

## **Sibert Deposition**

### **Introduction**

- Deposition background
- Employment on November 22
- Free to speak whole truth
- Any reservations

### **All activities related to assassination**

- November 22-23
- Preparation of 302
- Interviews of Kellerman, Greer, Behn
- Meeting with Specter
- Any other WC meetings
- In WC period (1963-64) ever talk to other FBI officials about events
  - Hoover/Cartha DeLoach/William Sullivan/Rosen
  - Clyde Tolson
  - Anyone else
- Talk to SS officials (besides Behn)
  - James Fox
- White House officials
  - Knudsen
- Ever talk to other officials
  - e.g. Humes, Finck
  - anyone else in any quasi-official capacity
- Period between WC and HSCA
- 1966
- Anything else
- Ever write any books or articles about assassination?
- Ever seen original autopsy photos

### **Overview of FBI career**

- Formal Education
- Law Enforcement/FBI Experience Up Until 1963
- Training
- Duty Assignments up through Hyattsville in 1963
- Autopsies prior to 1963/after 1963
- When did you leave FBI

**Sibert/O'Neill Documents**

authenticate at this point/discuss later

MD 1 Face Sheet

MD 2 Humes notes

MD 3 Autopsy protocol

MD 4 Supplementary report

MD 5 Humes notes

MD 149 11/23/63 teletype

MD 151

MD 152 Interviews with Greer/Kellerman/Behn

MD 156 11/26/63 memo on complete autopsy

MD 46 Sibert affidavit

MD 47 O'Neill affidavit

MD 69 missile receipt

MD 153 A. Rosen memo on Specter interview

MD 154 Specter memo on interview

MD 157 1966 questions on autopsy

MD 158 1966 questions on autopsy

MD 85 Sibert drawing

MD 86 O'Neill drawing

## **Events of November 22-23**

### **Pre-autopsy**

How notified of assassination

What was your assignment on 11/22/63?

Who directed that you go to Andrews, and why?

[MD 151--page 1]

When did you first see the casket. From where was it unloaded. Did you stay with casket. Did you assist.

Casket entry: "O'Neill and I and some Secret Service agents..." Discuss. [MD 46--page 2]

MD 47 O'Neill Page 2--"Sibert, Greer, Roy Kellerman and I placed the casket on a roller and transported it into the autopsy room." Discuss--time, who else assisted, etc. What kind of roller?

Did you witness the entry of a casket by the joint service casket bearer team?

Show the witness MD 163, page 1 ("2000 entry"--i.e., 8:00 P.M.) And page 3, para 2B. (Brigadier General McHugh replaces YN2 Barnum as a casket bearer as the casket is taken into the morgue from the loading dock.)

Did you open casket.

Did you witness casket being opened. Who else was present for casket opening?

Between the time you first saw casket and you saw it opened, was it ever out of your sight.

Was the body unloaded from the casket that you saw removed from Air Force I.

Wrappings: sheets? (Body or head or both?) body bag?

Page 4

Who lifted body onto morgue examining table?

**Autopsy**

**Time range, background, photography, x-rays, documents**

Beginning approximately when

Ending approximately when  
there during treatment of the body by Gawlers

Events in rough order  
removing body  
initial exam  
x-ray/photos before incision  
procedures  
more photos or x-rays  
conclusion  
embalming  
anything else

How do well do you remember the events.  
Vivid  
Faded

From the time casket was opened, what percentage of the time were you with the body.  
What was the last thing you saw.  
Body put in casket?  
Finished funeral preparations?

During the autopsy, what records were made  
X-rays  
Photos  
Who made notes  
Any other records (tape recordings, motion picture or video)  
Any pictures after the autopsy/funeral preparations  
Tissue samples

Disposition of all records  
What does he know about disposition of all records

Did you witness taking of pre-incision x-rays?

## **Photographs**

Pre-incision photographs?

(Sibert and O'Neill appear to disagree about this in the record): [See MD 46--pg 2 and MD 47--pg 2]

Photography during autopsy:

Were you there? What do you know about photographs.

Who took photographs? Who directed what photos were taken? How many cameras in use by how many people/who took photos? If more than one photographer, how did their roles differ? (Close-ups vs. medium/long shots; tripod vs. hand-held)

-Riebe

-Knudsen

-Views: supine? On side? On stomach?  
Sitting up? Full body?

-Were probes photographed in the body?

-Bruise on right lung: photographed? Inside or outside body?

-Entry wound in back of skull: how many photographs of it, and from what angles?

-Did you see film seized and exposed to light by a Federal Agent?

Photographs post-autopsy at Bethesda.

Do you know.

Did you witness the commencement of the embalming procedures?

Your departure: when did you leave? What activity was in progress when you left? Your destination/activity remainder of evening. [MD 151-page 4 of FD-302.]

