

AFFIDAVIT OF DR. LEONARD D. SASLAW, Ph. D.

On first being sworn, affiant states as follows:

(1) I, Leonard D. Saslaw, am a Ph.D. in Chemistry and am a food biochemist by profession. In 1954 I received a Master's Degree in Chemistry from George Washington University. I commenced employment with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) in 1959 as a GS-9 working in the AFIP Biochemistry Branch. Concurrent with my employment at AFIP, I was pursuing my doctoral dissertation in chemistry with Georgetown University; I obtained my doctorate in December, 1963. By the time of the Kennedy assassination, I had been promoted to GS-11. My immediate supervisor at AFIP was Dr. Vaman Waravdekar, the Chief of the Biochemistry Branch. My own specialization was food chemistry.

(2) During the week after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, in November 1963, I was in the AFIP lunchroom and overheard a conversation at the very next table between Dr. Pierre Finck and two other officers with whom he was eating lunch. I was not acquainted with Pierre Finck socially or professionally, but I knew who he was. By this time it had become common knowledge that Dr. Finck had participated in the autopsy on President Kennedy, although no one knew any details of what had transpired. For this reason I paid close attention to his conversation.

(3) At the adjoining lunch table (a small table for 4 persons, with three persons seated at it: Dr. Finck, and the two other officers whose names I do not recall), Dr. Finck was loudly

lamenting the fact that the notes he had taken at the autopsy on President Kennedy had disappeared immediately following the conclusion of the autopsy, and that he had been forced to reconstruct his notes from memory. Dr. Finck complained to his companions with considerable irritation that immediately after cleaning up following the end of the autopsy, he looked for his notes and could not find them anywhere, and that even though others who were at the autopsy with him had also looked for his notes, the notes could not be found. Dr. Finck concluded his story by angrily recounting to his companions, with considerable frustration evident, that he had to reconstruct his notes from memory shortly after the autopsy.

(4) I immediately reported this event to my supervisor, Dr. Waravdekar. I did so because it troubled me that someone's original observations of such an important event, made and recorded contemporaneously, were missing without explanation and had to be reconstructed. As a scientist, I know that data recorded from memory is not as likely to be as accurate, or as complete, as data recorded real-time.

(5) Since that time, I have never read anything about Dr. Finck's missing notes in any media accounts and have therefore never been aware of any explanation as to what may have happened. This concludes what I can remember about the conversation I overheard in the AFIP lunch room the week following President Kennedy's assassination.

Dr.

Leonard D. Saslaw, Ph.D.

Subscribed and sworn to me before this ____ day of May, 1996.

Notary Public