

**In The Matter Of:**

*Assassination Records Review Board  
Assassination of President John F. Kennedy*

---

*Deposition of Jerrol Francis Custer  
October 28, 1997*

**CORRECTED COPY**

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BEFORE THE  
ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

IN RE: :  
ASSASSINATION OF :  
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY :

College Park, Maryland  
Tuesday, October 28, 1997

The deposition of JERROL FRANCIS CUSTER,  
called for examination in the above-entitled  
matter, pursuant to notice, at the National  
Archives II, 6381 Adelphi Road, College Park,  
Maryland, convened at 10:10 a.m. before Robert H.  
Haines, a notary public in and for the State of  
Maryland, when were present on behalf of the  
parties:

APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of the Plaintiff:

T. JEREMY GUNN, ESQ.  
General Counsel  
Assassination Records Review Board  
600 E Street, N.W., Second Floor  
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ALSO PRESENT:

Douglas P. Horne, Senior Analyst  
Jim Gosley  
Steve Tilley

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WITNESS ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

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PROCEEDINGS

Whereupon,

JERROL FRANCIS CUSTER  
was called for examination by counsel for the  
Assassination Records Review Board and, having been  
first duly sworn by the notary public, was examined  
and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR ARRB  
BY MR. GUNN:

Q: Could you state your full name for the  
record, please?

A: My name is Jerrol, J-e-r-r-o-l, Francis,  
F-r-a-n-c-i-s, Custer, C-u-s-t-e-r.

Q: Mr. Custer, we are here pursuant to the  
authority granted by Congress to the Assassination  
Records Review Board. My name is Jeremy Gunn. I'm  
accompanied today by Doug Horne and Jim Gosley,  
both of the Review Board staff.

I'd like to show you a document, and ask  
you whether you previously have received a copy of  
this document before. And take as much time as you  
need to look at it.

A: Yes, I have. I received this.  
MR. GUNN: Let me identify the document  
for the record as being Exhibit No. 198, which  
appears to be a letter to Mr. Custer accompanied by  
a Subpoena Duces Tecum and an Attachment C, that  
requests the production of papers and records.

BY MR. GUNN:

Q: Mr. Custer, do you understand that you are  
here today pursuant to a subpoena issued by the  
Review Board?

A: Yes, I do.

Q: Do you have any hesitancy or reluctance to  
be able to tell the truth and the whole truth, as  
you understand it, in relationship to the autopsy  
of President Kennedy?

A: I have no hesitation whatsoever.

Q: Mr. Custer, did you bring with you today  
some documents requested by the subpoena?

A: Yes, sir, I did.

Q: Could you describe for me, in general, the  
kinds of documents that you brought with you?

A: I brought a diagram of the morgue.

Q: Let me show you a copy of what I  
understand to be a diagram of the morgue.

A: Yes, sir, that's it.

MR. GUNN: What I'd like to do is to mark  
this as Exhibit No. 201.

[ARRB Exhibit No. 201 marked  
for identification.]

BY MR. GUNN:  
Q: And is that a copy of the document that  
you brought with us - with you today?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Could you tell me where you received this  
diagram?

A: Where I received it?

Q: Yes.

A: From a gentleman that I had met in New  
York City that was involved in the research of the  
Kennedy assassination.

Q: I note down in the bottom left-hand corner  
there's the words "OConnor 1992". Do you know what  
those signify?

A: No, I don't.

Q: Does this document appear to you to  
accurately convey, at least, the general sense of  
the arrangement of the autopsy room at Bethesda  
Hospital?

A: Yes, sir, it does.

Q: And, so, that was - again, in a general  
way, and we're not asking for specific  
measurements, but generally a fair characterization  
of how it appeared on the night of November 22nd,  
1963?

A: Yes, sir, it does.

Q: Okay. We'll be referring to this later.

A: Sure.

Q: Could you describe for me other documents  
that you have brought with you?

A: Well, there's a picture of myself in  
front, and Mr. Reed. I was the X-ray technician on  
call that night, and he was my assistant - my  
student.

This was the officer of the day. At this  
present time, I cannot remember the gentleman's  
name, but I know he's an officer, because we refer

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[1] to him as "Mr. So-and-So". If it was a chief, it  
[2] would be, "My name is Chief So-and-So." They get  
[3] highly upset if you call them Mister. They'll tell  
[4] you, they're a working man.  
[5] Q: Actually -  
[6] A: And these were the two honor guards.  
[7] Q: Actually, if I could stop you for just one  
[8] minute there.  
[9] MR. GUNN: Do we have a copy of this?  
[10] MR. GOSLEY: I can go make one.  
[11] THE WITNESS: You can keep that, like I  
[12] told Doug -  
[13] MR. GUNN: Oh.  
[14] THE WITNESS: - and send it to me later.  
[15] MR. GUNN: Okay. What I'd like to do is  
[16] make a photocopy of it now that we'll mark as an  
[17] exhibit. And then we'll borrow it -  
[18] THE WITNESS: Sure.  
[19] MR. GUNN: - borrow the original for a  
[20] few days.  
[21] THE WITNESS: That's fine. I explained to  
[22] Doug, to take your time in getting my stuff back to

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[1] me. I understand it takes time to get things  
[2] together.  
[3] MR. GUNN: Okay.  
[4] THE WITNESS: So, there's no rush.  
[5] MR. GUNN: Okay.  
[6] BY MR. GUNN:  
[7] Q: Let's go through some of the other things  
[8] that you brought with you today. There are two  
[9] color photographs. Could you tell me what those  
[10] are, please?  
[11] A: This was a get-together that we had in  
[12] Pittsburgh. The researcher's name, I cannot quite  
[13] remember at this time. But I can tell you exactly  
[14] who was who here.  
[15] Q: What I'd like to do maybe, once again, is  
[16] get a photocopy of this. And then we'll make it in  
[17] reference to the -  
[18] A: Sure.  
[19] Q: - to that.  
[20] A: In fact, the gentleman is a researcher  
[21] from Boston, if I'm not mistaken.  
[22] Q: I'm handing you some other - what appear

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[1] to be photographs in plastic envelopes. Could you  
[2] tell me what these are?  
[3] A: These are the autopsy photographs taken  
[4] the night of the assassination in the morgue.  
[5] Q: One of the documents appears to be taken  
[6] from the roll of film, and the others appear to be  
[7] blowups of those prints -  
[8] A: Correct.  
[9] Q: - is that right?  
[10] A: Yes, sir.  
[11] Q: Could you tell me whether the prints that  
[12] you have brought with you today are blowups of the  
[13] small -  
[14] A: Yes, sir.  
[15] Q: It's a contact sheet.  
[16] A: Absolutely.  
[17] Q: Did you make the blowups yourself?  
[18] A: No. I received all these the same time I  
[19] received the diagram in New York City from a  
[20] friend.  
[21] Q: Okay. And, so, you got this in - you  
[22] received all these in New York City?

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[1] A: Correct.  
[2] Q: Okay.  
[3] MR. GUNN: Let me state for the record  
[4] that the photographs that Mr. Custer has brought  
[5] with him appear on their face to be the Fox set of  
[6] photographs, but -  
[7] I'm not asking that be authenticated, but  
[8] that's the opinion of myself.  
[9] THE WITNESS: And, Jeremy, this is -  
[10] Again, take your time. If you want to make  
[11] photostatic copies of them -  
[12] MR. GUNN: Okay.  
[13] THE WITNESS: - that's fine. Whenever  
[14] you can get them to me, that's fine, too.  
[15] MR. GUNN: Okay, thank you.  
[16] BY MR. GUNN:  
[17] Q: The next document is in a loose-leaf.  
[18] Could you tell me what that is?  
[19] A: All right. This is a transcript of  
[20] interviews between Tom Wilson, who's a computer  
[21] expert, and myself from August 27th, 1995 to  
[22] November 3rd or November 3rd, 4th, somewhere

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[1] around there - 1995.  
[2] And this was when he came to the Archives,  
[3] and he examined the X-rays and the - the clothing  
[4] and all the particulars that happened - that is  
[5] necessary in the assassination.  
[6] And we sat down, and we discussed them.  
[7] And this was kind of a jolt to my memory. There's  
[8] a lot of things that came back, which was  
[9] transcribed in this book.  
[10] Q: Okay.  
[11] A: It's very interesting reading, if you get  
[12] a chance to read it.  
[13] Q: Okay. What we would like to do, again,  
[14] according to the prior arrangement, is make a  
[15] photocopy of this.  
[16] A: That's fine.  
[17] Q: And then we'll send that back to you.  
[18] A: That's fine.  
[19] Q: Okay, thank you.  
[20] [ARRB Exhibit No. 202 marked  
[21] for identification.]  
[22] BY MR. GUNN:

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[1] Q: Let's go back to the photograph that you  
[2] described as being taken near the morgue on the  
[3] night of November 22nd.  
[4] A: Yes, sir.  
[5] Q: We have now marked that as Exhibit No.  
[6] 202. And the quality of this exhibit is not high,  
[7] because this is a photocopy of the photograph that  
[8] you brought with you. But if we could just talk  
[9] about this for a minute.  
[10] A: Sure.  
[11] Q: First, does this appear to be a photocopy  
[12] of the -  
[13] A: Yes, it does.  
[14] Q: - of the photograph that you brought with  
[15] you?  
[16] I'd like to go through the figures from  
[17] the left of the photograph to the right of the  
[18] photograph. And if you could identify them as best  
[19] you can.  
[20] A: All right. Like I stated before, this was  
[21] the officer on call that night.  
[22] Q: And you're pointing to the figure at the

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[1] far left?  
[2] A: The left. The far left.  
[3] Q: Okay.  
[4] A: And the reason why I remember, because he  
[5] was an officer, because we called him Mister. And  
[6] you wouldn't call an enlisted man Mister. If he  
[7] was a chief, you call him chief.  
[8] The gentleman in the front of the  
[9] procession was myself.  
[10] Q: So, that's in a - you're in a white  
[11] jacket -  
[12] A: White.  
[13] Q: - facing away from the camera?  
[14] A: Right. Facing away from the camera. And  
[15] in my arms at that time, I had X-ray cassettes.  
[16] You can't see them, but I know I had them.  
[17] Q: Okay. The gentleman behind me is  
[18] Mr. Reed, who was my student that night on call  
[19] with me. He was there, basically, to learn. He  
[20] carried the aprons.  
[21] Every time that you went on a - to take  
[22] portable films, you always took aprons with you,

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[1] and placed the aprons on yourself to protect  
[2] yourself from -  
[3] Q: Are those lead aprons?  
[4] A: Yes, sir, they definitely are.  
[5] Q: Okay.  
[6] A: And these were honor guards.  
[7] Q: And you're pointing to the -  
[8] A: The two gentlemen to the far right.  
[9] Q: - far right. So, there are a total -  
[10] A: Closest -  
[11] Q: - total of five people in the photograph;  
[12] is that right?  
[13] A: Correct.  
[14] Q: Where did you obtain the copy of this  
[15] photograph?  
[16] A: From a friend, also.  
[17] Q: Can you tell me who that friend is?  
[18] A: At this present time, I cannot remember.  
[19] Q: Do you know when you obtained a copy of  
[20] this?  
[21] A: The same time I obtained a copy of the  
[22] postmortem film - photographs.

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[1] Q: So, this is in the 1990s in New York City;  
[2] is that right?  
[3] A: Right.  
[4] Q: Do you know who the photographer was who  
[5] took the pictures?  
[6] A: No. This was that same gentleman that  
[7] tried to get - Well, there were photographers all  
[8] over the place. And, evidently, one of them had  
[9] gotten down into the bottom floor.  
[10] This door was open, as we were going  
[11] through. And that's when he took the film. I know  
[12] it was a newspaperman, but I don't know exactly who  
[13] it was.  
[14] Q: Okay.  
[15] [ARRB Exhibit No. 203 marked  
[16] for identification.]  
[17] BY MR. GUNN:  
[18] Q: Now, we've had a photocopy made - again,  
[19] the quality is not high - of the color photographs  
[20] that you brought with you. And we have marked that  
[21] as Exhibit No. 203.  
[22] Do you see that exhibit number?

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[1] A: Yes, sir.  
[2] Q: Does that seem to be a reasonably fair  
[3] depiction of what you brought?  
[4] A: Yes, sir, it is.  
[5] Q: Could you - It appears to me that the  
[6] figures in both photographs are the same, left to  
[7] right; is that true.  
[8] A: Yes, sir. Correct.  
[9] Q: Could you identify the people sitting  
[10] around -  
[11] A: Okay. This is -  
[12] Q: - the table, left to right?  
[13] A: This is Floyd Riebe.  
[14] Q: That's on the far left.  
[15] A: Far left. This is myself, coming towards  
[16] the right.  
[17] This is Jim Jenkins. I can't think of the  
[18] man's name right now. No, this isn't Jenkins.  
[19] Jenkins is over here.  
[20] Q: Now you're pointing to the far right as  
[21] Mr. Jenkins.  
[22] A: Far right. This is the chief I was

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[1] talking to you - that I had mentioned his friend.  
[2] Oh, darn. I can't think of his name.  
[3] Q: Is that Dennis David?  
[4] A: That's him.  
[5] Q: Okay. And that's the person who's sitting  
[6] in the center of the photograph.  
[7] A: He's - Right. His friend was the chief  
[8] that committed suicide at Bethesda, that had the  
[9] deformed right hand. And they found the gun in  
[10] that hand.  
[11] I know these names like the top of my  
[12] head, but I can't think -  
[13] Q: Is that Paul O'Connor?  
[14] A: Paul O'Connor.  
[15] Q: Okay. So, he's the one fourth from the  
[16] left.  
[17] A: Fourth from the left. And this is Jim  
[18] Jenkins.  
[19] Q: And Jim Jenkins on the far right.  
[20] A: Right.  
[21] Q: Okay. And can you tell me again just  
[22] what, very briefly, was the subject matter of the

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[1] discussion you were having?  
[2] A: Well, this was basically another  
[3] researcher that had come in and brought us all  
[4] together, wanting to rehash what was brought up  
[5] about the Kennedy assassination.  
[6] I think at that time, also, Cyril Weck was  
[7] there with a friend of his, another doctor. The  
[8] friend was a radiologist from the South somewhere.  
[9] For the life of me, I can't remember.  
[10] Q: Would you know the name if I said the -  
[11] said it to you?  
[12] A: It's possible.  
[13] Q: David Mantic?  
[14] A: Yeah - No. No, no, no, no. David  
[15] Mantic -  
[16] Q: Randy Robertson?  
[17] A: No.  
[18] Q: Okay.  
[19] A: David Mantic was at the second news  
[20] conference that was held in New York City.  
[21] Q: Okay.  
[22] A: In fact, I brought a piece of material

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(1) that David Mantic had made some statements in there  
(2) at that conference. You'll see it later.  
(3) Q: Okay.  
(4) MR. GUNN: All right. Could we go to the  
(5) next items that he brought with him?  
(6) [Discussion off the record.]  
(7) BY MR. GUNN:  
(8) Q: Now, we're not going to mark this into  
(9) evidence, but maybe if we can just briefly describe  
(10) it. I'm understanding that this is -  
(11) A: Right. This was the - this was a  
(12) pamphlet that was put out during the second news  
(13) conference in New York City, which was - I mean,  
(14) very minimal news backing.  
(15) There were very few newspaper people  
(16) there, mainly because of the author's performance  
(17) on the first news conference. He kind of lost his  
(18) credibility.  
(19) Q: Now, when you say "this", you're pointing  
(20) to a spiral-bound -  
(21) A: Right.  
(22) Q: - document that appears to be around -

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(1) I'd estimate maybe 50 to 60 pages; is that correct?  
(2) A: You do show emotion; don't you?  
(3) Q: And, then, the other documents that you  
(4) brought with us - brought with you, I'm  
(5) understanding, are communications that you've had  
(6) with researchers -  
(7) A: Right.  
(8) Q: - is that correct?  
(9) A: Right.  
(10) MR. GUNN: Okay. We're not going to mark  
(11) those into evidence.  
(12) BY MR. GUNN:  
(13) Q: Is there anything else that you brought  
(14) with you today responsive to the subpoena request?  
(15) A: I brought the testimony that was given by  
(16) Dr. Ebersole, that I went through last night and  
(17) literally chewed up.  
(18) Q: I assume you don't mean literally that you  
(19) chewed it?  
(20) A: Well, let's put it this way. I made  
(21) little anecdote notes on the side.  
(22) Q: Okay. What - As I mentioned to you

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(1) before, what we would like to do is, towards the  
(2) end of the deposition -  
(3) A: That's fine.  
(4) Q: - go through that with you, and talk to  
(5) you about that.  
(6) A: That's fine.  
(7) Q: Were there any other documents or records  
(8) that you brought with you pursuant to the subpoena?  
(9) A: That's it, I think. That's everything.  
(10) Q: All right. To the best of your knowledge,  
(11) do you have any other records yourself that relate  
(12) to the autopsy of President Kennedy?  
(13) A: You have everything that I have.  
(14) Q: Okay. Thank you very much for bringing  
(15) those with you.  
(16) A: You're quite welcome.  
(17) Q: Before we go into the events of November  
(18) 22nd and 23rd, I'd like to ask you about any  
(19) reading that you have done since the assassination  
(20) of President Kennedy that pertained to the  
(21) assassination or to the autopsy. So, let me just  
(22) start out with one obvious possibility.

Page 2

(1) Have you ever read the Warren Report on  
(2) the assassination?  
(3) A: Never had the chance. I never could get a  
(4) copy of it.  
(5) Q: Did you ever read the report of the House  
(6) Select Committee on Assassinations?  
(7) A: That's another copy I couldn't get.  
(8) Q: Okay. Are there any books or articles  
(9) that you now recall that you read that pertained to  
(10) the autopsy or the assassination?  
(11) A: "Best Evidence".  
(12) Q: That's a book by David Lifton?  
(13) A: David Lifton. "High Treason".  
(14) Q: And that's by Harry Livingstone?  
(15) A: Right. And let's see, what else.  
(16) THE WITNESS: The one I showed you last  
(17) night. I can't - I never brought it with me.  
(18) It's in publication.  
(19) MR. HORNE: He has the manuscript of  
(20) "Treachery in Dallas". And I told him it's been  
(21) published.  
(22) THE WITNESS: Right. I have the original

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(1) manuscript.  
(2) BY MR. GUNN:  
(3) Q: And have you read "Treachery in Dallas"?  
(4) A: I read the manuscript, now.  
(5) Q: Okay, sure.  
(6) A: I'm not sure about the book.  
(7) Q: Sure, that's fine. Are there any other  
(8) books that you recall that you have read on the  
(9) assassination or autopsy?  
(10) A: No, that's it. Do you want my opinion on  
(11) it, truthfully?  
(12) Q: Not at this point.  
(13) A: The whole - Okay.  
(14) Q: For the most part, during the course of  
(15) the deposition, what we would like to get is your  
(16) recollections of what you observed -  
(17) A: That's fine.  
(18) Q: - and what you heard at the time of the  
(19) autopsy.  
(20) A: Sure.  
(21) Q: So, just - We would like to get that as  
(22) candidly and correctly as we can.

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(1) A: That's fine.  
(2) Q: Was there ever a time at which you were  
(3) asked or requested not to speak about the autopsy  
(4) of President Kennedy?  
(5) A: Well, there was two different situations.  
(6) The next day, when Dr. Ebersole came back to  
(7) Bethesda with the bone fragments and the bullet  
(8) fragments - that time; and the time in the morgue  
(9) - there's three, actually - and in Galloway's  
(10) office.  
(11) Q: Maybe if we could go through those three  
(12) events in order. The first time that you were  
(13) asked not to discuss the autopsy was which time?  
(14) A: In the morgue.  
(15) Q: Okay, in the morgue. And that was when in  
(16) the morgue? On the night of November 22nd or 23rd?  
(17) A: On that night.  
(18) Q: Okay. And who was it who asked you not to  
(19) speak of -  
(20) A: Dr. Ebersole. He made it perfectly clear  
(21) that I was not to speak about this.  
(22) Q: If you could convey the sense of the words

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[1] that he gave to you as best you can, what -  
[2] A: "Keep your mouth shut."  
[3] Q: Okay. That's perfectly blunt.  
[4] A: Plain and simple.  
[5] Q: Okay. And the second time that you were  
[6] asked, or requested, or instructed not to talk  
[7] about the autopsy was when?  
[8] A: That was the next day, after he had come  
[9] back from the White House from being debriefed.  
[10] Q: And that was, again, Dr. Ebersole who -  
[11] A: Dr. Ebersole.  
[12] Q: - who had said it to you. Then, the  
[13] third time was -  
[14] A: Let's back up one thing.  
[15] Q: Sure.  
[16] A: At that time, he made it quite clear, this  
[17] came from high level that I was not to say  
[18] anything. And he reiterated "anything". If I did,  
[19] I would be quite sorry.  
[20] Q: Did he tell you whom he - You mentioned  
[21] a moment ago that he had been to the White House.  
[22] A: Right.

