (which he believes he did not use);

(3) There are no photographs in the collection at NARA of serial sections, which he remembers placing on a light box, individually, and photographing;

(4) There are no identification tags (which he remembers using) in the brain photographs at NARA, and the ruler in the photographs does not look like the rulers he remembers.

C. Richard Davis Interview (forthcoming)

IV. Documents Cited as Having Existed at One Time, But Which Cannot be Found Today:

A. Dr. Boswell stated, during interview with Josiah Thompson in 1967, that a second autopsy "Face Sheet" (Descriptive Sheet) disappeared somewhere between the completion of the Bethesda autopsy and the publication of the Warren Report;

B. Dr. Humes destroyed both autopsy notes and a first draft of the protocol (see ARRB 1996 deposition);

(1) CAPT Canada reviewed a first draft on Saturday, 11/23/63 (see Stover to Galloway letter of transmittal dated 11/24/63);

(2) Humes' rationale for destroying notes/draft (i.e., that they contained the blood of the President) seems inconsistent with saving the blood-spattered Autopsy Descriptive

Sheet;

(3) Boswell was fairly certain during his 1996 ARRB deposition that the first draft of the protocol he sighted on Saturday, 11/23/63, was typed -- which seems inconsistent with Humes' rationale for destroying it (i.e., blood of the President).

C. One witness (Dr. Saslaw) recalls Dr. Finck complaining that his autopsy notes disappeared immediately after the autopsy, and had to be reconstructed from memory.

VI. Boswell ARRB Deposition Transcript Reveals Apparent Inconsistency Re: Whether Or Not He Ever Met With Edgewood Arsenal Personnel

A. Boswell said no, under oath; Edgewood Arsenal report, dated March 1965, says yes.