In summary form, what was the order of procedures on the body.

e.g., start with head,

**HEAD** (Scalp, brain, skull)

X-rays

brain still inside during x-ray  
brain x-rayed after removal  
skull x-rayed after brain removal  
what did x-ray show

**Scalp**

how much missing  
condition before procedures  
jagged? torn? cut?  
cutting done by doctors  
flaps pulled back  
any photography after flap pulled back\  
after all autopsy procedures, how much  
seemed missing

**Brain (and bullets)**

Was the brain in the skull when you first observed?

Did you see a brain removed from the cadaver? If not, did you see a brain in the morgue during the autopsy? Was there a brain, or a portion of one, in the cadaver when the head wrapping was removed?

Was it weighed after removal?

Bullets or bullet fragments found--describe number and size.

Was a receipt executed for any fragments or bullets found? What did receipt say?

Format? Who prepared it? (Chester Boyers? Dennis David?) [MD 46--pg 5] [MD 47--pgs 4-5]

## Skull

[themes: entry, exit, size of wound, missing skull, bevelling, surgery, pieces falling out]

Surgery of head area: discuss. [MD 151--page 3 of FD 302; MD 46, page 4.]

Entry wound in skull: was it a small, well-demarcated hole in a solid plate of bone, or did a fragment have to be reinserted in the skull to complete the circumference of the entry wound? (i.e., was it initially contiguous with the large defect, or separate from and below it?)

Skull fragment.

When did it arrive.

Did it clarify issues when it arrived.

How was it initially described.

Skull fragments brought into morgue during autopsy: Who? When? HOW MANY? Describe. What were prosecutors told about it. Was it x-rayed during the autopsy? Who x-rayed it, and where? [X-Ray techs, or Dr. Ebersole? Portable machine or main laboratory machine upstairs?] How many skull fragments were x-rayed during the autopsy? If more than one, were they x-rayed together, or separately?

Did anyone present state from what part of the head the large fragment came? [MD 60, page 5]--Ebersole

Did the prosecutors attempt to locate from where the large skull fragment had been dislodged, i.e., where it fit in the large defect in the skull? [Thompson, page 109]

Did you see, or did you hear the prosecutors discuss, evidence of exit (i.e., a hole or a notch in the bone) anywhere in the margins of the large exit defect in the skull? (Humes and Finck denied to W.C., but then described evidence of exit in 1967 Military Review with the photographs in front of them.)



## **Shoulder**

Other than the wounds to the head and front neck, did you see any other wounds.

When was it discovered.

Where was it.

How would you describe it.

## **For Sibert**

Examine Rydberg drawings.

**For O'Neill** You previously stated that Rydberg was inaccurate.

MD 47 Page 5--what was not accurate about the RYDBERG drawings later produced? [MI 12, 13, 14]

Discovery of Shoulder wound: discuss transit vs. non-transit issue

When discovered? Explain meaning of "latter (sic) stages of autopsy." [MD 151-page 4 of FD-302]

Shoulder wound: how did prosectors determine angle of entry? (Fingers or probes?) [MD 151-page 4 of FD 302]

How many additional x-rays were taken (and what views) after incisions were made on the body?

Head x-rays after incisions?

Chest/abdomen after incisions?

## **Throat**

Describe the wound on the throat.

At any time, did anyone suggest that the throat wound had any connection to a bullet wound?

At any time did anyone suggest the throat wound might be an exit wound connected to an entry wound in the skull (rather than shoulder or back).

Tracheotomy: was it probed, or enlarged surgically at any time? Sutured before or after autopsy? Was it ever considered as a possible exit wound--for a bullet or a bullet fragment or a bone fragment--by any of the prosectors?

Was there contact with Dallas by prosectors? Did you witness any telephone calls between the prosectors and Parkland hospital physicians in Dallas? Did you place any calls to Dallas yourself? Did you witness any calls to Dallas by anyone in the morgue for any reason? [MD 160--page 2; MD 60--pages 4 and 5, and O'Neill 47]

How much skull was missing by the end of the autopsy. What did Gawlers do? Did you watch.

### **Autopsy conclusions**

Conclusions of prosecutors as to how many bullets struck body, from what direction, and types of bullets that caused each wound (i.e., jacketed vs. soft-nosed).[MD O'Neill 47--page 6]

Did others try to influence prosecutors as to procedures used or conclusions reached?

Did you ever read the autopsy protocol? MD 3

Did you ever learn of its conclusions?

What did you think.

What did you say to anyone.

What do you think of them today.

Do you recall any newspaper or other early media comment about the autopsy?

**Autopsy records after the conclusion of the autopsy**

Your notes.

Do you recall anyone looking for missing notes after the autopsy, or anyone collecting or confiscating notes after the autopsy?

Did you ever see any of the pathologists' notes, or a handwritten draft, or a preliminary version, or any written version of the Navy autopsy report prior to December 23, 1963?

Did you know ASAIC Robert Bouck of the Secret Service? Between 1963-65, did you ever see the autopsy photographs or x-rays? Have you EVER seen them?

Do you Special Agent James Fox.

