

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

July 22, 1996

Distribution: David Marwell, Jeremy Gunn, Tim Wray, Phil Golrick, Dave Montague

From: Doug Horne

Subject: Post-Deposition Remarks of John T. Stringer, Jr.

The purpose of this memorandum is to place in the record certain remarks made by Mr. John Stringer in the lobby of Archives II in College Park, Maryland immediately following his deposition by the ARRB on Tuesday, July 16, 1996.

Earlier in the day during the deposition, ARRB had asked Mr. Stringer who was at the supplementary examination of the brain following the autopsy; his answer had been that it was himself, Dr. Humes, Dr. Boswell, and perhaps a corpsman. In the lobby of Archives II while Mr. Stringer was waiting for his daughter to arrive to take him home, I asked him, as a follow-up question, whether Dr. Finck was at the supplemental brain exam. He replied that Dr. Finck had not been there, and followed by saying that it was his opinion that Dr. Finck's presence was not desired at the supplemental brain examination, and opined that Dr. Finck "knew too much," and had "caused a lot of trouble at the autopsy." Although Mr. Stringer did not expand upon these remarks or explain their precise meaning, it was the sense of one observer, based upon Mr. Stringer's facial expression and body language, and the context of the day's events, that Dr. Finck's precise and exacting professional demeanor and expert qualification as a wound ballistics expert may have made Dr. Humes, as lead pathologist for President Kennedy's autopsy, feel uncomfortable or somewhat insecure.

Additionally, during this brief conversation in the lobby, Mr. Stringer recounted a recollection of a casket entry at the back of the Bethesda morgue on 11/22/63. Paraphrasing his remarks, he said that at one point, the military casket team (in uniform) which had been practicing or drilling out in back of the morgue departed and drove off somewhere, he assumed to the front of Bethesda Medical Center. After they left, he said a Navy ambulance appeared at the back of the morgue, driven by Admiral Galloway, Commanding Officer of the National Naval Medical Center. He said that Admiral Galloway backed the ambulance up to the loading dock, and the tail gate was lowered. He said that in the absence of the military casket team, he, Drs. Humes and Boswell and whomever else was available in the morgue pulled a brown metal casket out of the ambulance and took it into the morgue.

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He remembers that it was so heavy that the few people present could not lift it, and had to drag it along the loading dock platform into the building. END