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[1] Q: Did he tell you whom he had spoken with at  
[2] the White House?  
[3] A: Yes, he did.  
[4] Q: Whom did he say he spoke with?  
[5] A: The head of the Secret Service.  
[6] Q: When he said that high-level people -  
[7] A: Right.  
[8] Q: - did not want anything to be discussed,  
[9] did he tell you who those high-level people were?  
[10] A: No. He just said high-level people.  
[11] Q: Was Mr. Reed with you - Let me withdraw  
[12] that.  
[13] You're acquainted with the name Edward  
[14] Reed?  
[15] A: Yes.  
[16] Q: He was the one who's the student whom you  
[17] identified in the photograph.  
[18] A: Correct.  
[19] Q: Was Mr. Reed with you, either during the  
[20] first time that you received the instructions from  
[21] Dr. Ebersole or the second time?  
[22] A: No. He was with me on the third time,

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[1] when we were both in Dr. - well, actually, Vice  
[2] Admiral Galloway's office.  
[3] Q: Okay. Could you tell me about the third  
[4] time that you received instructions not to speak  
[5] about the -  
[6] A: Well, that was the most traumatic. After  
[7] I signed the gag order, I was told if anything -  
[8] no matter what - got out, it would be the sorriest  
[9] day of my life. I'd spend most of my time behind  
[10] prison walls.  
[11] Q: And did that sound - that threat sound  
[12] credible to you?  
[13] A: Very credible.  
[14] Q: Let me show you a document that is marked  
[15] Exhibit No. 195, and ask you whether you have  
[16] previously seen that before?  
[17] A: Yep, this is it.  
[18] Q: Now, I note that that document does not  
[19] appear to have a signature on that. Do you see any  
[20] signature on it?  
[21] A: No, I don't.  
[22] Q: Is that the document - obviously, without

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[1] the signature that -  
[2] A: Correct.  
[3] Q: - that you ended up signing?  
[4] A: Correct. I would not get out of that  
[5] office unless I signed that signature, because  
[6] there were armed guards. They were right behind  
[7] me. And I know for a fact, if I did not sign that,  
[8] I would have been gone. It was made quite clear.  
[9] Q: Who else was - Who else received  
[10] instructions about not speaking about the autopsy  
[11] at the same time that you did?  
[12] A: The only two people that were there was  
[13] myself and Mr. Reed.  
[14] Q: So, Dr. Ebersole was not there at that  
[15] time?  
[16] A: No, he wasn't.  
[17] Q: Did you see Mr. Reed sign a statement  
[18] similar to the one I just handed you?  
[19] A: Yes, I did. He's another one that  
[20] wouldn't have got out of the office, unless -  
[21] Q: Okay.  
[22] A: They don't have armed MPs standing there

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[1] for nothing.  
[2] Q: Is it your understanding now that the  
[3] order of secrecy has been lifted?  
[4] A: Yes, it is.  
[5] Q: Do you have any hesitancy now about  
[6] talking candidly about what you witnessed -  
[7] A: Absolutely not.  
[8] Q: I'd like to ask you for your own  
[9] individual sense and judgment of the quality of  
[10] your memory of the events from November 22nd and  
[11] 23rd. How good do you think your memory is of  
[12] those events?  
[13] A: Unfortunately, too good.  
[14] Q: What I'd like to do right now is to  
[15] develop with you a short chronology of the events,  
[16] so we can go through and identify the events that  
[17] you participated in.  
[18] A: Sure.  
[19] Q: Then we will go back and go through them,  
[20] and talk about them in depth.  
[21] A: Sure.  
[22] Q: So, if you could not provide too much

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[1] detail at this point, but we'll go back and -  
[2] A: Fine.  
[3] Q: - and describe them in depth.  
[4] When did you first hear that you would be  
[5] having some kind of role in the autopsy?  
[6] A: That would be about an hour before.  
[7] Q: Are you able now to identify approximate  
[8] time of day that you learned of that?  
[9] A: Well, it was a Friday night, approximately  
[10] around - It had to be around dinner time, because  
[11] I had just finished eating dinner in the cafeteria.  
[12] So, it had to be around 5:30. Somewhere around  
[13] there.  
[14] Q: In your previous answer, you said that it  
[15] was an hour before it started. Were you referring  
[16] to the beginning of the autopsy?  
[17] A: Correct. Yes, sir.  
[18] Q: Approximately when did you take the first  
[19] X-rays of President Kennedy?  
[20] A: Approximately, I would say, it would have  
[21] to - The first thing I remember - It would have  
[22] to be after the Y incision was made, so the autopsy

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[1] was already in progress.  
[2] Q: Okay. Let me try and get a little bit of  
[3] timing.  
[4] A: Sure.  
[5] Q: And I understand this won't be entirely  
[6] certain. Approximately how much time passed  
[7] between the time that you first saw President  
[8] Kennedy's body and the time that you took the first  
[9] post-Y-incision X-ray photo - X-ray?  
[10] A: I would safely say within an hour. Maybe  
[11] a little less. Maybe a little more, but it wasn't  
[12] any more than that.  
[13] Q: Okay. We'll come back and go through  
[14] the -  
[15] A: Sure.  
[16] Q: - through these things.  
[17] Did you take X-rays in different series?  
[18] And by that I mean, for example, did you take some  
[19] X-rays of the head, leave and develop them, and  
[20] then come back and take other X-rays?  
[21] A: Correct.  
[22] Q: So, you took different X-rays, developed

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[1] them, came back -  
[2] A: Right.  
[3] Q: - and took others.  
[4] A: Okay. And can I reiterate on this a  
[5] little bit?  
[6] Q: Sure.  
[7] A: Basically, because we didn't have enough  
[8] film there at the time. So, we had to take things  
[9] in series, run back, develop them, and then bring  
[10] them back.  
[11] Q: What is your best recollection of the  
[12] number of series of X-rays that you took on the  
[13] night of November 22nd/23rd?  
[14] A: You mean numbers of - pertaining to the  
[15] head?  
[16] Q: Just how many -  
[17] A: Pertaining to the neck?  
[18] Q: How many times did you take a series of  
[19] X-rays, then go and develop them, and come back?  
[20] A: Figure - Well, let's see. One, two,  
[21] three, four, five; one. That would be one. Took  
[22] one, two, three; two. About three or four times.

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[1] Q: Okay.  
[2] A: Maybe five, at the most.  
[3] Q: Did you, at any point during the evening,  
[4] see anyone from what I will call the presidential  
[5] entourage or the presidential party?  
[6] A: The first round of X-rays. I was coming  
[7] up the main hall -  
[8] THE WITNESS: Like I explained to you -  
[9] BY MR. GUNN:  
[10] Q: You're referring to the hall at  
[11] Bethesda -  
[12] A: Well, the -  
[13] Q: - Bethesda Hospital?  
[14] A: The picture that we had here. Coming up  
[15] the main hall towards the rotunda as they were  
[16] coming in. And this is where I was stopped by the  
[17] Secret Service.  
[18] Q: So, you're referring - Stopped just  
[19] before you entered into the rotunda?  
[20] A: Right. They did not want them to see me,  
[21] because there was all the press here coming in.  
[22] And they didn't want them to know that that was

Page

[1] there.  
[2] Q: Okay. So, the presidential party passed  
[3] through the rotunda in front of you.  
[4] A: Correct.  
[5] Q: And then what happened to the presidential  
[6] party?  
[7] A: They got on to the elevators, and went up  
[8] to the towers.  
[9] Q: And after they had done that, what did you  
[10] do?  
[11] A: I was allowed to pass, go to the back  
[12] hall, and go up to the X-ray department.  
[13] Q: Okay. How were you able to determine that  
[14] there were - the people you saw were from the  
[15] presidential entourage?  
[16] A: I saw Jacqueline Kennedy in the bloody  
[17] dress that she still had on.  
[18] Q: Did you see anyone else you recognized?  
[19] A: If I'm not mistaken, I think I saw Bobby  
[20] there that night, too. It was either Bobby or  
[21] Teddy. I'm not sure right off the - I saw one of  
[22] the brothers. I remember seeing them.

Page 3

[1] Q: Did you, at that time - or were you, at  
[2] that time, able to identify the Secretary of  
[3] Defense, Robert McNamara?  
[4] A: No.  
[5] Q: If you had seen Robert McNamara, would you  
[6] have known who he was?  
[7] A: At that time?  
[8] Q: At that time, 1963.  
[9] A: Probably not.  
[10] Q: Okay. What was the last series of X-rays  
[11] that you took on the night of November 22nd or  
[12] 23rd?  
[13] A: The lower portion of the body.  
[14] Q: And about how long after the first X-rays  
[15] that you took did you take the last series of  
[16] X-rays?  
[17] A: Well, that's going to be kind of  
[18] difficult, because every time we brought X-rays  
[19] back -  
[20] THE WITNESS: Getting dry.  
[21] Every time we brought X-rays back, they  
[22] were placed on the viewing box. There was a

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[1] conversation between Ebersole and the two gentlemen  
[2] who were doing the autopsy. And, of course, the  
[3] gallery had to stick their two cents in, and - It  
[4] had to be most of the night.  
[5] BY MR. GUNN:  
[6] Q: What was, in a very general way, the  
[7] condition of the body at the last time that you saw  
[8] it on the night of November 22nd/23rd?  
[9] A: Do you want me to be blunt?  
[10] Q: Yes.  
[11] A: A mess. There was body fluid everywhere.  
[12] The body was literally butchered.  
[13] Q: Did you see any reconstruction of the body  
[14] at all by morticians?  
[15] A: I remember when I looked into the skull -  
[16] I remember seeing an apparatus in there. I wasn't  
[17] sure of what it was. I just remembered this.  
[18] Q: When was it that you saw what you've  
[19] identified as "an apparatus" in the skull?  
[20] A: This was in the first series of films.  
[21] The only reason why this clicked is,  
[22] because I remember I was told by the duty officer

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[1] that the corpse was taken to Walter Reed Hospital  
[2] first - compound - Walter Reed compound first,  
[3] and then brought to Bethesda.  
[4] Q: Could you describe the apparatus that was  
[5] in the skull?  
[6] A: It was non-human. It had - I'm not sure  
[7] if it was metallic or plastic. There was so much  
[8] going on at that time. I just happened to see it.  
[9] It registered. And that was it.  
[10] Q: Did anyone besides the duty officer make  
[11] any reference to Walter Reed?  
[12] A: Yes, that one gentleman who was in the  
[13] picture with Reed and myself, that was at the end  
[14] there.  
[15] Q: On the far - the one on the far left?  
[16] A: Far left; right. He was the duty officer.  
[17] No, not there. The other picture.  
[18] Q: Yeah. In addition to the duty officer,  
[19] was there anyone else?  
[20] A: The chief on duty that night. There was  
[21] two.  
[22] Q: Okay.

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[1] A: There was a duty officer and a duty chief.  
[2] Q: Okay. And they both said that the body  
[3] had been to Walter Reed?  
[4] A: Right; Walter Reed compound. They didn't  
[5] say "hospital". They said "compound".  
[6] Q: Did you hear anyone else make any  
[7] statements about Walter Reed, other than the duty  
[8] officer and the duty chief?  
[9] A: That's the only two.  
[10] Q: Did you ever have occasion to make X-rays  
[11] of any bone fragments from the head of President  
[12] Kennedy?  
[13] A: That was the next day, in a private room  
[14] up on the fourth floor, with a portable X-ray unit.  
[15] And at -  
[16] Do you want me to reiterate a little bit?  
[17] Q: Okay.  
[18] A: I was told to place bone fragments on  
[19] these - or not bone fragments - metal fragments  
[20] that were given to me on these portions of the  
[21] skull, and take different exposures.  
[22] Q: Okay. We'll get back to that later.

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[1] A: Okay.  
[2] Q: Were you present in the autopsy during the  
[3] time that any photographs were taken?  
[4] A: Photographs were being taken all the time.  
[5] When I'd finish a set of films, Floyd would come in  
[6] and shoot his films. He'd run through a complete  
[7] roll of films, and take them out of his camera.  
[8] This is a couple times - What struck me  
[9] funny. A couple of them were taken away from him.  
[10] Then he'd take another camera and place it in,  
[11] like, little containers. A couple of the Secret  
[12] Service come over, and took them away from him for  
[13] some reason. I - I couldn't figure that out.  
[14] And Floyd kind of got to the point where  
[15] he got upset about it. He said, "Hey."  
[16] Q: When you say "Floyd", you're referring to  
[17] Floyd Riebe?  
[18] A: Right. Correct.  
[19] Q: Did you see any agent, yourself, take film  
[20] away from him?  
[21] A: Yes, I did.  
[22] Q: Did you see any agent actually expose film

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[1] to light?  
[2] A: Not at that time.  
[3] Q: Did you at any point during the autopsy -  
[4] A: No.  
[5] Q: - actually see it?  
[6] A: No. I was too busy. I just remember  
[7] seeing that particular incident.  
[8] Q: In addition to Floyd Riebe's taking  
[9] photographs, did you see anyone else take  
[10] photographs?  
[11] A: There was a chief there that night that  
[12] was taking movies. Remember how I had stated that  
[13] he was the gentleman that had committed suicide,  
[14] supposedly, and had the deformed hand - where they  
[15] found the gun in that deformed hand? He was there  
[16] that night, taking movies.  
[17] Q: Did you actually see him taking movies?  
[18] A: Yes, I did.  
[19] Q: What kind of movie camera was he using?  
[20] A: I would imagine, a simple eight  
[21] millimeter.  
[22] Q: Was he wearing a uniform?

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[1] A: Yes, he was.  
[2] Q: And what was his rank?  
[3] A: Chief.  
[4] Q: Did you hear any discussion during the  
[5] time of the autopsy about movies being taken?  
[6] A: Well, there was quite a few upset people  
[7] from the gallery that were - didn't like the idea.  
[8] But the chief just kept right on going. He said,  
[9] "I'm doing my job."  
[10] Q: In addition to the chief who was - Do  
[11] you remember the chief's name?  
[12] A: No, I don't.  
[13] Q: Does the name Pitzer mean anything to you?  
[14] A: Yes. Now, it rings a bell, but I'm not  
[15] quite sure. But that name "Pitzer" does ring a  
[16] bell.  
[17] Q: Are you able to elaborate at all why  
[18] you -  
[19] A: Not really. I'm not sure if it was - It  
[20] could have been brought to my recollection that  
[21] night that we had the get-together in Pittsburgh.  
[22] I think it was Pittsburgh. Yes, it was.

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[1] Q: But did you know that name at all on the  
[2] night of the -  
[3] A: No, I didn't know that name at that time.  
[4] No, I didn't. Some of this stuff is starting to  
[5] come back.  
[6] Q: Did you see any other photographers during  
[7] the night of the autopsy?  
[8] A: No. The only ones that I saw were the  
[9] news photographers out in the rotunda and the ones  
[10] that kept trying to get in there. And the - and  
[11] the guards keeping them out.  
[12] Q: Do you know the name John Stringer?  
[13] A: I've heard the name, but I don't recollect  
[14] personally who he is.  
[15] Q: Okay. A few questions back, I asked you  
[16] if you had seen the body of President Kennedy at  
[17] any time after there had been reconstruction. We  
[18] then went off to the apparatus that you talked  
[19] about. Could we go back, and let me ask you again.  
[20] Did you see the body at all after there  
[21] had been any morticians reconstructing or sewing  
[22] the body -

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[1] A: When I left, the mortician was coming in.  
[2] Q: At the time that you left when the  
[3] mortician was coming in, is that the last time that  
[4] you saw President Kennedy's body?  
[5] A: Absolutely. That's when I took my X-ray  
[6] machine and all my cassettes with me.  
[7] Q: I'd like to now go back a little bit.  
[8] We'll start doing this chronologically.  
[9] A: Sure.  
[10] Q: Could you tell me how much training that  
[11] you had received in radiology prior to November  
[12] 22nd, 1963?  
[13] A: All right. I had two years of extensive  
[14] schooling. Plus, I had a year that I had to sit  
[15] with a radiologist in a reading room. Plus, I had  
[16] my normal duty.  
[17] Q: When did you receive your two years of  
[18] schooling? What were the approximate dates?  
[19] A: Dates, I'm not sure. It's - You got me  
[20] there. I'm not sure of the actual date. It was, I  
[21] would have to estimate, around -  
[22] No. I don't want to say, because it - it

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[1] would - I'm not sure it would be correct.  
[2] Q: Where did you receive your formal  
[3] training?  
[4] A: Right there in Bethesda. I went to school  
[5] right there, for two years.  
[6] Q: Where did you have your one year of  
[7] training after the formal -  
[8] A: Right there at Bethesda. In fact, that's  
[9] why I stayed right there. So, it had to be within  
[10] that time period. Every - everything was right  
[11] there.  
[12] Q: Would it - If we were to go back three  
[13] years from November '63, we go back to 1960.  
[14] A: That could be a good estimation.  
[15] Q: So, it would be mostly likely the  
[16] beginning years of 1960s -  
[17] A: Correct.  
[18] Q: - that you received your training?  
[19] A: Correct.  
[20] Q: And was all of that training through the  
[21] Navy?  
[22] A: All through the Navy.