Ever heard anything about missing autopsy photographs.

Ever heard anything about additional autopsy photographs.

## MD 151

### Preparation of MD 151

Procedure generally for preparing 302s  
All questions about preparation of 151  
How accurate was 151  
Anything intentionally omitted  
Include anything that was incorrect

Why not dictated until 11/26/63?

What was source for list of names of autopsy attendees? (USSS or your own notes?) Was USSS making its own list of names of attendees?

-“Dr. George Bakeman, U.S. Navy” (page 3)

Totals for photographs and x-rays taken (page 5): did you count yourself or were you given a count by someone else? [MD 46--page 5]

Apparent typescript irregularities:

Page 1: Air Force “One”: can you explain the offset of the word “One”? Was a change made to draft? If so, what was the previous word in this space?

Page 3: “by \_\_\_\_\_ the U.S. Navy and Secret Service.” Was an acronym/agency name removed from this sentence? If so, explain.

Page 4: “autopsy \_\_\_\_\_ inspection of the area of the brain,”...what is the explanation (if any) for the space before the word “ \_\_\_\_\_ inspection?”

Page 3: explain what is meant (in paragraph on x-rays) by “the next largest fragment appeared to be at the rear of the skull at the juncture of the skull bone.” (DRAW DIAGRAM ON ANATOMICAL DRAWING)

**MD 152 (Formal Interviews of Kellerman, Greer and Behn):**

Who directed that these be done? Why?

Were they aware, and were they concerned about inconsistencies in Kellerman's statements between 11/22/63 interview (MD 151) and this interview on 11/27/63? (Re: spoken remarks of President Kennedy after being shot.)

Also, did you view Zapruder film and compare Kennedy's reactions with Kellerman's description of his actions in this interview?

Why was the order of arrival and departure of Air Force One and Two discussed with SAIC Behn? Did you (the FBI) bring this up, or did he? Why?

MD 149 (TELEX to Director from SAC, Baltimore dated 11/23/63): authenticate and comment.

MD 153 (FBI Summary of Interview by Arlen Specter on 3/12/64):

Explain circumstances of this document's creation.

On page 2, please explain the meaning of your answer of "7:17 P.M." to Specter's question "What was the time of the preparation for the autopsy at the hospital?" What exactly happened at 7:17? How did you interpret his question?

MD 154 (Specter memo of March 12, 1964 summarizing his own interview of Sibert and O'Neill):

Examine and comment on contents. Any inaccuracies? Omissions?

Page 15

MD 85 (HSCA Interview of Sibert Summary)

SIBERT: MD 155 (Unsigned HSCA Affidavit) and MD 46 (Signed Version Prepared by Sibert Himself)

Authenticate and discuss. Explain why you did not want to use HSCA version; explain differences.

O'NEILL: MD 86 (HSCA Interview Summary)

Authenticate and discuss.

O'NEILL: MD 47 (Signed HSCA Affidavit)

Authenticate and discuss.

Page 2--"Sibert, Greer, Roy Kellerman and I placed the casket on a roller and transported it into the autopsy room." Discuss--time, who else assisted, etc. What kind of roller?

Page 6--in what way did you disagree with the location of the thorax wound made by Dr. Boswell on a drawing for the HSCA in 1977?  
[MD 159]

MD 69 (Receipt for Bullet):

Discuss--this is a receipt for "a missile," not two small fragments.

Why did you sign something so imprecise without asking that it be retyped, or without making a pen-and-ink change?

Who prepared? (Boyers [MD 151-page 3; MD 62] or Dennis David? [David told ARRB that he typed a receipt for four fragments for a "Sibert"])

**EXAMINE MD 176 [FBI memo about bullet “lodged behind the President’s ear”]:**

Comments--do you know why Mr. Belmont would write this on the evening of 11/22/63 (after 9:18 P.M.)? Was such a bullet (or fragment) noted at the autopsy? Did you call in this information from the morgue?

MD 157 (Memo, Sibert and O’Neill to SAC, Baltimore dated 6/29/66): read and authenticate.

MD 158 (Memo, Sibert to SAC, Baltimore): Have Sibert read and authenticate.



**Examination of Bullet Fragments, Autopsy Photographs and X-Rays:**

Bullet Fragments (CE 843): Can you authenticate?  
[MD 151]

X-Rays:

Do these 3 head x-rays look like those you saw on 11/22/63? (Address both number of head x-rays and general appearance.)

Posterior of skull on both laterals.

Large fragment on A-P.

Is the apparent fragment trail on the laterals and the A-P consistent with what you described on page 3 of MD 151?

Do these body x-rays appear consistent with the number (and views) taken on 11/22/63?

Photographs:

Examine for authentication purposes--discuss relationship between autopsy photographs and the drawings of head wound executed by Sibert and O'Neill for the HSCA (MD Sibert 85 and O'Neill 86)

shoulder wound  
skull entry wound  
large skull defect  
back of head