

Questions for March 5, 1997 Interview of Dr. Richard L. Davis

Introduction

Names of participants.
Date of interview
Consent to telephone interview.

Dr. Davis, have you ever been interviewed previously about circumstances surrounding the autopsy of President Kennedy.

By anyone connected with the government.

What have you read about the autopsy.

- I. Professional Career in brief
 - A. Current duties and responsibilities
 - B. Professional education and career prior to 1963
 - C. Duties at AFIP in 1963
- II. Events of November 22-23, 1963: How were you notified of the assassination and what assassination-related events, if any, were you involved in on the evening of November 22-23, 1963?
- III. Did you participate in, or witness, any assassination-related medical procedures after the conclusion of the President's autopsy early A.M. on November 23? If so, what?
 - A. Did you participate in a supplemental brain examination?

[Boswell thought Davis was present at the supplementary examination of President Kennedy's brain on approximately Monday, November 25]
 - B. Who else was present at the brain examination?

Humes

Boswell
Finck
Stringer
Karnei
Anyone else?

- C. When was it conducted? How sure are you of your recollection of its timing?
What other events can you tie it to? (President Kennedy's funeral, shooting of Oswald, Thanksgiving, etc.)
- D. Before the exam began, what had you been told.
About the autopsy.
About any procedures performed on brain. (Sectioning, etc.)
Purpose of the supplemental exam.
Any conclusions that had been reached by that point.
Any hypotheses or questions that needed to be resolved.
- E. Were you present for entire examination? Had anything happened before you arrived.
- F. Did anyone bring any notes or written material to the exam.
Autopsy report.
Face sheet.
Handwritten notes.
- G. What was the appearance of the brain when you first saw it.
Was it in a container.
How did you know it was JFK's brain?
Were you told?
Was there a label with his name on it.
Was there an autopsy number?

How long had it been in container. (How well fixed)
-- What were you told.
-- What assumptions did you make (based on your experience) about
how long the brain had been in formalin?
Describe damage.
Any portions missing.

Had it been sectioned?

Was any biological material present in addition to brain? (*e.g.*, pieces of skull, slides, etc.)

H. Describe procedures performed and who performed them:

a. Describe procedures in order.

1. Weighing.

Was it done.

How much did it weigh?

2. Sectioning--any done? Serial sectioning, or small samples?

3. Photography--any done? By whom? Type camera(s). Views photographed (i.e., superior, or inferior, or both? Sections photographed? Light box present?)

Any cards or labels with autopsy numbers.

4. Did you take any notes? Did anyone take any notes? What happened to them? Did you ever see them afterwards. Did you ever write anything about the exam?

b. Conclusions reached?

damage to brain stem?

damage to cerebellum?

which side?

damage to occipital lobe?

which side?

cause of damage?

surgical?

gunshot?

trace track of bullet?

any fragments found?

surprised none found?

why?

what was done with those found?

entry?

exit?

numbers of bullets?

c. Comments about autopsy made by anyone present? Concerns raised by doctors?

I. Did you participate in any other supplementary examinations? Did you ever hear of any other examinations.

J. Are you aware of any supplementary brain report?

Did you see one.

Were you asked to sign one.

Describe circumstances.

In the ordinary course, would you have signed a supplementary exam.

Was there anything unusual in the circumstances with the preparation of the supplementary report on the brain exam.

IV. Histology

A. Are you aware of any of President Kennedy's tissue samples ever having been sent to AFIP?

B. Did you ever witness any tissue samples from President Kennedy's autopsy on display at AFIP? If so, which tissue? From what organ?

V. Professional or social relationships with the following personnel (when first acquainted/degree, frequency, and nature of regular contact):

A. Dr. Finck

B. Dr. Humes

- C. Dr. Boswell
 - D. Leonard Saslaw
 - E. Anyone else affiliated with the autopsy?
Mr. Stringer?
Dr. Karnei?
- VI. Did you ever discuss the November 22 autopsy with any participants (including Drs. Humes, Boswell, and Finck).

Did anyone ever say anything about notes taken at the autopsy.

VII. Did you ever subsequently see any records from the autopsy or supplementary brain exam.

Photos

Autopsy report

Supplementary report

Notes from autopsy