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[1] Q: Prior to the time of the autopsy of  
[2] President Kennedy, had you ever been present during  
[3] an autopsy?  
[4] A: Once or twice. And that was, basically,  
[5] because of the training that I had to go through -  
[6] the entry training, just to see what the cadavers  
[7] looked like.  
[8] Q: Was any of the prior autopsies that you  
[9] had attended a gunshot-wound autopsy?  
[10] A: There was - Let me take that back. When  
[11] I was - I was stationed at Quantico, Virginia. I  
[12] was the hospital corpsmen on duty that night. They  
[13] had brought two Marine guards in that were playing  
[14] quick draw. And I had to go to the autopsy that  
[15] next morning, and testify to what I had saw. And  
[16] this was - this was a gunshot wound to the head.  
[17] And I will reiterate and say that these  
[18] autopsies were quite efficient, thorough, and the  
[19] doctor that was doing the autopsy knew exactly what  
[20] he was doing, because everything was done  
[21] methodically.  
[22] He would do one portion of the autopsy;

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[1] documentation. Another part; documentation.  
[2] Another part; documentation. So, everything was  
[3] definitely documented at that time.  
[4] I could honestly say that night was a  
[5] total disaster.  
[6] Q: When you say "that night", you're  
[7] referring to November 22nd, '63?  
[8] A: November - Right.  
[9] Q: In what ways did the autopsy, as you  
[10] observed it on November 22nd, differ from the  
[11] previous gunshot autopsy that you had seen?  
[12] A: They would pull out an organ - a big  
[13] organ, and be up there cutting it up like a piece  
[14] of meat.  
[15] Q: This is on November 22nd?  
[16] A: Right; November 22nd. And then - Their  
[17] basic thing was, "We're looking for shells,  
[18] bullets, fragments." They weren't looking to, what  
[19] caused it? How was it done? What was the tracing  
[20] - what was the path of the bullet?  
[21] Q: How is it that you came to the impression  
[22] that what they were doing was looking for bullet

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[1] fragments?  
[2] A: That was plain and simple. They come  
[3] right out and said, "You're taking X-rays for  
[4] bullets."  
[5] Q: Do you recall who it was who said that?  
[6] A: Both. Humes said this to Ebersole, and  
[7] Ebersole said the same thing to me.  
[8] And then he turned to me and says, "Take  
[9] whatever films you feel necessary." And he's the  
[10] radiologist. He's supposed to lead me, not me  
[11] leading him.  
[12] And I'm showing him the films. And I'm  
[13] saying, "Well, hey, Doc, don't you think this -"  
[14] "Shut up. It's none of your business."  
[15] Q: Do you know whether Dr. Ebersole knew how  
[16] to take X-rays himself?  
[17] A: Let me - let me specify something to you  
[18] right now. He's a lieutenant - well, no. He's  
[19] not a lieutenant commander. He's a full commander  
[20] in the United States Navy.  
[21] If you know anything about ranking  
[22] officers and enlisted men, ranking officers do not

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[1] - do not - lower themselves and do an enlisted  
[2] man's job.  
[3] If they have a technician there, the  
[4] technician takes the X-rays. The radiologist reads  
[5] the X-rays. Plain and simple. It's an unwritten  
[6] law.  
[7] Q: That said, do you know whether Dr.  
[8] Ebersole knew how to take X-rays, if he had wanted  
[9] to? And what I'm asking is not what you would  
[10] guess, but just what you know.  
[11] A: I'm not trying to be facetious about this,  
[12] but that's funny. Dr. Ebersole had a very  
[13] high-fluting attitude about things. "I don't want  
[14] to dirty my hands." And this was his opinion.  
[15] "I am here. You are here."  
[16] "That's fine. If you want to feel that  
[17] way, that's fine. I'll do my job. Do my job to  
[18] the best of my ability. But don't step on my toes,  
[19] and say you're doing my job."  
[20] And he had a bad habit of doing that. He  
[21] was a gentleman that liked to bask in the glory.  
[22] But when the heat come down, he was the first one

[1] that went out the door.  
[2] Q: When you say "the heat came down", are you  
[3] referring to his behavior generally, or are you  
[4] referring to something specifically on the night of  
[5] the autopsy?  
[6] A: Well, he was not a leader. He was a  
[7] person that could be led. He was told what to do,  
[8] and he did it.  
[9] Q: Just with respect to the autopsy and what  
[10] you observed that night, did you see Dr. Ebersole  
[11] doing something different from what you thought he  
[12] should be doing during the course of the autopsy?  
[13] A: Correct. Yes, absolutely. He should have  
[14] been directing me, as he viewed the films. Each  
[15] set of films I brought down to him, I put on a  
[16] board.  
[17] I had a certain amount of expertise that I  
[18] felt should have been noticed. I tried to bring  
[19] this up to him, and tried to suggest different  
[20] things to him. And he wouldn't - wouldn't listen.  
[21] He kept listening to the gallery.  
[22] He was being led. Plain and simple. It

[1] Dr. Ebersole told me right away to shut my mouth.  
[2] "Do your job."  
[3] Now, it didn't take a person with a genius  
[4] intelligence to figure it out. It was right there.  
[5] Q: Were there any other observations that you  
[6] had that night that led you to draw the conclusions  
[7] that you've been drawing?  
[8] A: The film being taken from Floyd - the  
[9] photographs and - or the exposed photographs.  
[10] The comments being made.  
[11] Dr. Finck coming in and pushing him,  
[12] Ebersole - or not Ebersole - Humes and Boswell  
[13] out of the limelight, and taking over.  
[14] Different phone calls being received  
[15] during the autopsy.  
[16] Now, you know as well as I do. When  
[17] you're doing a forensic autopsy, you do not want to  
[18] be disturbed. Your mind is following a train of  
[19] thought. You're not receiving phone calls.  
[20] He received phone calls from Dallas. I  
[21] know for a fact he received phone calls from  
[22] downtown Washington.

[1] was right there. You couldn't help but see it.  
[2] Q: When you say he was being led by the  
[3] gallery, do you mean by particular people in the  
[4] gallery?  
[5] A: At least two particular people. One, a  
[6] high-ranking military official. There was a four  
[7] - four-star general in there.  
[8] Plus, there was a civilian gentleman,  
[9] which I took to be Kennedy's personal physician  
[10] because of the way he talked, particularly  
[11] pertaining to the myelogram dye in the back. He  
[12] knew exactly what it was. And the only person that  
[13] would know situations like that would be the  
[14] personal physician.  
[15] Q: And were this general and the person in  
[16] civilian clothing giving directions to Dr.  
[17] Ebersole?  
[18] A: Correct. Absolutely.  
[19] Q: And what kinds of directions were they  
[20] giving to him?  
[21] A: In a sense that, "The Kennedy family would  
[22] not allow - like you to pursue that path any

[1] Q: Let me go back to Dr. Finck, and talk  
[2] about the phone calls.  
[3] A: Sure.  
[4] Q: In what way did the direction of the  
[5] autopsy change after Dr. Finck arrived?  
[6] A: In the sense that he was more - how can I  
[7] put it - cohesive with directions from the  
[8] gallery.  
[9] When I lifted the body up to take films of  
[10] the torso, and the lumbar spine, and the pelvis,  
[11] this is when a king-size fragment - I'd say -  
[12] estimate around three, four sonometers - fell from  
[13] the back. And this is when Dr. Finck come over  
[14] with a pair of forceps, picked it up, and took -  
[15] That's the last time I ever saw it.  
[16] Now, it was big enough - That's about,  
[17] I'd say, an inch and a half. My finger - my small  
[18] finger. First joints.  
[19] Q: In addition to identifying that fragment  
[20] or picking up that fragment, what else did Dr.  
[21] Finck do that led you to believe that he was taking  
[22] - or that he was directing the autopsy?

[1] further. We do not want you to go any more in this  
[2] direction."  
[3] Q: Did you perceive those sorts of comments  
[4] during the night of the autopsy to be related to  
[5] personal health concerns and disfigurement of the  
[6] body, or did you understand them to be pertaining  
[7] to something else?  
[8] A: I understood them to be pertaining to  
[9] something else.  
[10] Q: What was it that you understood them to be  
[11] pertaining to?  
[12] A: Let me put it this way, plain and simple.  
[13] The autopsy was something that had to be done. It  
[14] didn't have to be done correctly. It had to be done  
[15] for record purposes only.  
[16] Finding out facts, forget it. This is  
[17] something that had to be done, but done in a way  
[18] that it's not going to implicate. And this is,  
[19] basically, the opinion I got, because I made that  
[20] statement, and I was told to shut up.  
[21] Q: To whom did you make the statement?  
[22] A: Well, I made it to Dr. Ebersole. And

[1] A: Well, he would bark orders at Humes and  
[2] Boswell.  
[3] Q: What kinds of orders did he give?  
[4] A: "Stop that. Don't do that anymore."  
[5] Where - "You take records" or "You take notes."  
[6] "Yes."  
[7] Q: Was it your impression that Dr. Finck was  
[8] taking instructions from one or more persons in the  
[9] gallery, or he was -  
[10] A: Absolutely.  
[11] Q: And from whom was he taking instructions?  
[12] A: From the same two gentlemen that had kept  
[13] rolling the situation all that night.  
[14] Q: You've previously referred to that person  
[15] being a four-star general. Which service was that  
[16] four-star general with; do you know?  
[17] A: I'll be honest with you. I can't  
[18] recollect. All I saw was the four big stars. And  
[19] that was enough.  
[20] Q: But you're calling him a general. It's,  
[21] presumably, not an admiral. I guess, that's fair.  
[22] A: Yes.

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[1] Q: Presumably, it would be either Army or Air  
[2] Force?

[3] A: Oh, it has to be one of the two. I know  
[4] an admiral when I see one. Absolutely. He's got  
[5] gold halfway up to his elbow.

[6] Q: After 1963, did you do any further work in  
[7] X-ray technology or radiology?

[8] A: Yes. I was employed - Well, when I came  
[9] back to Pittsburgh after I was discharged, I kind  
[10] of bounced around a little bit.

[11] Then I got a job in Montefiori Hospital in  
[12] and around, I'd say, '84, '83. Something around  
[13] there. And I stayed there for about - No, it was  
[14] a little bit earlier than that. It was in the  
[15] '80s. And then I went to - I stayed there for  
[16] about 18 years.

[17] Then I went to UPMC, and I became a  
[18] mid-manager. Plus, I took X-rays also.

[19] Q: When you say UPMC, that is -

[20] A: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center,  
[21] which is a big transplant center.

[22] Q: Would that - Would it be fair to say,

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[1] then, from some point in the early 1980s through  
[2] the present, you have continued to work either in  
[3] X-ray technology or radiology?

[4] A: All right. I would have to cut that off  
[5] around 1994, when the government come in and was  
[6] downsizing the different hospitals. I happened to  
[7] be one of the first victims because of budget cuts.

[8] But prior to, I figure I had about 18 -  
[9] 28 years of experience. Plus - that's not  
[10] counting my service time.

[11] Q: From what I'm understanding you, you did  
[12] radiology work from approximately 1960 through  
[13] approximately 1963.

[14] A: Right.

[15] Q: Did you do it in the service after 1963?

[16] A: Yes, I was stationed on a troop transport.  
[17] But not as much. It was basically hospital corps  
[18] work, but they still had an X-ray machine there.  
[19] And, of course, because they had the machine, they  
[20] had to have an X-ray technician.

[21] It was a little portable. Something that  
[22] you'd find in the Smithsonian at this time.

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[1] Q: Approximately what year did you get out of  
[2] the service?

[3] A: It would have to be - These dates,  
[4] hmm-hmm. Let's see. I went in '69.

[5] Q: '59?

[6] A: '59, rather. '59. And I served about  
[7] five years. So, that would have to be around -  
[8] just before the Vietnam crisis. So, it would be  
[9] around '65, '66. Somewhere around there.

[10] Because I was discharged two minutes after  
[11] midnight - Oh, no. I was discharged at midnight.  
[12] And two minutes after, the extension went through.

[13] So, they had to bring me in to Norfolk.  
[14] They had to move a troop transport from midstream  
[15] all the way back in, drop a mike boat, take me in,  
[16] drop me off, and go back out again. And I'm sure  
[17] that cost them a nice piece of change.

[18] Q: From the time that you left the service  
[19] until early 1980s, did you do any work in radiology  
[20] or X-ray technology?

[21] A: From the time I left the service? Well,  
[22] this is the time that I kind of bounced around a

Page

[1] little bit. Kind of got my bearings. And then  
[2] that's when I went to work for Montefiori. It was  
[3] like a year or two. In and around there.

[4] Q: Okay. We have talked about some of the  
[5] records that you saw being taken during the  
[6] autopsy, including the X-rays, some photographs,  
[7] the motion picture.

[8] In addition to those that you've already  
[9] mentioned, is there any other documentation that  
[10] you observed being made that pertained to the  
[11] autopsy of President Kennedy?

[12] A: Dr. Humes and Boswell. They were writing  
[13] in their notebooks.

[14] Q: Okay. Could you describe what the  
[15] notebooks looked like?

[16] A: Well, typical black, little notebook.

[17] Q: In addition to Humes and Boswell, did you  
[18] see anyone else taking notes?

[19] A: There was a few people in the gallery.

[20] Q: Were there any other records that you know  
[21] about that relate to the autopsy? And by that, I  
[22] would use, for example, log books or any other

Page

[1] sorts of documents that you -

[2] A: There was a log book in the radiology  
[3] department. If I'm not mistaken, I made a - I  
[4] made an entry that I had - was dispatched to the  
[5] morgue to take films. But I wasn't allowed to  
[6] place any other identification in there pertaining  
[7] to what I did, or who it was, or what - whatever.

[8] Q: When you say a log book -

[9] A: It was a duty log.

[10] Q: Duty log. Is there any other name that  
[11] that went by, other than "duty log"?

[12] A: There might have been - The duty officer  
[13] might have made his log. And maybe the chief -  
[14] his log, too.

[15] Q: Do you have any knowledge as to whether  
[16] those duty logs are the kind of records that are  
[17] kept permanently by the military?

[18] A: I have no idea. I would, basically, say  
[19] no.

[20] Q: Were you, at any point, asked to expunge  
[21] any entries -

[22] A: Asked to what?

Page

[1] Q: To delete any references.

[2] A: Yes, definitely.

[3] Q: Could you describe that for me, please?

[4] A: Well, I had made the statement on the one  
[5] duty log, in the main X-ray department, that I was  
[6] going to the morgue to X-ray President Kennedy.  
[7] And I was told to eradicate it. In fact, I was  
[8] told to tear the whole page out.

[9] Q: Did you tear the whole page out?

[10] A: Yeah. I gave it to Ebersole, and he  
[11] destroyed it.

[12] Q: Did you see him destroy it?

[13] A: Yes. I saw him destroy it.

[14] Q: Did he give you any explanation as to why  
[15] he wanted it destroyed?

[16] A: None of my business. That's exactly what  
[17] he said.

[18] I asked him. I said, "What are you  
[19] burning that up for? That's official government  
[20] property."

[21] And he says, "It's none of your business."  
[22] And burned it up.

[1] This is why I kept saying Dr. Ebersole was  
[2] not a leader. Dr. Ebersole was a follower. He did  
[3] what he was told to do.  
[4] Q: Did you see anyone else taking any notes  
[5] at the autopsy?  
[6] A: The only people that I had stated to you:  
[7] Humes, Boswell, a few of the gallery people. And  
[8] that's about it, really.  
[9] Q: Did you see any FBI or Secret Service  
[10] agents taking notes?  
[11] A: Oh, that's right. Sibert and O'Neill. I  
[12] could swear they were writing a book that night.  
[13] Everything that happened, writing it down.  
[14] Q: Had you known Sibert and O'Neill from -  
[15] A: Never.  
[16] Q: - any other time?  
[17] A: And, truthfully, I'm not even sure which  
[18] one followed me. I know it was one of the two of  
[19] them. It was - I know I said the Secret Service,  
[20] but I meant FBI. Let me correct that right now.  
[21] It was the FBI agent that followed me up  
[22] to the fourth floor. In fact, he was the gentleman

[1] that wanted to come in the dark room with me and  
[2] watch me develop the films. And I pushed him out.  
[3] I said, "You can't come in here."  
[4] Q: And that was either Mr. Sibert or O'Neill?  
[5] A: One of the two.  
[6] Q: When is the first time that you saw a  
[7] casket on November 22nd?  
[8] A: When they brought the casket into the  
[9] morgue.  
[10] Q: Did you see the casket on the loading  
[11] dock?  
[12] A: No. I was already in the morgue. I had  
[13] the - the portable X-ray unit in there. I had the  
[14] aprons. I had the cassettes. And the honor guard  
[15] brought the casket in.  
[16] Q: So, is the first time that you saw the  
[17] casket in the hallway, or in the morgue itself?  
[18] A: In the morgue itself.  
[19] Q: Could you look at the diagram that's  
[20] marked 201? Again, that's the diagram that you  
[21] brought with you today.  
[22] A: Mm-hmm.

[1] Q: The diagram puts - Again, this is what  
[2] is written on the diagram. It says "shipping  
[3] casket from Dallas TX". And that is marked with an  
[4] X on the diagram. Do you see that?  
[5] A: Let me make a correction now. I see it.  
[6] I didn't see it before. Let me make a correction  
[7] here.  
[8] This table -  
[9] Q: You're pointing to the one that's marked  
[10] number one.  
[11] A: Number one.  
[12] - was further back here.  
[13] Q: And you're putting it more towards -  
[14] A: Where the shipping casket was. The  
[15] shipping casket was brought in to about here.  
[16] Q: And what you're doing is pointing to a  
[17] space just below the number two -  
[18] A: This is the dissecting table.  
[19] Q: And you're pointing now at number two when  
[20] you say the "dissecting table".  
[21] A: Number two. This was a rise. Dissecting  
[22] table. Okay? That's number two.

[1] The casket was brought in. Dropped here.  
[2] Q: Okay. Just so the record is clear here.  
[3] In the drawing that we have now, there is -  
[4] Between the table marked number one and the  
[5] gallery, there's an X.  
[6] What you're saying now, in terms of where  
[7] you're pointing, is that the correct location for  
[8] that X should be in the same place but right -  
[9] A: Right.  
[10] Q: - between number two and the gallery.  
[11] A: This was a moveable table.  
[12] Q: And you're now pointing to number one.  
[13] A: Number one was moveable. So, what they  
[14] did is, they brought the table over here, placed  
[15] the body on the table, brought the table back to  
[16] where the shipping casket was.  
[17] It didn't dawn on me. Now it does.  
[18] Because this was further this way. And then you  
[19] had your viewing boxes here.  
[20] Q: Okay. Again, I'm going to try and correct  
[21] this for the record -  
[22] A: Sure.

[1] Q: - because people wouldn't know what you  
[2] mean.  
[3] A: Absolutely.  
[4] Q: And tell me if I'm saying any of this  
[5] incorrectly.  
[6] What you are saying, from what I  
[7] understand, is that the table that's marked number  
[8] one was actually - at the beginning of the autopsy  
[9] - located between what is marked number two and  
[10] the gallery.  
[11] A: No.  
[12] Q: Okay.  
[13] A: You're incorrect. This table -  
[14] Q: Okay. Now -  
[15] A: Number one.  
[16] Q: Number one.  
[17] A: - was placed on this drawing, where -  
[18] your Exhibit 201 - where the shipping casket was.  
[19] Q: Okay.  
[20] A: All right? Basically, because I remember  
[21] I couldn't get back in here real well -  
[22] Q: Back into the gallery?

[1] A: Into - Between the gallery and the  
[2] table, to take the one lateral. The one lateral  
[3] was nipped at the occipital region because of that.  
[4] Q: And you're referring to the lateral of -  
[5] A: Of the skull.  
[6] Q: - of the skull.  
[7] A: And I will elaborate on that further on,  
[8] after I see the films, and tell you what I had to  
[9] do and - because of the situation.  
[10] They brought the casket in near the raised  
[11] table, number two, which was the dissecting table.  
[12] This table was moveable.  
[13] Q: And you're now referring -  
[14] A: Number one was taken over to the casket.  
[15] The body was lifted out, placed on the table. I  
[16] helped them lift the body out and place it on the  
[17] table. They took the casket back out of the room  
[18] through the cooling room, moved the table over  
[19] closer to the gallery.  
[20] And this is when I was told that I could  
[21] leave. They'll call me back.  
[22] Q: Okay. I'm going to hand you a blue pen,

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[1] and ask you if you could mark onto Exhibit No. 201.  
[2] And why don't you make a circle with an X in it at  
[3] the place where the casket was first placed in the  
[4] autopsy room.  
[5] A: Okay.  
[6] Q: Okay. And then just put an X through the  
[7] middle of that.  
[8] A: Mm-hmm.  
[9] Q: Okay. And that's with the blue pen.  
[10] Now, from what I'm understanding from your  
[11] testimony is that after the casket was placed  
[12] there, the table that's marked number one was  
[13] finally moved over next to where you have drawn -  
[14] A: Right.  
[15] Q: - the blue circle. The body was put on  
[16] the table and moved -  
[17] A: Right. And brought back.  
[18] Q: - and brought back to where there is the  
[19] - currently is written "shipping casket" -  
[20] A: Right.  
[21] Q: - "from Dallas TX".  
[22] Maybe what I'll ask you to do is to put

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[1] one extra line through the one that you've drawn.  
[2] So, that one will have three dissecting lines;  
[3] whereas, the original on the drawing that we have  
[4] just has two dissecting lines.  
[5] A: All right.  
[6] Q: Does that make sense?  
[7] A: The only reason why I didn't catch it  
[8] before is, because I just scanned this real quick,  
[9] and I didn't see it. It didn't register, "shipping  
[10] casket".  
[11] And I remember having problems getting  
[12] back in here, because if you - if you'd see the  
[13] X-ray unit that I used, it was a big, cumbersome  
[14] thing.  
[15] It's not like the new ones today that are  
[16] a little bit smaller. They can get into small  
[17] holes there.  
[18] And this was too close here. It was close  
[19] enough that I - I could just get in there. Just  
[20] enough to get in there, to get that film.  
[21] Q: And what you're saying is that the table  
[22] marked number one was too close to the gallery for

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[1] you to get between -  
[2] A: Right.  
[3] Q: Okay.  
[4] A: It was just enough to get the tube head  
[5] in. That was it. But I couldn't get the - what I  
[6] wanted to get in.  
[7] But I would have to get more detailed in  
[8] there later, and tell you why - due to the  
[9] condition of the skull and due to the -  
[10] This was a typical autopsy table, which  
[11] was concaved.  
[12] Q: Okay.  
[13] A: So, I had to build the head up. But when  
[14] I built the head up - The head was so unstable,  
[15] due to the - the fractures. The fractures were  
[16] extremely numerous. It was like somebody took a  
[17] hard-boiled egg, and just rolled it in her hand.  
[18] And that's exactly what the head was like.  
[19] Q: So, when you say that it's like that, you  
[20] mean the pieces of the shell are analogous to the  
[21] pieces of the skull; is that right?  
[22] A: Right. And every time we picked the head

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[1] up, you could feel it. This part of the head would  
[2] come out; this part of the head would be in. And  
[3] it was just -  
[4] The only thing that held it together was  
[5] the skin. And even that was loose.  
[6] Q: Okay. All right. Let's go back to the -  
[7] back to your first sight of the casket. Were you  
[8] present when the casket was opened?  
[9] A: Yes.  
[10] Q: And what was it that you first saw when  
[11] the casket - Well, actually, let me go back to  
[12] another question.  
[13] Could you describe what the casket looked  
[14] like?  
[15] A: I don't think it was a shipping casket. I  
[16] remember seeing a bronze ceremonial casket brought  
[17] in. I don't know where they got the shipping  
[18] casket at. A shipping casket, to me, is a tin,  
[19] metal-colored, gray thing. And that certainly  
[20] wasn't what he was put in.  
[21] Q: Okay.  
[22] MR. GUNN: Could you hold on just one

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[1] second?  
[2] THE WITNESS: Because you're talking the  
[3] President of the United States. Why would they put  
[4] him in a shipping casket? They had to have some  
[5] dignity about this.  
[6] MR. GUNN: If you can hold for just one  
[7] moment.  
[8] THE WITNESS: Sure.  
[9] [Discussion off the record.]  
[10] BY MR. GUNN:  
[11] Q: Before we went off the record, you were  
[12] describing the casket that you saw in the morgue at  
[13] Bethesda.  
[14] I'd like to show you some photographs, and  
[15] ask you whether the casket that you see in the  
[16] photographs is the same one that you saw - or the  
[17] same general type, we'll say, as the one that you  
[18] saw in the morgue?  
[19] A: Yes. This is, generally.  
[20] Q: That's what it looked like?  
[21] A: Yeah.  
[22] MR. GUNN: What I'd like to do is mark

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[1] this as Exhibit No. 204.  
[2] [ARRB Exhibit No. 204 marked  
[3] for identification.]  
[4] THE WITNESS: But you got to remember  
[5] something. There was more than one casket that  
[6] night.  
[7] BY MR. GUNN:  
[8] Q: When you say there was more than one  
[9] casket, what do you mean?  
[10] A: There was a casket brought in the back by  
[11] a black Cadillac ambulance. Plus, there was a  
[12] casket that Jacqueline Kennedy had in her  
[13] entourage, too.  
[14] Q: Well, let's - Could you describe for me  
[15] all of the caskets that you saw? The first one you  
[16] have described as being a bronze casket, and  
[17] looking like the photograph on Exhibit No. 204.  
[18] What other caskets did you see on the  
[19] night of November 22nd/23rd?  
[20] A: There was also a bronze casket that I saw  
[21] that night, too.  
[22] Q: Where did you see that?

