

INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Identifying Information:

Name Francis X. O'Neill, Jr. Date 1/10/78
 Address FBI Office Place Mr. O'Neill's office
 City/State New Haven, Connecticut Telephone 203/777-6311
 Date of Birth _____ M or S _____
 Social Security _____ Spouse _____
 Children _____

Physical Description:

Height _____ Color Eyes _____ Hair _____
 Weight _____ Special Characteristics _____
 Ethnic Group _____

Personal History:

- a. Present Employment: _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
- b. Criminal Record
 - 1. Arrests _____
 - 2. Convictions _____

Additional Personal Information:

a. Relative(s): Name _____
 Address _____

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b. Area frequented: _____

MD 86

c. Remarks: _____

Investigator *Andy Purdy* *Mark Flanagan*
 James P. Kelly / Donald A. Purdy, Jr. / F. Mark Flanagan, Jr.
 Date January 10, 1978 Form #4-B

KENNEDY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

NAME Francis X. O'Neill, Jr. Date 1/10/78 Time 9:30 a.m.
Address FBI Office Place Mr. O'Neill's Office
New Haven, Connecticut

Interview:

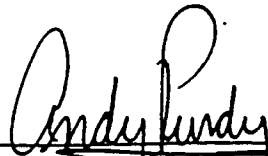
Francis X. O'Neill, Jr. is currently the Assistant Special Agent in charge of the FBI at the New Haven, Connecticut office. His business phone is (203) 777-6311. The Committee is interviewing him because of his presence at the autopsy of President Kennedy.

At the time of the assassination, O'Neill was an FBI agent stationed in Hyattsville, Maryland and received his orders from the Baltimore field office. At approximately 5:30pm on 11/22/63 he and James W. Sibert, also an FBI agent, received orders to stay with JFK's body as soon as it arrived at Andrews Air Force Base.

When the body arrived at Andrews Air Force Base, it was taken off the Air Force I and placed in an ambulance which Jackie Kennedy and RFK also entered. O'Neill stated that he rode in the "2nd car of the motorcade".

Upon arriving at Bethesda, O'Neill stated that the ambulance stopped at the front entrance where Jackie and RFK disembarked to proceed to the 17th floor. The ambulance

Interviewer



(Signature)

James P. Kelly / Donald A. Purdy, Jr. / T. Mark Glanagan, Jr.
(Name)

Date Transcribed 1/31/78 by mcp
(Ini)

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then travelled to the rear where O'Neill, Sibert, Greer (Secret Service), and Kellerman (Secret Service) placed the casket on a roller and transported it into the autopsy room.

O'Neill stated that he was present when various persons placed the body on the autopsy table. Doctors then proceeded to remove the sheet covering JFK and to photograph the body. O'Neill said that he remained "right next to the body," a distance of closer than two yards. O'Neill said that Sibert, Greer and Kellerman were also present.

During the autopsy, O'Neill stated that he had lengthy conversations with Greer and Kellerman in which they discussed the entire circumstances of the assassination. When the autopsy doctor appeared to have no idea of where the bullet entering the back may have gone, O'Neill mentioned that he began discussing with others possible "outlets for the bullet."

O'Neill also stated that during the autopsy he prevented the entry of Major General Wehle into the room (he said that he didn't know who he was). O'Neill said

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that he and Sibert "sent around a piece of paper and had (everyone) enter their names."

O'Neill stated that when Humes and Boswell couldn't locate an outlet for the bullet that entered the back Sibert left to call SA Killion (FBI Laboratory) to determine if any extra bullets existed. This is when the autopsy doctors learned of the bullet found on the stretcher.

O'Neill also stated, that as he understood it, "Mrs. Kennedy gave permission for a partial autopsy" and that Dr. George Burkley reiterated her remarks. O'Neill feels that there was "no question" that Burkley was conveying the wishes of the Kennedy family. On the issue of the full vs. partial autopsy, O'Neill said that Admiral Galloway resolved this by ordering a complete autopsy. At this point, O'Neill stated that in reference to the back wound, that the doctors "did not cut through into the back of the neck."

