

# MEMORANDUM

September 20, 1996

To: Jeremy Gunn

From: Doug Horne

Subject: Possible Questions for Former Gawler's Employee John VanHoesen

Provided below in outline form are suggested topic areas and basic questions which are hereby provided for your consideration prior to the VanHoesen assessment interview:

I. Events of November 22-23, 1963:

A. How were you notified of your involvement in President Kennedy's preparation for burial?

B. Please describe the basic events you participated in November 22-23, 1963 as a time line:

(1) Events at Gawler's

(2) Events at Bethesda Naval Hospital

-When did you arrive? How? With whom?

-When did you commence your own work associated with embalming and/or reconstruction?

-When was your work completed?

-When did you leave?

II. Events Observed at the Autopsy:

A. Appearance of President Kennedy when you first observed him:

(1) Head wound(s)

(2) Anterior Neck

(3) Posterior Thorax

B. What procedures did you observe at autopsy?

(1) Did you see brain removed?

-Condition/Where damaged?

- Was it weighed?
- (2) Use of Probes
  - Where used in body?
- (3) Photography
  - How many photographers? (If more than one, did they work simultaneously, or serially--in sequence? In room at same time, or at different times?)
  - Were probes photographed in body?
- (4) Conclusions/Statements of Doctors
- (5) Bullets/Bullet Fragments
- (6) Caskets--Describe (color, characteristics, when seen, more than one?)

### III. Embalming/Reconstruction:

#### A. When did the Gawler's Crew Begin its Work?

#### B. Procedures:

- (1) Who did what?
- (2) What was done, and in what order?
- (3) Who reconstructed the President's head?
- (4) Was there photography during the embalming or reconstruction process?

#### C. Head Wound(s)

- (1) Describe in detail (when possible, differentiate between pre-autopsy damage, and incisions made/bone removed by pathologists)
- (2) Ask about various areas of skull (in light of Robinson interview):
  - occipital
  - parietal
  - frontal
  - temporal
  - any damage to right cheek area? To any part of face?

#### D. Body Wounds

#### E. Reconstruction of President's Head

- (1) Describe in Detail
- (2) How much scalp and bone were missing, and from what locations?
- (3) What was the appearance of the head/where was any damage still visible when you were completed with your work?