[1] A: That was sitting next to the one in the  
[2] cooling room.  
[3] Q: When did you first see that - And you're  
[4] referring to the -  
[5] A: Right.  
[6] Q: - the cooler room that's just outside the  
[7] morgue from -  
[8] A: Correct.  
[9] Q: - Exhibit No. 201?  
[10] A: Right.  
[11] Q: When did you first see the second casket  
[12] in the cooler room?  
[13] A: When I left the first time, after the  
[14] first set of films.  
[15] Q: And could that casket have been the same  
[16] one that you previously saw?  
[17] A: I don't think so. There were two of them  
[18] there.  
[19] Q: Two of them there. How did the appearance  
[20] of the second casket differ from the one that had  
[21] been in the morgue itself?  
[22] A: To the best of my recollection, they

[1] casket sitting over here. Plus, there was another  
[2] casket sitting over here.  
[3] And this when I had come up to the hall,  
[4] going to the main entrance. And once I hit the  
[5] main entrance, this is when I come up and I saw the  
[6] entourage.  
[7] At that time, if I'm not mistaken, the  
[8] casket - the casket had come around from that  
[9] entourage already to the back.  
[10] Q: Now, I may be mistaken, but I had thought  
[11] that you said earlier in the deposition that the  
[12] first time that you saw a casket was in the morgue  
[13] itself.  
[14] A: Yes.  
[15] Q: Did you - After you first saw a casket  
[16] in the morgue itself, did you see another casket  
[17] being unloaded from an ambulance -  
[18] A: No, no, no, no, no. I'll take - No.  
[19] No, absolutely not.  
[20] This is the only one I saw being unloaded.  
[21] After -  
[22] Q: And now you're referring to the one in the

[1] looked pretty close.  
[2] Q: Was the second casket open or closed?  
[3] A: Closed.  
[4] Q: Did you ask anyone what the other - that  
[5] casket was?  
[6] A: [Shakes head from side to side.]  
[7] COURT REPORTER: Your answer?  
[8] THE WITNESS: No. I'm sorry.  
[9] Again, I was told - and this stuck in my  
[10] mind. "Do not ask questions. Do what you're  
[11] supposed to do. Get it done. And then you're  
[12] done."  
[13] BY MR. GUNN:  
[14] Q: In addition to those two caskets, did you  
[15] see any other casket that night?  
[16] A: To the best of my recollection, no.  
[17] Q: Now, you were referring some - a minute  
[18] ago to, what I had understood, a casket that came  
[19] in a black ambulance; is that correct?  
[20] A: Yes.  
[21] Q: What is your basis for making that  
[22] comment?

[1] morgue.  
[2] A: After I took the first set of films,  
[3] that's when I saw the second one.  
[4] Q: But you didn't see that being unloaded  
[5] from the -  
[6] A: No.  
[7] Q: - from an ambulance?  
[8] A: No. This -  
[9] Q: Did you ever see the ambulance?  
[10] A: I saw the first ambulance.  
[11] Q: Where did you - When you saw the first  
[12] ambulance, where was it?  
[13] A: Right here at the loading dock. That's  
[14] when I come around to see what was going on. I  
[15] heard them coming.  
[16] Q: Okay.  
[17] A: And I came to this door. And I could see  
[18] them unloading from the ambulance.  
[19] Q: And they were unloading at that point -  
[20] A: Right.  
[21] Q: - what you understand to be the second  
[22] casket?

[1] A: Well, I saw the ambulance. Then I saw  
[2] them bring it in, out of the back of the ambulance.  
[3] Q: So, this - Is this the third casket?  
[4] A: No, no, no, no, no.  
[5] Q: Oh, this -  
[6] A: This is the first casket.  
[7] Q: That's the first one, okay.  
[8] A: This is the one that I saw. That they  
[9] took the body out of this casket, and we put it on  
[10] the table. Then I left.  
[11] I came back later - came back later, took  
[12] the first set of films, and came - In the process  
[13] of doing the first set of films, I went out -  
[14] No, wait. Let me back up here. I'm  
[15] confusing myself here.  
[16] Took the first set of films. I went out  
[17] through here. The casket -  
[18] Q: And you're referring to the door through  
[19] the cooler -  
[20] A: Through the door.  
[21] Q: - cooler room?  
[22] A: Through the cooler room. There was a

[1] A: No. This was the first casket.  
[2] Q: Okay. Well -  
[3] A: You're - you're getting a little confused  
[4] here. It was -  
[5] Q: Okay. Let -  
[6] A: The second casket wasn't brought in - I  
[7] did not see the second casket until after the first  
[8] set of films. You got to remember, there was  
[9] like -  
[10] I saw the first casket. I left for at  
[11] least an hour. When I come back, I come in, took  
[12] films. After I took the films, I left again. This  
[13] is when I saw the second casket.  
[14] Q: And did you see the second casket being  
[15] unloaded -  
[16] A: No.  
[17] Q: But you saw the a black ambulance out at  
[18] the loading dock?  
[19] A: Right.  
[20] Q: And it was your assumption that the second  
[21] casket came out of the black ambulance; is that  
[22] correct?

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(1) A: No. I can't assume that, because I didn't  
(2) see it.  
(3) Q: Are you certain that the ambulance was  
(4) black, rather than gray or white?  
(5) A: I'm sure the first one was black. It had  
(6) to be. You must remember - Remember when I told  
(7) you, I was told the body had went to Walter Reed  
(8) compound first. Now, I don't know what ambulance  
(9) they put it in, but I just remember seeing a black  
(10) ambulance there.  
(11) There was a gray one. I know that for a  
(12) fact, because I saw it later. I was told, too,  
(13) that there was a gray ambulance with the entourage.  
(14) But that's it. I never saw it there at the back.  
(15) Plain and simple.  
(16) Q: Where did you see - Where and when did  
(17) you see the gray ambulance?  
(18) A: When? Later on, at the end of the night,  
(19) I saw it.  
(20) Q: And was it out near the loading dock?  
(21) A: It was parked there. Not at the dock  
(22) itself. It was parked off to the side.

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(1) Q: Did you see any helicopters at Bethesda  
(2) that night?  
(3) A: I was told a helicopter had come in.  
(4) Q: Did you see one?  
(5) A: No, I didn't see it.  
(6) Q: Did you hear one?  
(7) A: I was just told it had come in.  
(8) Q: Who told you?  
(9) A: The duty officer. And then the casket was  
(10) to be loaded on an ambulance, and brought in.  
(11) Q: To be loaded on an ambulance where?  
(12) A: I don't know.  
(13) Q: Okay. Could you describe the appearance  
(14) of President Kennedy when the casket was first  
(15) opened in the morgue?  
(16) A: What surprised me, he had a plastic bag  
(17) around his head with sheets wrapped around it. And  
(18) you could see the blood on the sheets. But after  
(19) we - That's all I saw.  
(20) And after we got him on the table, I was  
(21) asked to leave. I didn't see anything else.  
(22) Q: When you say -

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(1) A: He was still dressed in a suit.  
(2) Q: He was dressed in a suit?  
(3) A: That's the way I saw it.  
(4) Q: When you say a plastic bag around his  
(5) head, does that mean around the head, but not any  
(6) other part of the body?  
(7) A: To the best of my recollection, that's all  
(8) I remember. Just around his head.  
(9) Q: What - Was it colored plastic, or clear  
(10) plastic?  
(11) A: I'd have to surmise. I'm not sure. I  
(12) just remember it was a plastic covering. Well, I  
(13) guess, it had to be clear, because I saw the  
(14) sheets. The sheets were bloody.  
(15) Q: Okay. Just to make sure that I'm  
(16) understanding. The body then is taken out and put  
(17) on the table.  
(18) A: Right.  
(19) Q: At that point, you were asked to leave.  
(20) A: Leave.  
(21) Q: Okay.  
(22) A: So, from there on, whatever occurred, I

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(1) was not there.  
(2) Q: And, so, at this point, you did not take  
(3) any X-rays yourself?  
(4) A: None.  
(5) Q: Now, when you left the morgue, where did  
(6) you go at this point?  
(7) A: Back upstairs to the X-ray department,  
(8) waiting for -  
(9) Q: Through the rotunda?  
(10) A: Right.  
(11) Q: And on that trip is not the time that you  
(12) saw -  
(13) A: No.  
(14) Q: - the presidential entourage?  
(15) A: No.  
(16) Q: That was later, is that right?  
(17) A: Later.  
(18) Q: And previously you've said that - in this  
(19) deposition, if I understand correctly - that you  
(20) were out of the morgue for - The way that I'm  
(21) understanding is, you said about an hour. Maybe  
(22) more, maybe less.

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(1) A: Right.  
(2) Q: But approximately an hour.  
(3) A: Right.  
(4) Q: Were you with Mr. Reed at that time during  
(5) that hour, or approximately an hour?  
(6) A: To the best of my recollections, yes, I do  
(7) believe so.  
(8) Q: Was anyone else with you at that time?  
(9) A: There was a - one of the FBI agents were  
(10) with us.  
(11) Q: But at this time, you were not developing  
(12) any X-rays; is that right?  
(13) A: No.  
(14) Q: Did you talk at all about what you had  
(15) just seen?  
(16) A: No. We were told not to.  
(17) Q: What circumstances led to your going back  
(18) to the morgue?  
(19) A: We were summoned.  
(20) Q: Did you get a telephone call?  
(21) A: Right.  
(22) Q: Do you remember who the call was from?

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(1) A: Ebersole.  
(2) Q: When you went back to the morgue, did you  
(3) take any film cassettes with you?  
(4) A: Yes, definitely. Because we didn't have  
(5) enough with us.  
(6) Q: If I can go out of order chronologically,  
(7) when did you take the portable X-ray equipment to  
(8) the morgue?  
(9) A: Oh, this was at the beginning. This is  
(10) when we first found out that we were going to be  
(11) using the machine. And that was down there -  
(12) placed there before anything had come through.  
(13) Anything.  
(14) Q: Could you describe the X-ray - portable  
(15) X-ray machine that you took to the morgue?  
(16) A: It was an old GE unit that weighed  
(17) anywhere from 1500 to 2000 pounds. I mean, it was  
(18) a bulky, old unit.  
(19) Q: About how big was it? If you can just  
(20) describe the dimensions -  
(21) A: All right. I'm about five/eleven. The  
(22) main tower was pretty close to six foot. The table

[1] - the base unit was approximately three foot by  
[2] three foot. And it was about three foot high.  
[3] And it had a bunch of knobs on it. It had  
[4] a door in the front, where all the cassettes would  
[5] go. And the tube was able to swing 360 degrees,  
[6] and tilt 90 - or 360 either way.

[7] Q: Was it on wheels?

[8] A: Yes.

[9] Q: So, you could push it down the hallway?

[10] A: Yes. With great difficulty, of course.

[11] This was an old machine that was heavy.

[12] Q: Okay. If we can go back now to -

[13] A: Sure.

[14] Q: - back to the chronology. You have now

[15] come back into the morgue after having been

[16] summoned by Dr. Ebersole.

[17] What do you observe of the body of  
[18] President Kennedy? What was the condition at that  
[19] point?

[20] A: All right. The body was completely nude.

[21] The Y incision had been made. And the skull

[22] literally was a mess.

[1] Q: The Y incision, you say, had been made.  
[2] Had any of the organs been removed at that time?

[3] A: I'm not sure, truthfully. I would safely  
[4] say yes, because I remember - When I come, I  
[5] remember Dr. Boswell there, sauteing the liver  
[6] and -

[7] Yeah, it has to be. It'd have to be. I  
[8] can't say all of them were removed. I know a good  
[9] portion of them were removed.

[10] Q: What was the first series of X-rays that  
[11] you took?

[12] A: Definitely, skull films.

[13] Q: How many skull films did you take?

[14] A: Well, I took a modified waters. And,  
[15] basically, the only reason why I took a modified  
[16] waters is, because rigor mortis had already set in.  
[17] And the head was placed in a - The head was a  
[18] position already with a 30-degree up tilt due to  
[19] the rigor mortis being set in.

[20] And the head, like I had stated before,  
[21] was in such a unstable - unstable situation,  
[22] because - due to all the fractures. I could only

[1] place so much steadying apparatus around it, to get  
[2] a halfway decent film. So, what you saw was an  
[3] elongation of the orbits, which showed you, right  
[4] there, there was a 30-degree up tilt.

[5] Now, when the orbits are the other  
[6] direction and become smaller, you're going -  
[7] tilting towards the feet.

[8] Q: Can you explain what you mean by "orbits"?

[9] A: Orbits are your eye sockets, where your  
[10] eyes and your optic nerves fit in.

[11] Q: And, so, when you're referring to the  
[12] degrees, it is how far the head has been either  
[13] tilted back or tilted forward -

[14] A: That's correct.

[15] Q: - in relationship to the neck?

[16] A: Correct.

[17] Q: When you referred to a "modified waters",  
[18] is that a particular angle?

[19] A: A full waters is 45 degrees. All right?

[20] And that's taken at a posterior/anterior.

[21] When you're in the - the regular radiological  
[22] positioning, anterior is your front. Posterior is

[1] your back. Okay?

[2] All the films were taken in an  
[3] anterior/posterior position. There's no way in  
[4] God's creation we could have turned this body over  
[5] on the stomach, and done the films the way they  
[6] should have been done. So, we had to do them to  
[7] the best possible way, and get the best possible  
[8] films in that predicament.

[9] Q: Let me go back to an earlier question, and  
[10] ask you: How many exposures did you take of the  
[11] skull?

[12] A: Took an anterior/posterior, both laterals,  
[13] and I took two oblique films. And the only reason  
[14] why I took the two oblique films were to show any  
[15] depth in bullet fragments.

[16] Q: Is there a particular name or particular  
[17] type of oblique films that you took?

[18] A: No. I just took them to show fragments  
[19] and to show the gaping holes.

[20] Q: No. What I'm thinking of is a term such  
[21] as "Town" or "tangential" for the oblique -

[22] A: Okay. Well, you could call them

[1] tangential views. But you wouldn't call them  
[2] Town's.

[3] Town's is a complete - where you bring  
[4] the chin all the way down to the chest, and you  
[5] bring it in. You're diverging your central ray  
[6] through the forehead, and it comes down through the  
[7] occipital opening. It shows the foramen magnum.  
[8] That's where the spine comes through.

[9] Q: And did you take a Town's -

[10] A: To my best recollection, no. There's no  
[11] way to take it because of the rigor mortis, the way  
[12] the head was positioned. You couldn't get a real  
[13] good Town's. So, I totally eliminated it because  
[14] of that.

[15] Q: Was there any brain inside the cranium at  
[16] the time that you took the first series of X-rays?

[17] A: To the best of my recollection, no.

[18] Q: Were you present at any time while brain  
[19] tissue was being removed?

[20] A: No, I wasn't.

[21] Q: Did you ever see a wound on the front of  
[22] President Kennedy's throat or the anterior of the

[1] throat?

[2] A: Yes, I did.

[3] Q: Could you describe the wound that you  
[4] observed?

[5] A: A typical bullet hole.

[6] Q: How large was it?

[7] A: I would estimate, a little bit bigger than  
[8] my little finger in dimension, across circumference  
[9] - or diameter.

[10] Q: Okay. So, there was not a long incision  
[11] or cut on the throat that you observed; is that  
[12] correct?

[13] A: Not at that time, I didn't.

[14] Q: And the first time that you saw this wound  
[15] on the throat was when? At the time you were  
[16] taking the X-rays, or before?

[17] A: This was at the time I was taking the  
[18] X-rays.

[19] Q: Did you ever see a wound on the back of  
[20] President Kennedy?

[21] A: That's when I picked him up, and the  
[22] bullet dropped out of there. There was a small

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[1] wound.  
[2] Q: Where was that wound located?  
[3] A: I would have to estimate in mid-thoracic,  
[4] somewhere around there - or upper thoracic.  
[5] Q: And what kind of wound did that appear to  
[6] be to you?  
[7] A: Another small bullet hole.  
[8] Q: And other than the Y incision, did you  
[9] observe any other wounds on President Kennedy's  
[10] body, other than those you've described?  
[11] A: Let's see. I'm trying to think now.  
[12] Well, there was a gaping hole in the right parietal  
[13] region. The right eyeball was protruding.  
[14] And, truthfully, if you know anything  
[15] about basic physics - when you have a force, you  
[16] have an equal and opposite force in the other  
[17] direction. So, that kind of -  
[18] At that time, it didn't come to my  
[19] recollection what it was. But later on, I realized  
[20] that had to be an entrance wound of some sort  
[21] there. Because if you read in that - the  
[22] transcription that I brought in, that that's

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[1] brought out.  
[2] [Discussion off the record.]  
[3] [ARRB Exhibit Nos. 205, 206,  
[4] and 207 were marked for  
[5] identification.]  
[6] BY MR. GUNN:  
[7] Q: Mr. Custer, I'd like to show you three  
[8] documents that we've marked Exhibits Nos. 205, 206,  
[9] and 207, that are schematic drawings of a skull.  
[10] And what I'd like to do is to ask you  
[11] some questions about the wounds that you saw on the  
[12] skulls. So, this will not be a question about the  
[13] X-rays -  
[14] A: Fine.  
[15] Q: - that you took, but just the wounds that  
[16] you could observe with your own eyes of the skull.  
[17] And what I'd like to ask you to do - And  
[18] you can choose any of the three diagrams that -  
[19] any one or more of the three diagrams to draw where  
[20] you saw the injuries to - damage to the skull.  
[21] A: Okay. Basically, the lateral skull, which  
[22] is marked Exhibit 206, damage was in the parietal

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[1] temporal region. So, that would have to involve  
[2] all the way down through here. And then you had a  
[3] ragged piece of bone that come up like this. And  
[4] then down through here.  
[5] On the one X-ray, you could actually see  
[6] the cella turcica, which is called the Turk's cell.  
[7] That is the keystone of the cranial vault, which  
[8] holds the brain. And on the one lateral, this was  
[9] very prominent. You can actually see this.  
[10] Here, you would - Like I had stated  
[11] before, the right eye was out like this. This  
[12] whole portion back through here - there was  
[13] fractures through up, fractures through here,  
[14] fractures through here.  
[15] Q: What I need to do is make sure this makes  
[16] sense on the record. Now, what you have done is  
[17] drawn a shape that I'll call somewhat kidney  
[18] shaped -  
[19] A: Correct.  
[20] Q: - onto the drawing. And that - that is  
[21] the part of the skull that was missing.  
[22] A: Right.