O'Neill firmly believes that when the autopsy was complete there was no doubt in anyone's mind that the bullet in Dallas was the one that came out of JFK's body.

O'Neill states that Humes did call Parkland on 11/23/63 to learn more about the bullet found on the stretcher (399).

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O'Neill said that he had no recollection of any bullet damage around the trachea.

In describing the autopsy room, O'Neill stated that a "phone and a coffee machine" were present. During the autopsy an FBI agent and a Secret Service man were always present. O'Neill stated that he only left once with Kellerman and McHugh to obtain a sandwich. O'Neill said that no presidential aides were present either around the table or in the gallery. O'Neill did say that sometime during the autopsy O'Leary and Hill, both Secret Service, entered the room.

O'Neill said that if a person wasn't present at the beginning of the autopsy and not listed as having entered late, then he didn't witness any of the autopsy.

O'Neill stated that he heard Humes claim that the bullets entered from a 45-60° angle. O'Neill did say that Pierre Finck was "more atuned to the angle of the bullets" that entered JFK's body.

In reference to the head wound, O'Neill recalled that it was massive and pointed towards the right side of his (O'Neill's) head. O'Neill believes the doctors removed a piece of the missile from just behind an eye and another one from further back. O'Neill stated that a Navy man

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entered to make a receipt of the two fragments that were removed from the body. O'Neill emphatically stated that the doctors removed only two fragments and not "a missile". O'Neill said that someone then transported the two fragments to the FBI laboratory where they were then given to SA Kurt Frazier. O'Neill mentioned that the doctors just wanted to obtain the large fragments and that many small fragments did exist. O'Neill said that the autopsy doctors felt that the bullet that entered the head struck the center, low portion of the head and exited from the top, right side, towards the front.

At this point in the interview, O'Neill diagrammed the location of the head wounds based on his recollections. (See attachments).

O'Neill stated that he does not recall Humes, Boswell, or Finck calling out measurements for the wounds but that this may have occurred. He does remember the doctors measuring the piece of skull that was found in the limousine and brought to Bethesda during the autopsy.

O'Neill stated that in his opinion JFK could have had an open casket. He also stated that the medical

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illustrator that the Commission employed did not accurately depict the President's wounds.

O'Neill does not recall which doctor was taking the notes on the autopsy but does recollect that Finck seemed to "take over the autopsy when he arrived."

O'Neill mentioned that he does not see how the bullets that entered below the shoulder in the back "could have come out of the throat." O'Neill also said he disagreed with Dr. Boswell's depiction of the location of the back (thorax) wound which Dr. Boswell had drawn on a diagram during an interview with this Committee this past fall.

O'Neill stated that he did not recall anything about the tracheotomy incision that indicated a bullet had damaged the area. When shown the tracing of the tracheotomy, he had no recollection or comment concerning the apparent bullet wound perimeter.

O'Neill stated that some discussion did occur concerning the disintegration of the bullet. A "general feeling" existed that a soft-nosed bullet struck JFK. In reference to the back wound, there was discussion that the bullet could have been a "plastic" type or an "Ice"

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bullet (dissolves after contact). There was also no real sense either way that the wounds were caused by the same kind of bullet.

O'Neill does not recall who handled the X-rays or photographs. Robert Bouck (Secret Service) stated that the photographs could have been made available if desired. The FBI did not keep the photographs since the case was somewhat outside of their jurisdiction.

Concerning the secret service agents, O'Neill mentioned that Greer seemed like a nice guy but that Kellerman seemed to be the stronger man. O'Neill stated that the FBI obtained the bullet fragments because Hoover wanted them.

O'Neill described the general level of activity in the autopsy room as "reverent" and "no kidding-solemn". He said the doctors were performing a "workman-like job."

O'Neill did not discuss any procedures with the embalmers. O'Neill last saw the body just prior to the dressing, before the morticians were through.

