

## OUTLINE OF PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR JOSEPH E. HAGAN

### I. Introductions

- ARRB's Charter (locating records for the Archives, and clarifying, to the extent possible, conflicts among existing records)
- Discuss Audiotaping of Interview for historical purposes (and to ensure accuracy)
- Start Audiotape
- Self-Introductions, Date, Time, Place, etc. for the Audiotaped Record
- Review ARRB letter to Gawler's and subsequent Subpoena of Mr. Hagan

### II. Documents

- Accept and examine Gawler's documents provided by Mr. Hagan
- Following his initial explanations, remind him we may return to some of them later in the interview

### III. Notification Regarding Gawler's Involvement in Autopsy

- How did you first become aware of your own involvement in preparation of the President for burial? Who told you? What were you told about the tasking? When?
- Did the original plans as relayed to you ever change? If so, how? Who made the changes? When?

### IV. Travel to Bethesda Naval Hospital

- When did you depart enroute Bethesda? How did you travel? With whom did you travel?
- What time did you arrive? Who (from Gawler's) entered with you?
- Where did you enter Bethesda Naval Hospital? (Loading dock, front entrance, some other entrance?)
- Please describe any security precautions you observed upon entry.

### V. Autopsy

- Describe the morgue: how many rooms, what size, how configured?
- How crowded was the morgue proper?
- Did you recognize any of the persons in the morgue?
- Were you acquainted with any of the persons in the morgue?

-How many military uniforms were in the room? How many civilians? How many people total (approximately)?

-Did you see any caskets? How many? Please describe their appearance.

- Did anyone say anything about it/them? Describe what they had been used for in any way?

-What was the general atmosphere like in the morgue? (Noisy? Quiet? Somber? Efficient? Confusing?)

-What general state was the body in when you arrived (i.e., which organs had been removed? What procedures were in progress when you entered the morgue?)

-Photography: did you observe photography taking place? Please describe details (type of camera, flash/floodlights?, tripod?): how many different cameras were in the room during the autopsy itself (as opposed to the embalming), and how many people were using cameras? Did you ever observe more than one person taking pictures during the autopsy simultaneously? When did you observe photography--continuously, or only at certain times? What portions of the body (what wounds or organs) were photographed while you were in the room? What medical autopsy procedures did you see photographed? Who directed the photography? Approximately how many photos did you see taken?

-X-Rays: Did you observe X-Rays taken during the autopsy? About how many? Of which parts of the body? Who was directing the taking of X-Rays?

-Probes: Did you observe metal probes used at the autopsy on the body of the President? Please describe the size and shape of the probes you saw, and where they were used on the body of the President, and in what manner. Who was physically manipulating the probes? Who was directing their use (if a different person than the person manipulating them)? Did you observe photographs or X-Rays taken of probes in the body of the President? Do you recall discussions in the morgue by the prosectors, or others, of what the probes showed or revealed about the nature of the President's wounds?

-Organs of the throat: Did you observe the organs of the throat removed at the autopsy?

-Did you observe any dissection or cutting on the back surface of the President's thorax, or on the back of his neck?

-Discussions by prosectors: Do you recall any conclusions reached by the prosectors regarding the nature of wounds to the President? Do you recall whether the prosectors reached any firm conclusions at all?

-Brain: Did you observe President Kennedy's brain, either before or after removal? What did it look like? Did you observe anyone weigh the brain? Did you hear anyone discuss the extent or the meaning of the damage to the President's brain?

-Prosectors: Who appeared to be in charge of the autopsy? Did the prosectors appear to be in charge, or did they appear to be taking orders from anyone?

-What time did the autopsy proper end? Who declared it over? Did you observe the FBI agents leave? What time did they leave?

## VI. Embalming

- When did embalming begin?
- Which Gawler's employees participated in embalming?
- Did any of the prosecutors or other Naval medical staff participate in the embalming? Were they present in the room during embalming? How many? For the duration, or just part of the procedure?
- Please describe the embalming procedure used on President Kennedy.
- Was there reconstruction of the President's head following embalming? If so, who participated in reconstruction? Just Gawler's people, or also Navy people?
- Please describe, in detail, reconstruction of the President's head.
- Please describe any other preparations for burial not yet discussed.
- Photography during embalming or head reconstruction (or afterwards): Was there any? If so, was it by the same person as at the autopsy, or a different person? Same camera, or different camera? Who directed the photography? How many pictures were taken? Was the body manipulated in any way for the photography? What views were photographed? What was its duration? When did it start/finish?
- X-Rays during embalming or head reconstruction (or afterwards): Did you observe any taken? By whom? The same person as during the autopsy? Who was directing it? How many were taken? When did they start? End? Which views or portions of the body were X-Rayed?
- Did Gawler's staff prepare President Kennedy for an open casket funeral? If so, what did that entail? (Restorative art/wax/hairpieces???)
- What did President Kennedy look like upon completion of all of Gawler's preparations?
- Did you observe President Kennedy's head to be wrapped in a bandage of any kind? If so, why?
- At what time did you and the Gawler's crew conclude your work? To whom (onsite at Bethesda) did you report completion?

## VII. Departure from Bethesda/Removal of Body

- Did you leave before President Kennedy's body left, or afterwards?

- If before: In what condition was the body when you last saw it? In a coffin? Coffin closed? Sealed? Coffin in morgue, or in Navy ambulance, or hearse?
- If after: Please describe all details of the coffin's departure.
- When did you actually drive off, away from Bethesda? Where did you go? When did you arrive?
- Did you write any report(s) about what you had done or witnessed that night?
- How many other caskets (other than the mahogany burial casket) did you observe in the morgue upon completion of your work? What did they look like?

#### VIII. The President's Wounds

- Describe in detail (and please annotate on Grant's Anatomy drawings) your best recollection of the maximum extent of President Kennedy's head wound(s) as seen during the autopsy, prior to embalming and reconstruction of the head.
- Describe in detail (and please annotate Grant's Anatomy drawings) your best recollection of the portion of President Kennedy's head for which bone was still missing at the time you completed your reconstruction work.
- Describe in detail (and please draw) the location of any wounds you observed on the President's neck or torso.
- Specific Questions about wounds:
  - Did you observe a small wound (described as an entry wound by any of the prosectors or anyone else at the autopsy) anywhere on the posterior of the President's skull which was separate from (and below) the large cranial defect?
  - Did you observe any wound of any size in the general areas of the right or left temples of President Kennedy's head?
  - Did you observe a wound on the President's back (his posterior thorax)? Where? Was there one or more than one?
  - Did you observe any wound(s) of any size in the President's chest? Anywhere else on his body?

## IX. Wrap-Up

- Were there any other morticians present? If so, where were they from?
- "Metal Shipping Casket" document: have you seen this document before? What is it? Whose handwriting is on it? Is any of the handwriting yours? Who wrote "...metal shipping casket..."? What does it mean? To which casket does it refer? Does "shipping casket" have a specific meaning in the funeral trade?
- "March 19, 1964 Memo" document: Have you ever seen this before? What do you know about it? Does it accurately represent events of that day in which you were involved? Is there anything it should have said that it did not say? Was the casket turned over to GSA the same as what you saw at Bethesda on November 22-23, 1963? Was it the same as what was described as a "metal shipping casket" in the 11/22-23/63 document, or was that a different casket than the one mentioned in this memo?
- Did any official of the U.S. Government (or anyone at all) swear you to secrecy regarding events at the autopsy? If so, whom? What reasons were given?
- Is there anything you would like to tell us that we have not covered in our conversations?