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[1] Q: Is that correct?  
[2] A: Correct. This was all gaping. And, in  
[3] fact, it may have gone a little bit further back  
[4] into here.  
[5] Q: Okay. Well, if you could draw, the best  
[6] you can, what the -  
[7] A: This is the best of my recollection. It  
[8] could have come back into there a little bit more.  
[9] I mean, it was a king-size hole. I have  
[10] extremely large hands. And to estimate the size of  
[11] the hole, I could put my hands together and place  
[12] my hands in the skull.  
[13] Q: Now, on the drawing that you have made,  
[14] and with the bones as they're identified here, none  
[15] of the principal part of the missing wound goes  
[16] into the occipital bone; is that correct?  
[17] A: The hole doesn't, but this is all  
[18] unstable. A lot of this bone was out. It would  
[19] flap out.  
[20] Q: And when you say "this bone", you're  
[21] referring to the -  
[22] A: The occipital region.

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[1] Q: - the parietal -  
[2] A: Right. And part of the Lambdoidal, and  
[3] down through the posterior of the occipital  
[4] protuberance. This was all unstable material. I  
[5] mean, completely.  
[6] Q: Could you use the blue pen and make hash  
[7] marks that will cover the part - portion of the  
[8] bone that was missing from the skull?  
[9] A: I'm all ready. What do you mean?  
[10] Q: So, just make marks of that sort -  
[11] A: Oh, okay. It would have to be like this.  
[12] Q: So that - This is so that a person  
[13] reading the transcript -  
[14] A: Right.  
[15] Q: - can understand what's the portion that  
[16] you're saying is missing.  
[17] A: See, this portion here was like a  
[18] irregular -  
[19] Q: You're -  
[20] A: You know what it actually - Oh, go  
[21] ahead. It -  
[22] Q: You're referring - I'm sorry. You're

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[1] referring - When you say "this here", it's not  
[2] going to be clear on the transcript.  
[3] A: The temporal bone area.  
[4] Q: Okay. What you're referring to is the  
[5] suture between the temporal bone and the parietal  
[6] bone?  
[7] A: Right.  
[8] Q: Okay.  
[9] A: This flapped out. It looked as if they  
[10] had sawed it. But this was all missing here.  
[11] Q: And when you say "this", you're referring  
[12] to the hash marks?  
[13] A: The hash marks. And the parietal bone.  
[14] Q: Okay.  
[15] Q: Now, earlier - and just to make sure this  
[16] is clear for the record - you were saying that  
[17] there were - that the bone was split and  
[18] fragmented. And you're referring to the part  
[19] outside of the hash marks -  
[20] A: Right.  
[21] Q: - but along the back and on the top?  
[22] A: In fact, this part, which is between two

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[1] - I'd say superior to the Lambdoidal suture -  
[2] this part of the skull came out past the line, and  
[3] came back in - ragged.  
[4] Q: And what you just did is draw a straight  
[5] line -  
[6] A: Right.  
[7] Q: - near the top of the cranium, and then a  
[8] line down that connects with it.  
[9] A: Which tells you again, you had to have a  
[10] king-size force coming anterior to posterior.  
[11] Everything seemed like it was just pushed  
[12] backwards. This whole area blew out.  
[13] Q: And you're referring again to the part  
[14] where you have the hash marks.  
[15] A: Temporal area. Temporal bone - or the  
[16] parietal bone.  
[17] Q: Okay.  
[18] A: And this flopped.  
[19] Q: Okay. Now, you referred to portions of  
[20] the skull being missing. Can you tell me whether  
[21] scalp was missing there, too?  
[22] A: It was shredded. The scalp was shredded.

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[1] Q: And -  
[2] A: And it was loose. When I - I remember,  
[3] when I first came in and saw the face, everything  
[4] had been drooped, like somebody had pulled the  
[5] scalp and pulled it down. I had to look twice at  
[6] it.  
[7] Q: Now, this time when you see this, this is  
[8] when you have been out of the morgue for  
[9] approximately an hour.  
[10] A: Right.  
[11] Q: And you've come back.  
[12] A: Right.  
[13] Q: But you see it that way.  
[14] A: Right.  
[15] Q: Could you look at the drawing on Exhibit  
[16] No. 207, and draw on that exhibit where the skull  
[17] was missing.  
[18] A: All right. Here you have that flap again.  
[19] Q: And you're referring to the top right -  
[20] A: The supratemporal line. In and around  
[21] that area. And this whole area - I mean, back  
[22] through here - was gone.

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[1] Q: Okay. And if you could make hash marks on  
[2] that again.  
[3] A: But, again, this was all unstable.  
[4] Q: And you're now referring to the occipital  
[5] bone.  
[6] A: The occipital bone. And you had  
[7] fractures. I mean, through here, through here.  
[8] And near the sagittal suture, you had that portion  
[9] of the bone that protruded upward.  
[10] Q: Okay.  
[11] A: Now, this is a estimation, really.  
[12] Q: No, I understand.  
[13] A: Okay.  
[14] Q: When you took the X-rays, did you have any  
[15] kind of markers or tags that would identify, for  
[16] example, who the subject of the X-ray was, or some  
[17] unique identifier?  
[18] A: Nothing that would identify the subject.  
[19] I had my - my own little measuring device on it.  
[20] Q: What kind of measuring device was that?  
[21] A: Well, it showed if a - the position was  
[22] too far to the left, too far to the right, or the

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[1] chin was up too high, or the chin was on -  
[2] They had like little holes in it, and you  
[3] could see the - It would either elongate, or  
[4] you'd see a little dot.  
[5] Q: Was there a name for that measuring  
[6] device?  
[7] A: It was my own personal device.  
[8] Q: Were there any other identifiers that  
[9] would appear on the film that would help say when  
[10] the -  
[11] A: Maybe. I'm not sure now. It could have  
[12] had the hospital identification on the film.  
[13] That's possible. I'm not sure.  
[14] Q: Is there any other way that you can think  
[15] of that - if we were to show you X-rays, that you  
[16] would be - would help you identify whether they  
[17] are X-rays that you, yourself, took on the night of  
[18] the November 22nd?  
[19] A: Well, there's one in particular. One of  
[20] the laterals - where Dr. Ebersole put it too close  
[21] to the hot light, and he burned the emulsion.  
[22] Q: When did that happen?

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[1] A: That was during - after the first set of  
[2] skull films were taken. And the AP cervical spine  
[3] showed metal fragments. And one of the laterals  
[4] also showed a - bone fragments that had the cones  
[5] effect.  
[6] If you've ever used a fragment bullet -  
[7] when it goes in, it fragments. And the further it  
[8] goes in, the cone becomes bigger. So, you have a  
[9] small -  
[10] Let me borrow your pen. I know this is  
[11] hard to put it on record.  
[12] Like your cone starts small. And it  
[13] goes - As you come out, it expands. Say, this  
[14] being the front of the skull: the forehead, the  
[15] orbits, the nasion, which is the nose, the jaw -  
[16] come back, the occipital region.  
[17] Now, that's a very crude drawing; but,  
[18] basically, you get the idea.  
[19] MR. GUNN: Can we go off the record for a  
[20] second?  
[21] [Discussion off the record.]  
[22] BY MR. GUNN:

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[1] Q: Mr. Custer, is there any other identifying  
[2] information that would help you be able to  
[3] determine whether an X-ray that you took that night  
[4] was in - Let me withdraw that.  
[5] Is there any other type of identifier that  
[6] you can think of that would help you determine  
[7] whether an X-ray is one that you took on the night  
[8] of November 22nd or 23rd?  
[9] A: Well, there's one that I know for a fact  
[10] of the lumbar spinal region. He had myelogram dye  
[11] in - It's contrast media dye.  
[12] Because, you must remember, Kennedy had a  
[13] back problem, which he had to come to Bethesda to  
[14] get films and treatment for, anyway. And this is  
[15] one time that I had met him prior. Basically,  
[16] that's it, really.  
[17] Q: Okay. Who was involved in the setting up  
[18] of the X-rays on the skull, in addition to -  
[19] A: I was.  
[20] Q: Anyone besides yourself?  
[21] A: No. I was.  
[22] Q: You did all of the work?

[1] A: I did all of the work.  
[2] Q: What was Mr. Reed's role at that time?  
[3] A: Just assisting me, and handing me films,  
[4] and, basically, taking the cassettes out of the  
[5] dirty coverings.  
[6] Q: Did Dr. Ebersole play any role in the  
[7] technical part of taking the X-rays?  
[8] A: None whatsoever. I had total control. In  
[9] fact, like I had stated to you before, I was  
[10] guiding him, instead of him guiding me.  
[11] Q: After you had finished taking the X-rays  
[12] of the skull, what did you do?  
[13] A: They were taken upstairs to the  
[14] department, run through, brought back -  
[15] This is the thing, Dr. Ebersole waited,  
[16] like a man that was starving for a meal. As soon  
[17] as I brought them in, he grabbed them, and threw  
[18] them up there, and examined them.  
[19] And then they went into their big  
[20] conference. Da, da-da, da-da, da-da. And then he  
[21] would say, "Okay. Take the next set."  
[22] Q: Approximately how much time was there

[1] between the time that you left the morgue and you  
[2] returned with the developed X-rays?  
[3] A: Around - Now, this is an estimation.  
[4] I'd have to say half an hour, at the most. Because  
[5] I had to get on the elevator, go up to the first  
[6] floor, walk down the corridor, go down to the other  
[7] - past the rotunda, down to the other elevator,  
[8] and go up to the fourth floor, take the films -  
[9] Processing at that time was five minutes.  
[10] Now it's a matter of a minute and a half. But at  
[11] that time, it was an old Payco unit, where it was  
[12] about six foot - or I'd say 10 foot long. And it  
[13] took a lot longer to develop.  
[14] Q: Were all of the five skull X-rays taken at  
[15] that first time, or was there - those are actually  
[16] two different series?  
[17] A: No. All of them were taken at that time.  
[18] Q: By the time that you left the morgue on  
[19] the time with the X-rays in hand, had you seen any  
[20] photographers taking pictures by that time?  
[21] A: No, not really. You mean photographers  
[22] outside the morgue?

[1] Q: Totally inside the morgue. Just -  
[2] A: Oh, like I stated before, they were taking  
[3] pictures all the time.  
[4] Q: So, it's -  
[5] A: Even when I walked away, Floyd would come  
[6] over and take films.  
[7] Q: Okay.  
[8] A: And then come - back off; and come in,  
[9] take films; back off. It was a constant thing.  
[10] Q: Okay. When you came back, were you asked  
[11] for any opinions on the results of the skull  
[12] X-rays?  
[13] A: On the contrary. I was told to keep my  
[14] mouth shut. I gave my opinions, and I was told  
[15] it's not my job. "You're here to take X-rays  
[16] only."  
[17] Q: Do the X-rays of the skull show any  
[18] significant amount of brain tissue?  
[19] A: To the best of my recollection, I don't  
[20] remember seeing any.  
[21] Q: What were you next asked to do?  
[22] A: Take pictures of the neck, and take

[1] pictures of the - the shoulder areas, the chest  
[2] area - thoracic areas, the thoracic spine, the  
[3] lumbar spine, the pelvis.  
[4] Q: What was the - How many exposures were  
[5] in the neck series that you took?  
[6] A: Oh, I'd have to estimate.  
[7] Q: Approximately.  
[8] A: There - One, two, three, four, five.  
[9] Say five or six, maybe more. There was a total of  
[10] about anywhere from 14 - 14 to 20 films.  
[11] Q: That's total for -  
[12] A: Yeah, total for the whole night.  
[13] Q: Okay. But your estimate would be, on the  
[14] second series, there were approximately 15 or  
[15] five?  
[16] A: Normally.  
[17] Q: Is that right? How -  
[18] A: He - he wanted to not go too far. Just  
[19] to shoot some films, run them up, bring them back,  
[20] examine them. Shoot some more films, run them up,  
[21] bring them back.  
[22] And you got to remember, I was limited to

[1] what I had. I only had a certain amount of films  
[2] there.  
[3] Q: So, approximately how much time passed  
[4] between the time that you returned with the first  
[5] series of skull X-rays and you then began taking  
[6] the second series of neck and torso -  
[7] A: Well, long enough for them to discuss the  
[8] films that they had, which - 15, 20 minutes,  
[9] half-hour. Somewhere around there.  
[10] Q: And then -  
[11] A: And that's a crude estimate.  
[12] Q: Sure, understood.  
[13] Then approximately how long until you  
[14] returned with the developed second series of  
[15] X-rays?  
[16] A: Approximately about the same time.  
[17] Q: Okay. And then what was the next series  
[18] of X-rays that you took?  
[19] A: Well, like I said, I took some spine  
[20] films: thoracic spine, lumbar spine. And then I  
[21] ran them up, brought them back. Then I took some  
[22] pictures of the pelvis and a few of the lower

[1] extremities.  
[2] And that's when I stopped them. I said,  
[3] "It's ridiculous to go any further. He's not going  
[4] to be shot in his leg." And he agreed with me.  
[5] And I stood there.  
[6] But you got to remember. At this time,  
[7] each one of these trips, there was a lot more  
[8] conversation going on. There was a lot more  
[9] interference going on. So, it stretched out. I  
[10] was there for a good while.  
[11] Q: Okay. Did you and Mr. Reed ever go  
[12] develop film separately, or were you together?  
[13] A: Always together.  
[14] Q: Okay.  
[15] [ARRB Exhibit No. 208 marked  
[16] for identification.]  
[17] Q: Previously in the deposition, we talked  
[18] about Exhibit 202, which was a photograph that you  
[19] brought with you.  
[20] A: Correct.  
[21] Q: I'd like to show you another exhibit,  
[22] marked 208, that has another photograph. I'd like

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[1] you to look at the one on the right.  
[2] A: This is the one that I forgot to bring.  
[3] Q: Okay.  
[4] A: All right. This was what I told you was  
[5] taken through the keyhole.  
[6] Q: Okay. Could -  
[7] A: See who's carrying the aprons; don't you?  
[8] Q: Why don't you tell us, for the record.  
[9] A: The student.  
[10] Q: That's Mr. Reed?  
[11] A: That's Mr. Reed.  
[12] Q: And -  
[13] A: He's definitely carrying the aprons.  
[14] That's -  
[15] Q: He's the one in the center; is that  
[16] correct?  
[17] A: Correct. It's part of the military  
[18] protocol. When I was a student, I did the work.  
[19] And he's a student, he does the dirty work.  
[20] Q: Can you identify the person on the left?  
[21] A: That better be me.  
[22] Q: All right. And can you -

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[1] A: And that's a ear, right in the middle of  
[2] my chest. All right, this is -  
[3] Q: On the far right, the person is -  
[4] A: That's a Marine guard that was there at  
[5] the time.  
[6] Q: Okay.  
[7] A: I don't know why he took his hat off. But  
[8] he was there.  
[9] Q: Can you see the picture on the left?  
[10] A: Yes, I was just looking at that. And  
[11] that's hard to tell what that is, or when that was  
[12] taken. I don't remember seeing that.  
[13] MR. GUNN: Okay. Why don't we take a  
[14] break for lunch, and then we'll come back.  
[15] THE WITNESS: Sounds good to me.  
[16] [Lunch recess.]

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[1] **AFTERNOON SESSION**  
[2] **Whereupon,**  
[3] **JERROL FRANCIS CUSTER**  
[4] **was recalled for examination by counsel for the**  
[5] **Assassination Records Review Board and, having been**  
[6] **previously duly sworn by the notary public, was**  
[7] **examined and testified further as follows:**  
[8] **EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR ARRB**  
[9] **BY MR. GUNN:**  
[10] Q: Mr. Custer, just before our break, we were  
[11] looking at the photograph that is Exhibit No. 208.  
[12] I just had one follow-up question regarding you and  
[13] Mr. Reed.  
[14] Could you tell me what your rank was at  
[15] that time?  
[16] A: Ensign, E4.  
[17] Q: E4?  
[18] A: E4.  
[19] Q: And what was the rank of Mr. Reed?  
[20] A: E4, also.  
[21] Q: Okay.  
[22] MR. GUNN: Off the record.

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[1] [Discussion off the record.]  
[2] MR. GUNN: We're on the record.  
[3] **BY MR. GUNN:**  
[4] Q: Mr. Custer, we're going to show you now  
[5] X-ray No. 1, which has been identified in the 1966  
[6] inspection as the "anterior/posterior view of the  
[7] skull, slightly heat damaged".  
[8] My question to you, Mr. Custer, is whether  
[9] you can identify that as an autopsy X-ray that you  
[10] took -  
[11] A: Yes, this is definitely an autopsy film.  
[12] Q: If you could let me finish the question.  
[13] Can you -  
[14] A: I'm sorry.  
[15] Q: Can you identify that as an autopsy X-ray  
[16] that you took on the night of November 22nd/23rd,  
[17] 1963?  
[18] A: Yes, sir. Correct.  
[19] Q: How can you identify that as being one  
[20] that you took?  
[21] A: Bullet fragment, right orbital ridge.  
[22] Fragments throughout the temporal region. Remember

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[1] how I stated, it looked like somebody had sawed a  
[2] portion over here.  
[3] Q: You're referring to the mid -  
[4] A: Midsagittal.  
[5] Q: - midline?  
[6] A: Midsagittal plane.  
[7] Q: Okay.  
[8] A: See this?  
[9] Q: Yes. Now you're pointing to what looks  
[10] like a -  
[11] A: Marker.  
[12] Q: - a marker.  
[13] A: That's my personal marker. See the  
[14] opening? That shows the plane the film was taken.  
[15] It's off to the side.  
[16] Q: Now, let me just say for the marker, that  
[17] that is - appears - When we are looking at the  
[18] X-ray from the front, that that is on the bottom  
[19] right near the - what would be the left -  
[20] A: Bottom left.  
[21] Q: That's on the bottom right in the way that  
[22] we are looking at it.

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[1] A: Right.  
[2] Q: It's to the left of the victim. Is that  
[3] correct?  
[4] A: This is correct. Whenever you look at a  
[5] film, it's right to left, left to right. Yes,  
[6] you're correct.  
[7] Q: Is there anything else that you can  
[8] identify with this X-ray that helps you determine  
[9] that it's an X-ray that you took on the night of  
[10] November 22nd?  
[11] A: I remember this marker.  
[12] Q: And when you say that marker, what are you  
[13] referring to?  
[14] A: It's a label. U.S. Naval Hospital;  
[15] Bethesda, Maryland.  
[16] Q: So, that's writing that appears - again,  
[17] as we are looking at it from the front - along the  
[18] right margin.  
[19] A: Yes, sir.  
[20] Q: Is that correct?  
[21] A: Correct.  
[22] Q: Earlier in your deposition, you referred

[1] to some heat damage on one of the X-rays. Do you  
[2] see any heat damage on this X-ray?  
[3] A: It's right here. You can see it. This is  
[4] where Dr. Ebersole got it too close to the heat  
[5] lamp. I stated to him twice, "Please do not put it  
[6] too close."  
[7] You can see where it started to -  
[8] Q: To wrinkle?  
[9] A: - curdle, literally. And here, it  
[10] started to burn. And isn't it funny how where it  
[11] starts to burn is the area that I suggested was an  
[12] entry wound.  
[13] Q: Now, are you certain that that heat damage  
[14] took place on this X-ray on the night of November  
[15] 22nd?  
[16] A: Yes, sir. I was there, and I saw him do  
[17] it.  
[18] Q: Can you identify in the X-ray any brain  
[19] shadow?  
[20] A: No. There's no brain shadow that I can  
[21] see. Maybe portions - very small. But this is  
[22] all empty. Anything -

[1] Q: Wait, let me just - If I can get this  
[2] for the record.  
[3] A: Fine.  
[4] Q: When you say this is empty, you're  
[5] pointing to the left side as we are looking at it,  
[6] which is the right hemisphere -  
[7] A: Correct.  
[8] Q: - anatomically.  
[9] A: This - That doesn't set right with me.  
[10] And if you're going to put it in the record like  
[11] that, it's base - the damage - It should be, the  
[12] damage is on the right side.  
[13] Q: The anatomical right.  
[14] A: Anatomical right.  
[15] Q: That's fine. Let's just continue to refer  
[16] to it anatomically.  
[17] A: Okay.  
[18] Q: So -  
[19] A: Here's another thing, too, that shows  
[20] basically this is, more than likely - I'd say 80  
[21] to 90 percent - entry wound.  
[22] See this air down through the sinus area,

[1] maxillary sinuses? The only way you get air  
[2] through the maxillary sinuses is when you have  
[3] damage to the orbital ridge and the orbital base.  
[4] Air gets down into the sinuses.  
[5] The sinuses are right here on the front of  
[6] the face, on both cheekbones. Your eye orbit sits  
[7] back in. If you ever have any damage - You get  
[8] punched in the eye. A lot of times, if this  
[9] fractures - the orbital ridge, you get an opening  
[10] that communicates between the sinus and the eye.  
[11] And this is why a lot of times they'll  
[12] take sinus films on a damaged frontal area. And if  
[13] you see blood or fluid in there, this is where  
[14] they'll say, "Well, you have an orbital fracture."  
[15] Q: Earlier you pointed to what I'm going to  
[16] call the half-circle that appears to be at the  
[17] lightest part of the film, and you referred to that  
[18] as a bullet fragment; is that right?  
[19] A: Yes, sir.  
[20] Q: Where was that bullet fragment located?  
[21] Let me withdraw that question, and ask another  
[22] question.