O'Neill said that the tissues and organs taken from JFK were verified and that Doctor Humes then assumed care and custody of these materials. He does not recall

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what subsequently happened to these materials.

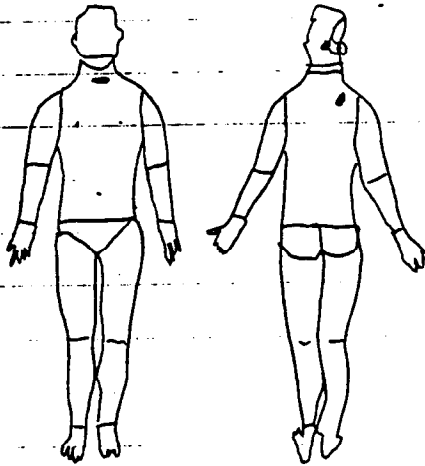
O'Neill mentioned that on November 27 or 28 he prepared a memo for the file in the Baltimore field office dealing with the partial or full autopsy issue. This memo would have been from O'Neill to SAC Baltimore and would have been anywhere from 8-10 lines in length. O'Neill emphasized that this was a separate memo. O'Neill then stated that as far as he knew the doctors performed a full autopsy.

O'Neill mentioned that almost all FBI agents were involved in some aspect of the case. Although O'Neill was interviewed at length by Arlen Specter, he felt it was odd that he was not called to give testimony.

As a suggestion for this Committee's investigation, O'Neill recommended pursuing any words that may have been spoken between JFK and Jackie Kennedy during the shooting.

O'Neill ended the interview by stating that he is "positive" that the bullet that entered the back came out of the back.

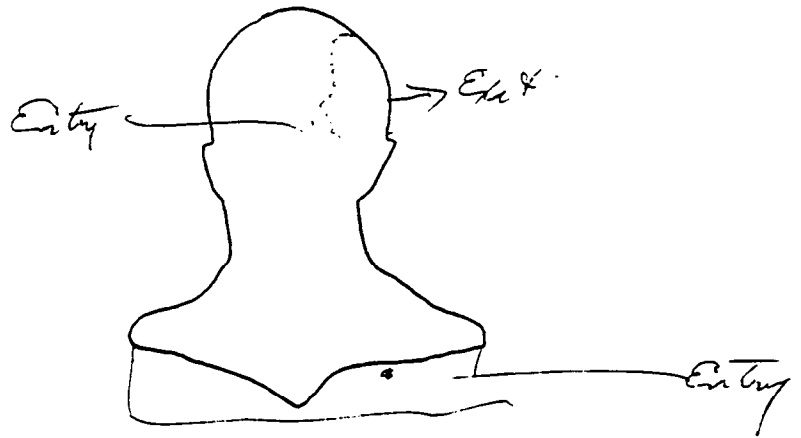
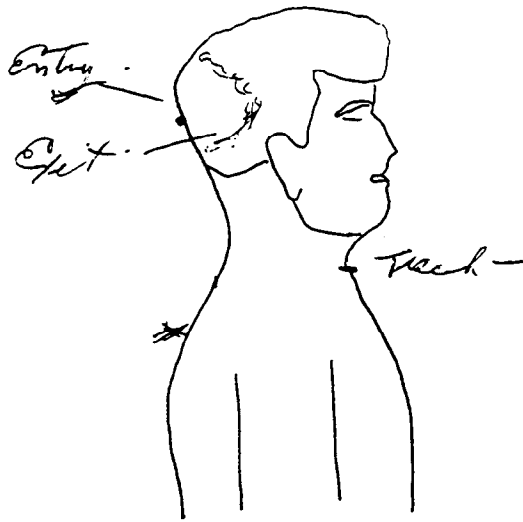
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4/10/78
Francis K. Meier

Witnessed by: Donald A. Pugh
T. Mark Flanagan

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4/10/78

James M. Miller

Witnessed by: Donald A. Pundy, Jr.
T. Mark Starnes, Jr.

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