[1] Do you know where the bullet fragment was  
[2] located on the body?  
[3] A: Right orbital ridge, superior.  
[4] Q: How do you know that it was in the right  
[5] orbital ridge, rather than at the back of the  
[6] skull?  
[7] A: Because of the protruding eyeball.  
[8] Q: Did you see the fragment removed?  
[9] A: No, I did not.  
[10] Can I inject something here?  
[11] Q: Sure.  
[12] A: This area, I pointed out to Dr. Ebersole  
[13] as a fragment. And he called it an artifact.  
[14] I said, "How about these fragments up  
[15] here?" This is when he told me to mind my own  
[16] business.  
[17] You can see where the skull has been  
[18] fractured. And this is all ear through here.  
[19] What I was going to say before -  
[20] Q: Wait. I just - When you say "through  
[21] here" -  
[22] A: Okay.

[1] Q: Again, that won't be clear on the record.  
[2] You're referring -  
[3] A: Through the -  
[4] Q: Through the anatomical -  
[5] A: - anatomical position of the right side,  
[6] where bone has separated completely. And this all  
[7] fills up through here on the right anatomical - or  
[8] aspect of the skull.  
[9] Another reason where you have blackness in  
[10] the right defect above the right orbit is when all  
[11] the tissue is gone, and there's nothing to stop the  
[12] penetrating rays. So, of course, everything gets  
[13] through.  
[14] See the difference here? You have bone.  
[15] Q: Now you're referring to the anatomical  
[16] left?  
[17] A: Anatomical left side. No bone here. You  
[18] can see a decent density here.  
[19] Q: On the -  
[20] A: On the left side. Anatomical left side.  
[21] The anatomical right side, this is all  
[22] blackened in - which shows there is no tissue, no

[1] bone, no nothing.  
[2] But this is important, right here.  
[3] Q: Now you're -  
[4] A: There's air in the maxillary sinuses.  
[5] Q: And you're -  
[6] A: Extremely important. On the right  
[7] anatomical side. Extremely important. This is why  
[8] I don't understand people didn't see this.  
[9] And look here. Here's another thing. Let  
[10] me bring this up. Let me - Look at all the  
[11] fractures over here.  
[12] Q: You're -  
[13] A: Look at all this.  
[14] Q: On the right side?  
[15] A: On the right side. Right anatomical  
[16] position. All the fractures are here. And then it  
[17] gradually snakes out to the lowest anatomical side.  
[18] This is where all the trauma was, right here.  
[19] Q: And you're referring again to the right  
[20] side?  
[21] A: Right anatomical side again.  
[22] If there was trauma over on the left

[1] anatomical side, this would all be gone. And then  
[2] you'd have fractures sneaking out - sneaking out  
[3] into the right anatomical side.

[4] Now, these guys are experts. But I have  
[5] 28 years of experience as an X-ray technician. And  
[6] common sense.

[7] Q: Previously in the deposition, you said  
[8] that there was - there were metal fragments in the  
[9] cervical spine. Are you able to identify any  
[10] cervical spine fragments, or is the picture too  
[11] high?

[12] A: Not in this projection.

[13] Q: Okay.

[14] A: The only part of the cervical spine I can  
[15] identify is C2. That is the part the skull rotates  
[16] on. You want to get further down.

[17] Q: No, I understand.

[18] MR. GUNN: Okay. Could we now look at  
[19] the - Oh, if I could ask one - another couple of  
[20] questions. Sorry.

BY MR. GUNN:

[21] Q: Are you able to identify what kind of  
[22]

[1] X-ray film that is?

[2] A: Well, it's a 10 by 12 cassette -  
[3] radiographic cassette and film. I would say, it  
[4] would be a medium par speed.

[5] Q: Can you identify any edge markings?

[6] A: No, that's just illuminated. That's the  
[7] screens.

[8] Q: So that -

[9] A: Then it has a serial number in there.

[10] That doesn't tell what type of film it is.

[11] Q: That tells what kind of cassette -

[12] A: Right.

[13] Q: - the film was in; is that correct?

[14] A: That's all.

[15] Q: Do you know what kind of film was used in  
[16] the Bethesda radiology lab at that time?

[17] A: At that time, at that year, it has to be a  
[18] par speed screen, because the technological  
[19] advancements weren't for the faster speeds at that  
[20] time.

[21] Q: Is there any question in your mind whether  
[22] the X-ray that's in front of you now is the

[1] original X-ray taken at the autopsy?

[2] A: No question.

[3] Q: And the answer is -

[4] A: It is the original film.

[5] Q: Is "par speed" the speed of film, or a  
[6] brand name?

[7] A: The speed of film.

[8] Q: And do you know a brand name for the -

[9] A: Kodak, probably. More than likely, it was  
[10] Kodak.

[11] Q: Do you know whether Kodak marked its X-ray  
[12] film with a brand name on the edges of the film?

[13] A: During that early part of the year, no,  
[14] they didn't. It's, basically, on the boxes that  
[15] ship them to you. Now they do.

[16] Q: Okay.

[17] MR. GUNN: Can look at No. 2 now, please,  
[18] which is identified in the 1966 Inventory as a  
[19] right lateral view of the skull with two angle  
[20] lines overdrawn on the film?

[21] [Interruption to the proceedings.]

[22] THE WITNESS: Do you want to repeat the

[1] question?

BY MR. GUNN:

[2] Q: The question is: Mr. Custer, can you  
[3] identify the film that is in front of you now as  
[4] having been taken by you on the night of the  
[5] autopsy of President Kennedy?

[6] A: Correct. Yes, sir, I do.

[7] Q: And how are you able to identify that as  
[8] being -

[9] A: My marker in the lower mandibular joint.

[10] Q: And that - Could you describe the marker  
[11] to me, please?

[12] A: Actually, all it is, is a metal - piece  
[13] of metal, about half a sonometer thickness. Less  
[14] than that. And about two inches long with numerous  
[15] dots going from left to right.

[16] Q: Is that a standard device for  
[17] radiologists, or was that your own device?

[18] A: That was my device.

[19] Q: So, it was unique, as far as you know?

[20] A: Correct. And this, again - the only  
[21] reason why I put that on there is for my own basic  
[22]

[1] identification, plus to show the rotation.

[2] Q: Are you able to identify, by looking at  
[3] this, whether we are looking at the anatomical  
[4] right side of the body - or that the right side of  
[5] the body is closer to the X-ray equipment, or  
[6] whether the left side of the body is?

[7] A: I can identify it as being the right  
[8] anatomical body because of the enormous defect.

[9] When you have the defect closer to the film, it's  
[10] more detailed. You can see the lines, as you go  
[11] around, a lot better. See how clear it is here?

[12] And let me inject something else.

[13] Dr. Ebersole kept going back to the quality of the  
[14] film. The quality of the film did not depend upon  
[15] the portable film - the portable X-rays being  
[16] exposed at that time.

[17] The quality of the film depended upon the  
[18] type of film speed you used. And at that time, in  
[19] that year, this was the film speed that was used.  
[20] And this was recognized, and people accepted it as  
[21] such.

[22] Q: When you say Dr. - when you're referring

[1] to something that Dr. Ebersole said, are you  
[2] referring to his testimony before the House Select  
[3] Committee on Assassinations?

[4] A: Yes, sir, I am.

[5] Q: Okay.

[6] A: Remember, also, I had stated how a portion  
[7] of the skull had lifted up and pushed backwards?

[8] Q: Yes.

[9] A: Showing that there had to be a force  
[10] impact this way, in that - Well, look. Let me  
[11] inject something else.

[12] From the right side, you notice - you see  
[13] the fragmentation, how it starts to get larger and  
[14] larger and larger. You have equal and opposite  
[15] force. Everything being pushed forward. The brain  
[16] has been pushed back, and it pops the skull out.

[17] Q: So, it's your opinion that the trauma to  
[18] the head began at the front and moved towards the  
[19] back of the head?

[20] A: Yes, sir. Absolutely.

[21] Q: Okay. Is there anything else on this  
[22] X-ray film that allows you to be certain that this

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[1] was taken by you on the night of the autopsy?  
[2] A: Yes, sir. Not only the marker here, U. -  
[3] United - U.S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland,  
[4] on the right side of the film, but also -  
[5] Remember how I had stated to you about the  
[6] cella turcica, the keystone of the sphenoid bone -  
[7] it holds the cranial vault? Well, look how  
[8] prominent it is.  
[9] And the only possible way you can see that  
[10] - this is all gone. This is all defective in here  
[11] on the right side. That makes that much more  
[12] visible.  
[13] Q: Are you able to identify any brain shadow  
[14] in this lateral X-ray?  
[15] A: There is no brain shadow in this lateral  
[16] X-ray at all. Look at the dark portion here. Dark  
[17] through here. Now, there may be a minute amount,  
[18] but not enough to make any gross difference.  
[19] You don't see any markings here, vascular  
[20] markings. Where's your vascular markings? There  
[21] is none. A normal brain has vascular markings that  
[22] will show.

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[1] Q: I'd like to show you now Exhibit No. 206  
[2] that we identified earlier in this deposition. Can  
[3] you now, by looking at the original X-ray, compare  
[4] that with the drawing that you made at 206?  
[5] And let me know whether you would now  
[6] amend the Exhibit 206, or does that roughly  
[7] correspond with the X-ray?  
[8] A: Okay. I would amend this somewhat.  
[9] Q: How would you amend -  
[10] A: I would bring this down in - more into  
[11] the temporal bone area. Come down through -  
[12] Q: You would add hash marks to the  
[13] temporal -  
[14] A: Right.  
[15] Q: - bone area?  
[16] A: Right.  
[17] Q: Okay.  
[18] A: Your pen -  
[19] But, here - you got to remember, too -  
[20] this is only minute fragments of tissue maybe that  
[21] are in there. But that, more than likely, could be  
[22] on the posterior portion of the skull, on the left

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[1] side of the skull. Brain tissue. But you still  
[2] see the defect here.  
[3] And here's the - the protruding portion  
[4] of the skull. And then you have an opening here,  
[5] also. So, it's basically pretty close.  
[6] Q: That is, the X-ray to your drawing?  
[7] A: Right. It's basically pretty close,  
[8] except I would bring the temporal down a little bit  
[9] more.  
[10] Q: Okay. What I'm going to - When we take  
[11] that X-ray off, I'm going to ask you to draw onto  
[12] 206 where you would think that it would be.  
[13] MR. GUNN: Steve, do you want to take that  
[14] away?  
[15] THE WITNESS: Yeah, this would come down.  
[16] BY MR. GUNN:  
[17] Q: If you can draw the lines at perpendicular  
[18] angles to the other, so it will be clear to the  
[19] reader which lines -  
[20] A: Oh, like this?  
[21] Q: Yes.  
[22] A: That would come down through here.

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[1] Q: Okay. So, now the perpendicular lines are  
[2] the ones that you would add after examining the  
[3] original X-rays?  
[4] A: Correct.  
[5] Q: Okay.  
[6] [Discussion off the record.]  
[7] MR. GUNN: Okay. If we could look at  
[8] No. - Oh, if we could have that back. I'm sorry.  
[9] BY MR. GUNN:  
[10] Q: Mr. Custer, I'd like to draw your  
[11] attention to what appear to be straight - very  
[12] thin, straight lines that come at an angle on the  
[13] X-ray, and ask you if you can identify what those  
[14] are? This is, again, on X-ray No. 2.  
[15] A: Okay. I know exactly what they are. This  
[16] is Ebersole's little scratches.  
[17] Q: Did -  
[18] A: This is what he was trying to say was  
[19] entry wound, here. I remember that now. This is  
[20] where he drew, in here.  
[21] Q: Did you see Mr. Ebersole draw those lines  
[22] yourself?

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[1] A: On the first set of films I brought back,  
[2] he put them up, and he had a ruler there, and he  
[3] was penciling it in. And this is when he got a  
[4] comment, "Don't do that." And this came from the  
[5] gallery.  
[6] Q: So, did you hear Mr. Ebersole identify the  
[7] fulcrum of those lines as being the entrance wound?  
[8] A: Yes.  
[9] Q: Did any other doctor there make any  
[10] comment on what Mr. Ebersole had said or done?  
[11] A: I can't remember, basically. I just  
[12] remember that the comment was made from the  
[13] gallery, and it shut everything down.  
[14] Q: So, as far as you are aware, those lines  
[15] are made with a pencil?  
[16] A: As far as I'm aware.  
[17] MR. GUNN: Could we now examine No. 3,  
[18] which is identified as the lateral view of the  
[19] skull?  
[20] THE WITNESS: Okay. This is the skull  
[21] that I took - that I had taken. Same marker on  
[22] the left side.

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[1] BY MR. GUNN:  
[2] Q: And you're referring to the -  
[3] A: Yeah, the U.S. Naval Hospital.  
[4] Q: - the date and the -  
[5] A: The date. Remember I had stated to you,  
[6] this is the way the table was against the gallery.  
[7] I could only get so close. There's my marker  
[8] again.  
[9] Q: And you're referring to the metal marker  
[10] that's -  
[11] A: Metal apparatus, mandibular region.  
[12] Q: - by the jaw.  
[13] A: And I cut the bottom portion of the skull  
[14] off, because I couldn't get low enough. Every time  
[15] I put blankets underneath the head, the head would  
[16] actually get smaller.  
[17] Q: Because it would be crushed?  
[18] A: Crushed.  
[19] Q: By the weight?  
[20] A: Right. Due to the instability of the  
[21] bones.  
[22] Q: The fractures in the head?

[1] A: The fractures in the head. But, again,  
[2] you see the big defects. But you don't see the  
[3] cella turcica. Not as good. You see the  
[4] fractures.  
[5] Q: Are you able to identify any metal  
[6] fragments in the head?  
[7] A: Sure.  
[8] Q: And you're pointing towards the flecks?  
[9] A: Towards the black area. Towards the top  
[10] of the skull. Here. Here. That had - That's  
[11] the only way that can be, this fragment. There's  
[12] no way an artifact will show up like that.  
[13] Q: Now, what is supporting those arti -  
[14] supporting those metal fragments, if there is no  
[15] brain in the cranium? Where are they resting?  
[16] A: They have to be resting on the bone itself  
[17] somewhere. That's the only thing I can possibly  
[18] think of, unless there's enough tissue there in  
[19] that region to hold them.  
[20] That's the only possible thing that I can  
[21] think of. Because here you go again. There's no  
[22] brain here. It wouldn't be that dark.

[1] Q: You're referring to the dark patch?  
[2] A: The dark area.  
[3] Q: On the first X-ray that we looked at, you  
[4] identified a large metal fragment. Do you remember  
[5] that, semi-circular?  
[6] A: Correct.  
[7] Q: Can you identify the location of that  
[8] fragment on this -  
[9] A: Not on this film.  
[10] Q: What does that signify to you, if  
[11] anything; the inability to identify the location of  
[12] that metal fragment?  
[13] A: Could be too dark. This area is just too  
[14] dark to identify it.  
[15] Q: Wouldn't the metal fragment still appear  
[16] and even be - have greater contrast?  
[17] A: No.  
[18] Q: Why is that?  
[19] A: Because - You got to remember, the  
[20] central ray going through that body. It's hitting  
[21] the film a lot faster. It's exposing it more.  
[22] There were bone tissue on the AP

[1] projection, which sort of backed off on the  
[2] penetration. You had more penetration here.  
[3] If you were to take a photo density of  
[4] this picture and a photo density of that picture,  
[5] this photo density would be much greater.  
[6] Q: But wouldn't a metal fragment still appear  
[7] white on this?  
[8] A: If it is dark enough to burn it out, it'll  
[9] burn it out. That's why, when you taken an abdomen  
[10] film and you're looking for stones, stones will be  
[11] burned out. And that's bone.  
[12] Q: Let me draw your attention to what appear  
[13] to be some flecks in what I would say is above the  
[14] right eye socket -  
[15] A: Mm-hmm.  
[16] Q: - and going towards the back. Are you  
[17] able to identify whether those flecks are artifacts  
[18] or metal fragments?  
[19] A: They are metal fragments. Artifacts do  
[20] not come in a irregular form like this. Not in  
[21] that - in that traveling projection like that. It  
[22] just doesn't - Not that many in that one area.

[1] You're going to have somebody just go in  
[2] there in that one area, and put artifacts all the  
[3] way up and down this? It just doesn't happen. You  
[4] get random artifacts. May have an artifact here,  
[5] artifact here, artifact here, artifact here.  
[6] And here's one thing, too. If you look  
[7] close, there is a faint image. That's - could  
[8] possibly be that fragment, but I can't attest to  
[9] that.  
[10] Q: Okay. When you say "that fragment",  
[11] you're referring to the one that we noticed with  
[12] clarity in the first -  
[13] A: Correct. Absolutely.  
[14] Q: - X-ray. Do you have an opinion as to  
[15] whether that is a right or left lateral?  
[16] A: That's a left lateral.  
[17] Q: And what's the basis of that opinion?  
[18] A: What is the basis of that opinion?  
[19] Because I couldn't get close enough -  
[20] Q: No.  
[21] Q: - to take a halfway decent film. And I  
[22] knew that was the bad film - was the left lateral,

[1] due to my recollection.  
[2] Q: So, it's based upon recollection -  
[3] A: Correct.  
[4] Q: - rather than observation of the X-ray?  
[5] Which is fine. Just -  
[6] A: Sure.  
[7] Q: Just on the basis of what you're saying?  
[8] A: Right.  
[9] Q: And, so, it is from recollection?  
[10] A: Absolutely.  
[11] Q: Okay.  
[12] A: Oh, let me add one thing, too. I just  
[13] noticed it. The difference in the size of the  
[14] defect.  
[15] With the defect on the film side, it  
[16] becomes a little bit larger. This is a little bit  
[17] smaller. That makes a difference.  
[18] THE WITNESS: Is it hot in here?  
[19] BY MR. GUNN:  
[20] Q: Now, one thing I'd like to ask, just to  
[21] make sure we're clear here, is that - is where you  
[22] are locating the largest part of the wound.

[1] And, now, if one were to think that either  
[2] the occipital region towards the back or the  
[3] parietal region more towards the front - as  
[4] between those two, where are you identifying the  
[5] larger wound?  
[6] A: The larger wound would have to be further  
[7] back. This one isn't as bad, towards the temporal  
[8] region. It was open. But the more you went  
[9] further back, the more destruction you had.  
[10] Q: When you say "the more destruction", is  
[11] that consistent with what you were seeing with the  
[12] X-ray films, where - by what I have been  
[13] understanding you to say - most of the destruction  
[14] is towards the front, where it's darker and where  
[15] there's an absence - apparent absence of bone?  
[16] A: No. Let me reiterate again. Most of the  
[17] destruction was towards the occipital area. This  
[18] area wasn't as bad. You still had the orbital  
[19] ridge. The frontal forehead was still here.  
[20] But the further back you got, the worse  
[21] the destruction became. And the more gaping the  
[22] hole became.

[1] Q: And, so, why is it that on the X-rays -  
[2] and I'm saying this from my perspective as a layman  
[3] - the film appears to be darker more towards the  
[4] front and lighter towards the back?  
[5] A: In other words, you're asking me: Why is  
[6] this lighter here?  
[7] Q: Why is it lighter with the more apparent  
[8] bone in the occipital region, and why is there  
[9] apparently less bone in the frontal and parietal  
[10] region?  
[11] A: If you look at your diagram that you have  
[12] of the occipital area -  
[13] Q: Let me get - let me get that out. You're  
[14] referring to Exhibit No. 207?  
[15] A: All right. Look how far the occipital  
[16] region comes out. Okay. This whole area, right  
[17] back through here - this was all gone.  
[18] Q: Okay.  
[19] A: This is all gone here, from -  
[20] Q: Okay. Now you're pointing to the X-ray -  
[21] A: I see what - I see what we're - I'm  
[22] getting confused here myself now.

[1] The occipital region is all down here,  
[2] where my hands are - the portion that's cut off.  
[3] Straight through here. Here -  
[4] Let me see that other one.  
[5] Q: You're now looking at Exhibit No. 206.  
[6] A: No. 206. From the temporal region just  
[7] behind the right orbit, you can see this defect.  
[8] All right?  
[9] Q: And that is in temporal bone; is that  
[10] correct?  
[11] A: Temporal bone. But it also comes out of  
[12] the temporal bone, and comes into the parietal.  
[13] And you start to infringe just a little bit. The  
[14] occipital region is right through here. And you  
[15] start to infringe on it, right here. So, this is  
[16] all gone.  
[17] Q: But you're still pointing to the parietal  
[18] region - parietal and temporal region?  
[19] A: See where this temporal stops? This is  
[20] occipital, back here. See? The occipital comes  
[21] back to here.  
[22] Q: Sure.

[1] A: See how far up it comes?  
[2] Q: Sure.  
[3] A: That's what I'm trying to say. You still  
[4] have damage that starts to come into the occipital  
[5] region. It may not go all the way down, but it's  
[6] coming down into that area.  
[7] Q: Sure. My question is not whether there is  
[8] damage in the occipital region, but where is the  
[9] majority of the bone missing? And is the majority  
[10] of the -  
[11] A: Okay. The majority of the bone is in  
[12] the - It has to be the parietal. This is the  
[13] parietal area, right here.  
[14] Q: So, you see this X-ray as showing an  
[15] absence of bone in the parietal region and showing  
[16] damage, but presence of bone, in the occipital  
[17] region?  
[18] A: Correct.  
[19] Q: Okay.  
[20] A: Plus, you have absence of bone in this  
[21] region, right here.  
[22] Q: In the temporal region?

[1] A: Temporal region. Only a portion of the  
[2] temporal region, behind the right occipital - or  
[3] the right orbital area.

[4] Q: Okay.

[5] MR. GUNN: Could we now look at - Oh,  
[6] let me ask one question.

[7] BY MR. GUNN:

[8] Q: Previously in the deposition, you had said  
[9] that the skull X-rays were all taken in the first  
[10] series; is that correct?

[11] A: Correct.

[12] Q: And would it be fair to say, then, that  
[13] X-rays 1 through 3 are those that you took in the  
[14] first series?

[15] A: You're missing two.

[16] Q: Just -

[17] A: Yes.

[18] Q: Just as for that one.

[19] A: Correct.

[20] Q: Now, I can tell you that those are the  
[21] only - the three that you have just looked at are  
[22] the only skull X-rays present at the Archives. Are

[1] you aware of any other skull X-rays?

[2] A: There should be at least two more.

[3] Q: And you described those both as oblique  
[4] X-rays; is that correct?

[5] A: Or, like you had stated, tangential views.

[6] Q: Tangential. And are you certain that you  
[7] took those other two X-rays on the night of the  
[8] autopsy?

[9] A: Absolutely.

[10] MR. GUNN: Okay. Could we go to No. 4?

[11] THE WITNESS: I know exactly what this is.

[12] MR. GUNN: This is described in the 1966  
[13] Inspection as X-ray of three fragments of bone with  
[14] larger fragment containing metallic fragments.

[15] BY MR. GUNN:

[16] Q: Mr. Custer, have you previously seen X-ray  
[17] No. 4?

[18] A: Yes, I have.

[19] Q: When did you first see those X-rays?

[20] A: The next morning. I took them.

[21] Q: And where did you take those X-rays?

[22] A: In the main department, in a private room,

[1] with a portable X-ray unit.

[2] Q: Was it the same X-ray unit that was used  
[3] to take the autopsy -

[4] A: Yes, sir. The same distance.

[5] Q: And what was the purpose of taking these  
[6] X-rays?

[7] A: I was told by Dr. Ebersole that they were  
[8] to be taken to make measurements, to make a bust of  
[9] President Kennedy.

[10] Q: What did you do when you took the X-rays?  
[11] What were the procedures? How did you go about  
[12] taking them?

[13] A: All I did was place the bone fragments on  
[14] the film, and I made different exposures at  
[15] different distances.

[16] Q: Did Mr. Ebersole - or Dr. Ebersole say  
[17] anything to you about metal fragments?

[18] A: He gave me three or four different metal  
[19] fragments, varying in size. And he asked me to  
[20] tape them to the bones.

[21] Q: Did you tape metal fragments to the bones?

[22] A: Yes, sir.

[1] Q: What was the purpose that you understood  
[2] taping metal fragments to the bones to be?  
[3] A: That was a good question, because I didn't  
[4] understand it at the time, either.  
[5] Q: Is there any question in your mind whether  
[6] you, in fact, taped metal fragments to the bones?  
[7] A: Absolutely no question at all in my mind.  
[8] Q: Do you see the results of those metal  
[9] fragments appearing on X-ray No. 4?  
[10] A: Only a few, here.  
[11] Q: And you're pointing to the largest  
[12] fragment in -  
[13] A: The largest fragment. The superior  
[14] portion of it.  
[15] Q: Approximately what time did you take the  
[16] X-rays on the 23rd?  
[17] A: I have to guesstimate. Early morning,  
[18] early afternoon - No. Late morning, early  
[19] afternoon.  
[20] Q: Did Dr. Ebersole ever subsequently explain  
[21] to you the purpose for taping metal fragments to  
[22] the bones to be -

[1] A: No, he didn't. He just stated to me, when  
[2] he brought the film - the bone fragments and the  
[3] metal fragments to me, that he had just come back  
[4] from the White House after being debriefed.  
[5] Q: And what did he say about that debriefing?  
[6] A: Well, he just said that he was debriefed  
[7] by the Secret Service. And that was it.  
[8] High-ranking people had talked to him. And he  
[9] suggested to me that everything that I see from now  
[10] on, I should forget.  
[11] Q: Did he say that to you at approximately  
[12] the same time that you were working on X-raying the  
[13] skull fragments?  
[14] A: Absolutely.  
[15] Q: Do you know where the skull fragments came  
[16] from?  
[17] A: They arrived, supposedly, that evening  
[18] from Dallas.  
[19] Q: When did you first hear that fragments had  
[20] arrived from Dallas?  
[21] A: The night of the autopsy.  
[22] Q: Did you see the fragments on the night of

[1] the autopsy?  
[2] A: No, I did not see the fragments. I just  
[3] heard the conversation.  
[4] Q: Other than the metal fragments that you  
[5] taped to the skull fragments, did you identify any  
[6] other metal fragments in the bones?  
[7] A: In the skulls and the AP cervical spine.  
[8] Q: Let me withdraw the question.  
[9] A: Go ahead.  
[10] Q: The question wasn't clear.  
[11] With regard to taking the X-rays of the  
[12] bone fragments that you have in front of you -  
[13] A: No.  
[14] Q: - were there any metal fragments that  
[15] were in the bone, outside of this - the taped  
[16] fragments?  
[17] A: No.  
[18] Q: So, in other words, the X-ray is -  
[19] appears as if there are metal fragments in the  
[20] bone. Whereas, in fact, that is all a construct of  
[21] the way that the X-ray was taken; is that correct?  
[22] A: Absolutely correct.

[1] Q: Okay. Could you look at - I'd like you  
[2] to take just a quick look at X-ray No. 5 and No. 6,  
[3] which are similar X-rays, in terms of showing the  
[4] bone fragments.  
[5] Let me try asking you one question, just  
[6] to make sure that the record is clear on this.  
[7] Did Dr. Ebersole ask you to tape the metal  
[8] fragments to the bone after he had returned from  
[9] the White House? Are you able to say with  
[10] certainty?  
[11] A: Absolutely. As soon as he walked in,  
[12] that's the first thing he said. "I want these bone  
[13] fragments X-rayed with metal fragments taped."  
[14] Okay. This - this is a different bone  
[15] fragment. Same one. Same one. Just added one to  
[16] it, that's all.  
[17] Q: I think maybe if you looked at the other  
[18] one again for just a moment, you might see -  
[19] MR. GUNN: If we could look at No. 4  
[20] again.  
[21] BY MR. GUNN:  
[22] Q: You're identifying three bone fragments in

[1] X-ray No. 5; is that correct?  
[2] A: Correct.  
[3] Q: This is No. 4 again.  
[4] A: Oh, I see it. All I did was just move  
[5] them around.  
[6] Q: When you say "he", who is the "he" you're  
[7] referring to?  
[8] A: No, I said "me".  
[9] Q: Oh.  
[10] A: All I did was move them around, that's  
[11] all. Different exposures. See the difference?  
[12] Q: Yes.  
[13] A: Darker. Lighter. Darker. Lighter.  
[14] Q: And, so, you would say that X-ray No. 5  
[15] was taken roughly at the same time as X-ray No. 4?  
[16] A: Absolutely.  
[17] Q: Can you look at No. 6, please? I'll ask a  
[18] similar question.  
[19] A: Okay. That's a better quality film.  
[20] Absolutely.  
[21] Q: Are you the person who took the X-ray of  
[22] No. 6?

[1] A: Yes, sir.  
[2] Q: Is there any marking on the film, other  
[3] than the fragments themselves, that helps you  
[4] identify that as being an X-ray that you, yourself,  
[5] took?  
[6] A: No, sir.  
[7] Q: Is there a reason that you did not use  
[8] your metal marker -  
[9] A: I was told not to.  
[10] Q: Did Dr. -  
[11] Let me finish the question. Then -  
[12] A: Go ahead.  
[13] Q: - you can answer it.  
[14] Was there any reason that you did not use  
[15] the metal marker that you had used in the previous  
[16] X-rays?  
[17] A: Yes, because he saw it that night, and he  
[18] knew it belonged to me. And he stated, "I better  
[19] not see it on these films."  
[20] Q: And that was Dr. Ebersole who said it?  
[21] A: Absolutely. Correct.  
[22] Q: Did anyone else hear Dr. Ebersole say

[1] that?  
 [2] A: No.  
 [3] Q: When -  
 [4] A: It was said only in my presence.  
 [5] Q: On the 23rd when you took the X-rays of  
 [6] the skull fragments, was there any other person,  
 [7] besides you and Dr. Ebersole, present?  
 [8] A: No.  
 [9] Q: You were about to say something else?  
 [10] A: You sure of the date? Was it the 23rd, or  
 [11] 22nd?  
 [12] Q: If I said 22nd, I meant -  
 [13] A: You said - No, you said 23rd.  
 [14] Q: Yes. I'm referring to the time that you  
 [15] took the X-rays of these fragments.  
 [16] A: Oh, okay. Fine.  
 [17] Q: Is that -  
 [18] A: That's correct.  
 [19] Q: Okay.  
 [20] MR. GUNN: All right. Could we look now  
 [21] at X-ray No. 7, please?  
 [22] Would you like to sit down?

[1] THE WITNESS: No, that's all right. You  
 [2] can hear my back.  
 [3] BY MR. GUNN:  
 [4] Q: Mr. Custer, are you able to identify X-ray  
 [5] No. 7?  
 [6] A: Yes, sir.  
 [7] Q: Could you tell me what that is, please?  
 [8] A: That was a upper portion of the abdomen  
 [9] taken on President Kennedy.  
 [10] Q: How are you able to identify that?  
 [11] A: My U.S. Naval marker.  
 [12] Q: That's the markings on the side, the -  
 [13] A: On the left side.  
 [14] Q: - the date and the -  
 [15] A: Right. Correct.  
 [16] Q: - name of U.S. Naval Academy or - I'm  
 [17] sorry.  
 [18] A: Naval Hospital.  
 [19] Q: Bethesda Hospital.  
 [20] A: U.S. Naval Hospital. Bethesda, Maryland.  
 [21] Q: Previously, you referred to your own  
 [22] unique marker. Do you see that anywhere on the

[1] X-ray?  
 [2] A: No. I was caught again.  
 [3] Q: Did Dr. Ebersole ask you at any time on  
 [4] the night of the 22nd not to use that marker?  
 [5] A: Yes.  
 [6] Q: When did he ask you not to use that?  
 [7] A: When I took this film. He saw it, and  
 [8] made me take it off.  
 [9] Q: Are you able to estimate or explain when  
 [10] you were able to use your own metal marking, and  
 [11] when you were not able to use it?  
 [12] A: On the skulls only.  
 [13] Q: Can you identify in the X-ray that you're  
 [14] looking at now, No. 7, whether there are - whether  
 [15] the internal organs are still present in the body?  
 [16] A: There has to be colon, because this is all  
 [17] fecal material. You can see it. This is all  
 [18] colon.  
 [19] Q: Other than the colon, are you able to  
 [20] identify any other internal organs that are still  
 [21] present?  
 [22] A: Not really. You - Could be kidneys

[1] here, but it's obscured. It's obscured, and  
 [2] there's no way you can tell.  
 [3] For a man President Kennedy's age, he  
 [4] shouldn't have had these calcifications on the  
 [5] lower ribs.  
 [6] Q: Now, previously in the deposition, you  
 [7] referred to a contrast media dye. Do you recall  
 [8] that? In the lumbar spinal region.  
 [9] A: You can just see portions of it, here.  
 [10] There's a little bit of it, right here.  
 [11] Q: And what vertebra is that, that you're  
 [12] pointing -  
 [13] A: Okay. This is 12. One, 2, L3. Between  
 [14] L2 and 3. There could be a little here, too.  
 [15] Q: So -  
 [16] A: Here's his problem, right here. He had  
 [17] problems here. This would be about - one, two,  
 [18] three - four and five.  
 [19] Q: So, you're referring to L4 and L5 -  
 [20] A: Right. You can see this is -  
 [21] Q: - being related to his back problems?  
 [22] A: You can see all the degenerative disease,

[1] right through here. See how nice this disc space  
 [2] is?  
 [3] Q: You're referring to L - between L2 and  
 [4] L3.  
 [5] A: L2 and L3. L4 and L5, nothing. Nothing,  
 [6] L3 and L4.  
 [7] MR. GUNN: Okay. Could we now look at  
 [8] X-ray No. 8, please?  
 [9] THE WITNESS: Let me go back one thing.  
 [10] BY MR. GUNN:  
 [11] Q: Sure.  
 [12] A: There are kidneys here. There's one here,  
 [13] and here's one here.  
 [14] MR. GUNN: Could we go off the record for  
 [15] a moment?  
 [16] [Discussion off the record.]  
 [17] BY MR. GUNN:  
 [18] Q: Mr. Custer, could we go back to X-ray  
 [19] No. 2. Do you recall previously we were talking  
 [20] about two lines that are pointing towards a  
 [21] fulcrum?  
 [22] A: Yes.

[1] Q: Could you identify where those lines lead  
 [2] to, and what you - where you understand that Dr.  
 [3] Ebersole was trying - the point Dr. Ebersole was  
 [4] trying to identify?  
 [5] A: They lead to the occipital region.  
 [6] Q: Is there a way that you can identify it  
 [7] more specifically than that? That's a little bit  
 [8] hard with this film. Would it -  
 [9] A: It's kind of hard to say, because here's  
 [10] the mastoid region, down near the external auditory  
 [11] meatus. All right?  
 [12] It would be, I'd have to say, just above  
 [13] and perpendicular to that region.  
 [14] Q: But it looks as if the fulcrum is coming  
 [15] close to where the outer skull is.  
 [16] A: Correct.  
 [17] Q: So, it's -  
 [18] A: Like we had said before, this is the  
 [19] occipital region.  
 [20] Q: Are you able to identify the external  
 [21] occipital protuberance on this X-ray No. 2?  
 [22] A: Well, it'd have to be down through here.

[1] Q: So, this is far above the EOP; is that  
[2] correct?  
[3] A: Yes. Correct.  
[4] MR. GUNN: Okay. If we could go now to  
[5] X-ray No. 8. Is that right?  
[6] X-ray No. 8 is described as the AP view of  
[7] the right shoulder and right chest.  
[8] BY MR. GUNN:  
[9] Q: Mr. Custer, are you able to identify X-ray  
[10] No. 8 as having been taken on the night of the  
[11] autopsy?  
[12] A: Yes, sir, I can.  
[13] Q: Once again, how is it that you're able to  
[14] identify that?  
[15] A: By the markings. U.S. Naval Hospital,  
[16] National Naval Medical Center, the date, and the  
[17] right marker.  
[18] Q: Okay. Can you identify whether there are  
[19] any lung shadows in this X-ray?  
[20] A: There are no lung shadows in that X-ray.  
[21] Q: Does that tell you anything about whether  
[22] the internal organs had been removed at the time

[1] A: Up into the, I'd say, C3/C4 region.  
[2] Q: And what is the highest - the lowest C  
[3] vertebra that you are able to identify there?  
[4] A: Seven, six, five, four, three. In that  
[5] area there.  
[6] Q: Are you able to determine - I'm sorry.  
[7] go ahead.  
[8] A: No, that's all right. Go ahead.  
[9] Q: Are you able to determine whether any of  
[10] the internal organs have been removed prior to this  
[11] - taking of this X-ray?  
[12] A: Well, I'm going to tell you right now.  
[13] The heart is still there, and the lungs are still  
[14] there.  
[15] Q: In other words, it would be fair to say  
[16] that X-ray No. 9 was taken before X-ray No. 8.  
[17] A: It has to be. I had to have taken it  
[18] before. That's -  
[19] Q: I'd like to point -  
[20] A: Go ahead.  
[21] Q: - point out some lights - some light  
[22] fragments -

[1] that this X-ray was taken?  
[2] A: Absolutely, sir.  
[3] Q: And that - And it tells you what?  
[4] A: It means that there - When you have  
[5] lungs in a chest X-ray - and you take an X-ray,  
[6] you see pulmonary markings. You do not have a dark  
[7] area like this.  
[8] You come back to the same tissue radiation  
[9] absorption effect. When radiation goes through  
[10] tissue, it absorbs. It cuts back on the beam;  
[11] therefore, you don't get a full exposure on the  
[12] film.  
[13] Q: Do you know why, or were you - Let me  
[14] withdraw that.  
[15] Were you told why this X-ray was to be  
[16] taken?  
[17] A: Same thing. Bullet fragments.  
[18] Q: Looking for a bullet fragment?  
[19] A: Correct.  
[20] Q: Do you see any bullet fragments on the  
[21] X-ray?  
[22] A: No, sir.

[1] A: That's artifacts.  
[2] Q: You've identified them as artifacts -  
[3] A: Correct.  
[4] Q: - in the anatomical left shoulder blade,  
[5] right below the scapula.  
[6] A: Correct.  
[7] Q: How are you able to identify those as  
[8] fragments - or as artifacts, please?  
[9] A: Because of the symmetrical size and the  
[10] area that they're in. They're all in close  
[11] proximity.  
[12] Now, let me show you something else about  
[13] the processing film at that time. See the cast and  
[14] different markings? That's chemicals that didn't  
[15] quite wash off. And that was from the old Payco  
[16] units. See it there? That's old fixer that didn't  
[17] come off.  
[18] Q: So, it appears to my eyes being sort of a  
[19] dingy brownish color; is that -  
[20] A: Correct. And that's from the acid in the  
[21] fixer. The fixer basic job is to stop the film  
[22] from developing, and it fixes the image. After it

[1] MR. GUNN: Could we turn now to X-ray  
[2] No. 10, please?  
[3] MR. HORNE: You skipped 9.  
[4] MR. GUNN: Excuse me. X-ray No. 9.  
[5] BY MR. GUNN:  
[6] Q: Mr. Custer, are you able to identify X-ray  
[7] No. 9?  
[8] A: Yes, I am.  
[9] Q: And how are you able to identify it?  
[10] A: My marker again and the left marker.  
[11] Q: Previously, you referred to there being  
[12] metal fragments in the cervical area. Are you able  
[13] to identify any metal fragments in this X-ray?  
[14] A: Not in this film.  
[15] Q: Does this film include a view or an  
[16] exposure that would have included such metal  
[17] fragments?  
[18] A: No, sir.  
[19] Q: Where would the metal fragments be  
[20] located?  
[21] A: Further up in there. This region.  
[22] Q: Can you - And you're pointing to?

[1] fixes the image, it goes through a wash bath.  
[2] Evidently, it didn't stay in the wash bath  
[3] long enough, because you still have marks - fixer  
[4] marks. And that was due to the old Payco units.  
[5] They weren't efficient.  
[6] Q: I'd like to point out to you the edge  
[7] markings, and ask you whether you are able to  
[8] identify any information on the edge markings?  
[9] A: Aha, Kodak Safety.  
[10] Q: Does that help you identify the type of  
[11] film that you're holding in your hand?  
[12] A: Yes, it does.  
[13] Q: Is there any reason that "Kodak Safety" is  
[14] appearing on X-ray No. 9, but we have not seen it  
[15] on other X-rays?  
[16] A: The only possible thing I can think of is,  
[17] they just placed it on 14/17s.  
[18] Q: So, it's the size of the film.  
[19] A: Correct.  
[20] Q: And the 14 by 17 is the larger film, such  
[21] as the one you're looking at in -  
[22] A: Absolutely correct.

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[1] MR. GUNN: Could we now look at X-ray  
[2] No. 10, please?  
[3] BY MR. GUNN:  
[4] Q: Are you able to identify X-ray 10?  
[5] A: Yes, sir.  
[6] Q: And what is that?  
[7] A: That's the right portion of the body.  
[8] Q: And this was taken on the night of  
[9] November 22nd; is that correct?  
[10] A: Yes, sir.  
[11] Q: Is there any question in your mind whether  
[12] that's an authentic X-ray that you took on the  
[13] night of the 22nd?  
[14] A: No question.  
[15] MR. GUNN: Could we now look at X-ray  
[16] No. 11, please?  
[17] BY MR. GUNN:  
[18] Q: Mr. Custer, are you able to identify X-ray  
[19] 11?  
[20] A: Yes, sir.  
[21] Q: And how is that you're able to identify  
[22] it?

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[1] A: This is an additional film that I took on  
[2] the abdomen that day.  
[3] Q: Now, I notice there is no - none of the  
[4] - there is no marker of the sort that appeared on  
[5] many of the others.  
[6] A: No, because this was a so-called repeat.  
[7] Q: And what do you mean by that?  
[8] A: "Well, we'd like to have another film,  
[9] just to see if what we see is still there." It's  
[10] still there.  
[11] Q: If there were metal fragments that were  
[12] present in the abdomen of President Kennedy, would  
[13] the appearance of the fragments be more likely  
[14] after the organs are removed, rather than before  
[15] the removal of the organs?  
[16] A: No, because the metal fragments will get  
[17] caught by the organs.  
[18] Q: If the purpose of the X-rays was to locate  
[19] bullets or fragments, why would X-rays need to be  
[20] taken both before and after the removal of the  
[21] internal organs?  
[22] A: You must remember the confusion at that

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[1] time and that night. People were ordering this.  
[2] "Well, we should take some more there. We should  
[3] take some more of that." It wasn't just one person  
[4] doing it. And I'm just a E4. What I'm told to do,  
[5] I do.  
[6] MR. GUNN: Could we look at X-ray No. 11,  
[7] please?  
[8] THE WITNESS: This is 11.  
[9] MR. GUNN: Excuse me, No. 12.  
[10] THE WITNESS: Here we go. This is the  
[11] lower extremities. Oh, wrong one.  
[12] BY MR. GUNN:  
[13] Q: Are you able to identify X-ray No. 12 as  
[14] having been taken by you on the night of the 22nd?  
[15] A: Yes, sir.  
[16] Q: And how is it that you're able to identify  
[17] it?  
[18] A: Marker. U.S. Naval Hospital, National  
[19] Naval Medical Center. Left side for the left  
[20] femur, knee.  
[21] You can see the contortion of the body,  
[22] this. Here's the patella. Everything is pretty

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[1] anatomical. This knee is turned off to the side.  
[2] It's externally rotated.  
[3] Same thing on the joint space. See the  
[4] perfect joint space here? You don't -  
[5] Q: On the anatomical left?  
[6] A: Anatomical left.  
[7] Q: Okay.  
[8] MR. GUNN: Could we look at X-ray No. 13?  
[9] BY MR. GUNN:  
[10] Q: Are you able to identify the X-ray?  
[11] A: Yes, sir.  
[12] Q: Can you tell us what it is, please?  
[13] A: It's AP pelvis and hips.  
[14] Q: And was that taken on the night of  
[15] November 22nd?  
[16] A: Yes, sir. And let me bring something to  
[17] your attention right away. Myelogram dye in -  
[18] Q: You're referring to a round, circular dot?  
[19] A: This is what Dr. Ebersole stated in his  
[20] testimony as a BB from a shotgun. This round,  
[21] circular dot.  
[22] I'm sorry for interrupting you, sir.

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[1] Q: And you're saying that Dr. Ebersole was  
[2] incorrect in that?  
[3] A: No, I didn't say that. I just said that  
[4] he described this in his testimony.  
[5] Q: And is it your opinion that he was  
[6] incorrect?  
[7] A: No, I didn't say that, too.  
[8] Q: Okay.  
[9] A: I just said that he stated this was  
[10] something. And I say it's dye.  
[11] Q: All right.  
[12] MR. GUNN: Could we look at the last  
[13] X-ray, No. 14, which is identified as the AP view  
[14] of lower pelvis, hips, and upper femurs.  
[15] THE WITNESS: Right.  
[16] BY MR. GUNN:  
[17] Q: Are you able to identify that as having  
[18] been taken on the night of November 22nd?  
[19] A: Yes, sir. More fixer burns.  
[20] Q: Those are the brown patches again?  
[21] A: Brown patchy.  
[22] Q: Is there any -

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[1] A: Fecal material in the colon. Brown patchy  
[2] marks again. No burn frag - or, no metal  
[3] fragments.  
[4] Q: Okay. That consists of all of the X-rays  
[5] that are present in the Archives from the night of  
[6] the 14th.  
[7] Now, you had raised, previously in the  
[8] deposition - have a chair if you wish -  
[9] previously in the deposition, the possibility of  
[10] some metal fragments in the C3/C4 range.  
[11] A: I noticed I didn't see that.  
[12] Q: You didn't see any X-rays that would be in  
[13] - that would include the C3/C4 area?  
[14] A: No, sir.  
[15] Q: Are you certain that you took X-rays that  
[16] included the - included C3 and C4?  
[17] A: Yes, sir. Absolutely.  
[18] Q: How many X-rays did you take that would  
[19] have included that?  
[20] A: Just one. And that was all that was  
[21] necessary, because it showed - right there.  
[22] Q: And what, as best you recall, did it show?

[1] A: A fragmentation of a shell in and around  
[2] that circular exit - that area.  
[3] Let me rephrase that. I don't want to say  
[4] "exit", because I don't know whether it was exit or  
[5] entrance.  
[6] But all I can say, there was bullet  
[7] fragmentations around that area - that opening.  
[8] Q: Around C3/C4?  
[9] A: Right.  
[10] Q: And do you recall how many fragments there  
[11] were?  
[12] A: Not really. There was enough. It was  
[13] very prevalent.  
[14] Q: Did anyone make any observations about  
[15] metal fragments in the C3/C4 area?  
[16] A: I did. And I was told to mind my own  
[17] business. That's where I was shut down again.  
[18] Q: You have, during the course of this  
[19] deposition, identified three X-rays that you are  
[20] quite certain that you took, but don't appear in  
[21] this collection. Are there any others that you can  
[22] identify as not being included?

[1] A: That's the only three that come to my mind  
[2] right now; the two tangential views, and the AP  
[3] cervical spine.  
[4] Q: Okay.  
[5] A: Can I add something to that?  
[6] Q: Sure.  
[7] A: In my own opinion, I do believe,  
[8] basically, the reason why they are not here is  
[9] because they showed massive amounts of bullet  
[10] fragments.  
[11] Q: Did you ever hear of anyone connected with  
[12] the autopsy making any attempts to remove, destroy  
[13] any of the X-ray material?  
[14] A: Let me put it this way. Gossip is cheap.  
[15] Everybody has some. I heard some. And sometimes  
[16] you have to take it with a hill of beans - where  
[17] it comes from. But I did hear that in a - in a  
[18] conversation.  
[19] Q: When did you hear it in a conversation?  
[20] A: The next day.  
[21] Q: What did you hear?  
[22] A: That certain pertinent things were taken

[1] care of.  
[2] Q: Who told you that?  
[3] A: I was afraid you were going to ask that.  
[4] Nobody told me. I heard it between two officers.  
[5] High-ranking officers.  
[6] Q: Who were the officers?  
[7] A: One was Ebersole. And one was another  
[8] radiologist that - right now, his name just  
[9] doesn't - can't come to my memory.  
[10] Q: To the best of your recollection, who was  
[11] it who made the statement, Ebersole or the other  
[12] doctor?  
[13] A: Ebersole.  
[14] Q: And to the best of your recollection, what  
[15] did Ebersole say?  
[16] A: Just what I had said.  
[17] Q: Are you acquainted with the name of  
[18] Dr. Loy Brown?  
[19] A: Yes, I am.  
[20] Q: Who is Loy Brown?  
[21] A: He was the captain in charge of the  
[22] radiology department.

[1] Q: Is he the other officer whom you heard  
[2] speaking with Dr. Ebersole?  
[3] A: Yes, he was.  
[4] Q: Did you hear discussion about disposition  
[5] of any other autopsy materials, in addition to  
[6] X-rays?  
[7] A: No, I didn't.  
[8] Q: So, for example, they did not talk about  
[9] autopsy photographs?  
[10] A: No, I didn't. And the funny part about it  
[11] was, this was on - I just happened to be walking  
[12] down the hall behind them, and the conversation was  
[13] going on. And I was noticed, and everything shut  
[14] down.  
[15] I don't like to point fingers. Gossip is  
[16] cheap. I don't know, were they being truthful, or  
[17] what they were saying. This is just hearsay. And  
[18] you know hearsay is not admissible in a courtroom.  
[19] Q: It is admissible in a deposition, however.  
[20] A: I understand.  
[21] Q: Okay. Could we now look at some of the  
[22] autopsy photographs. We won't look at them all.

[1] I'd like to just -  
[2] A: Sure.  
[3] Q: - pull out a few of them.  
[4] MR. GUNN: Could we look at the second  
[5] view, which would be Color Photographs Nos. 26, 27,  
[6] or 28? Any of those three.  
[7] THE WITNESS: Do you want me to put those  
[8] gloves back on.  
[9] MR. GUNN: Yes.  
[10] THE WITNESS: Is that a negative, or is  
[11] that a -  
[12] MR. GUNN: That's a positive color  
[13] transparency.  
[14] BY MR. GUNN:  
[15] Q: Mr. Custer, I'd like to ask you whether  
[16] the image that appears on this first - or the  
[17] second view that you're looking at - corresponds  
[18] in a general way with what you observed on the  
[19] night of the autopsy?  
[20] A: Yes, it is.  
[21] Q: Do you see any differences between that  
[22] photograph and what you observed on President

[1] Kennedy, such that it would lead you to question  
[2] the authenticity of the photograph?  
[3] A: Not really. I notice one difference. The  
[4] incision on the neck is a lot bigger than what I  
[5] saw. But that could be due to probing.  
[6] Q: You're referring to the anterior neck  
[7] wound; is that correct?  
[8] A: Right.  
[9] Q: You previously identified that wound as  
[10] being about the size of your small finger; is that  
[11] correct?  
[12] A: Correct. Which makes me wonder. Why  
[13] would they probe it, if they were looking for  
[14] bullets or fragments? Which happens to be the film  
[15] that is gone.  
[16] So, he was - See all this stuff here?  
[17] My hands - I had rubber gloves on. I had to  
[18] change three or four times throughout the night.  
[19] MR. GUNN: Can we look at View No. 3 now,  
[20] which corresponds to Colors Nos. 32, 33, 34, 35,  
[21] 36, and 37.  
[22] [Discussion off the record.]

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[1] BY MR. GUNN:  
[2] Q: Mr. Custer, you're now looking at  
[3] Photograph No. 33.  
[4] A: Mm-hmm.  
[5] Q: I'd like to ask you whether that  
[6] corresponds to what you observed on the night of  
[7] the autopsy?  
[8] A: Yes, it does.  
[9] Q: Is there any question in your mind about  
[10] the authenticity of that photo?  
[11] A: Not really.  
[12] Q: You're shaking your head -  
[13] A: Sec, the thing is, you're stepping in a  
[14] realm here where I didn't really get involved much.  
[15] But from what I saw of the body, it appears to be  
[16] similar to what I saw.  
[17] Q: Okay, that's fine.  
[18] A: Okay?  
[19] MR. GUNN: Could we now look at View No.  
[20] 6, correspond -  
[21] THE WITNESS: Wait. Hold on one second.  
[22] BY MR. GUNN:

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[1] Q: Sure.  
[2] A: Let me put this in the record. Do you  
[3] notice the apparatus that is holding the head? You  
[4] can see -  
[5] Q: Yes, metal apparatus.  
[6] A: It's like a metal half-moon. When I took  
[7] my X-rays, that wasn't there.  
[8] Q: Does that help you identify whether you  
[9] took the X-rays either before or after the  
[10] photographs?  
[11] A: Yes.  
[12] Q: And how - What would the answer be?  
[13] A: Well, this didn't have to be - This  
[14] wasn't there, so -  
[15] Q: The metal part.  
[16] A: The metal. So, that meant, I had to take  
[17] some of them before. Had to. Because the only  
[18] time they put that in there is when they start  
[19] probing.  
[20] Q: Why wouldn't it be possible for them to  
[21] have taken that off, and then you come down and  
[22] take the X-rays?

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[1] A: That's possible, too. I'm just guessing.  
[2] Q: Okay. So -  
[3] A: Maybe I shouldn't guess.  
[4] Q: So, it's not really possible to tell by  
[5] the photograph -  
[6] A: No.  
[7] Q: - whether the X-rays were taken before -  
[8] A: I'll have to rescind that. No.  
[9] Q: Okay. Just because you were speaking over  
[10] the top of me, to make sure the record is clear.  
[11] Let me try asking the question again.  
[12] A: Apologize.  
[13] Q: Is it possible - And I'll ask a  
[14] different question.  
[15] Is it possible for you to determine, based  
[16] upon this photograph alone, whether the X-rays of  
[17] the cranium were taken before or after the  
[18] photographs?  
[19] A: No, sir. It's not possible.  
[20] Q: Okay. Mr. Custer, in the photograph,  
[21] there was a picture of a - there was - a towel  
[22] was included. Do you remember seeing a towel of

Page

[1] that sort on the -  
[2] A: Mm-hmm.  
[3] Q: You did see a towel on the night of the  
[4] autopsy that would correspond to what's shown in  
[5] that photograph?  
[6] A: Not at that time, I didn't. When I took  
[7] the X-rays, there was no towel there.  
[8] Q: Was there anything there at the time that  
[9] you took the X-rays?  
[10] A: Just a sheet over the - the film.  
[11] Q: Okay.  
[12] A: Over that area where the skull was, to  
[13] collect any body fluids.  
[14] MR. GUNN: Okay. Could we take a look at  
[15] the sixth view, corresponding to Colors Photographs  
[16] 42 and 43, which is identified in the record as  
[17] wound of entrance in right posterior occipital  
[18] region.  
[19] BY MR. GUNN:  
[20] Q: Mr. Custer, does that photograph  
[21] correspond to what you observed on the night of the  
[22] autopsy?

Page 1

[1] A: Truthfully and honestly, I cannot remember  
[2] seeing that.  
[3] Q: Is that because you didn't have that view,  
[4] or it does not appear the way that it appeared to  
[5] you on the night of the autopsy?  
[6] A: Because it did not appear to me the way  
[7] that appeared to me.  
[8] Q: In what respect is that photograph  
[9] different from what you recall?  
[10] A: I did not see the back of the skull or the  
[11] lower occipital region during the time I took the  
[12] X-rays.  
[13] Q: Does that mean that you didn't have a  
[14] chance to observe that angle, or that the bone was  
[15] not there?  
[16] A: I didn't have a chance to observe that  
[17] angle, because the head was not picked up like  
[18] that -  
[19] Q: Okay.  
[20] A: - where I could see behind it. All I  
[21] lifted it was enough to place the cassette  
[22] underneath.

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[1] Q: So, for practical purposes, you have -  
[2] you had insufficient opportunity to view, to either  
[3] authenticate or not authenticate this photograph.  
[4] Would that be correct?  
[5] A: That's correct.  
[6] Q: Okay.  
[7] A: The only - Let me add something to this.  
[8] The only thing that I could authenticate is this  
[9] flap, right there, on the right anterior portion of  
[10] the skull.  
[11] Q: That looks as if it's over the top of the  
[12] ear?  
[13] A: Right. Correct.  
[14] Q: And you remember that flap being there?  
[15] A: Oh, absolutely.  
[16] Here's another thing I want to add, too.  
[17] Whenever you have right trauma on a skull, you have  
[18] - blood and spinal fluid will come out of the  
[19] right ear. Vice-versa, if you have left trauma.  
[20] It's the other.  
[21] Q: Okay.  
[22] MR. GUNN: Okay. Could we look at the

[1] fourth view? We're not going exactly in numerical  
[2] order. Either Colors Photos No. 38 or 39,  
[3] identified as posterior view of wound of entrance  
[4] of missile high in shoulder.

[5] BY MR. GUNN:

[6] Q: Mr. Custer, during the deposition, you  
[7] said that you had - you had been able to see a  
[8] wound that was on the back of President Kennedy.  
[9] Does this photograph correspond to what you were  
[10] able to view?

[11] A: Yes, sir, it does.

[12] Q: And can you identify where on the  
[13] photograph the wound was?

[14] A: It would be on the right scapula region.

[15] Q: And that's the larger marking that's just  
[16] to the right of the ruler; is that correct?

[17] A: Correct.

[18] [Discussion off the record.]

[19] BY MR. GUNN:

[20] Q: It's our understanding the House Select  
[21] Committee on Assassination did some - did some  
[22] enhancements of the original X-rays, and we'd like

[1] to show you the enhancements.

[2] Have you ever previously seen the  
[3] enhancements of the X-ray?

[4] A: No.

[5] Q: What is your comment on observing the  
[6] enhancement? And what we're seeing is the AP -

[7] A: AP. Well, I would say modified waters.  
[8] AP, modified waters.

[9] Here's the fragment again.

[10] Q: And you're referring to the large -

[11] A: Large.

[12] Q: - semi-circular fragment?

[13] A: Right. Left marker, right orbit,

[14] fragments throughout. All I can say is, it's funny  
[15] how the burn mark gets in the right place. And  
[16] that's pretty close to what I - my own opinion -  
[17] I believe was an entry wound.

[18] Q: Are you able to identify now any brain  
[19] shadows?

[20] A: Very little, if any. Because you're  
[21] looking at bone shadow here. Bone shadow here.

[22] Q: You're referring to the anatomical left.

[1] A: Left -

[2] Q: Yeah.

[3] A: - portion of the skull.

[4] Air on the right anatomical maxillary  
[5] sinuses again. Fracture marks throughout the  
[6] sagimatic arch, the mandibular arch, the left  
[7] anterior portion of the skull, the superior portion  
[8] of the skull. Fracture marks.

[9] Here's that irregular cut mark - what it  
[10] looks like - appears to me. Snaking fracture  
[11] marks off to the left anatomical positioning.

[12] [Discussion off the record.]

[13] THE WITNESS: Remember you asked me that  
[14] question, how come there's bullet fragments in  
[15] there, and you can't see? You can see them. Where  
[16] are they?

[17] BY MR. GUNN:

[18] Q: They appeared to be more apparent in the  
[19] AP than in the laterals.

[20] A: Do you know why there's bullet fragments  
[21] there? If you look at the big portion of the  
[22] scalp, those fragments are in the skin of the

[1] scalp.

[2] That's the only logical place they could  
[3] be. They went through the brain, exploded, and  
[4] went out into the scalp. Perforated the scalp.  
[5] Impregnated the scalp.

[6] When you have a fragmented bullet, it  
[7] hits. It blows. Pushes everything out. When it  
[8] pushes everything out, it's like somebody putting  
[9] salt and pepper on your - on your steak. It  
[10] impregnates the steak.

[11] The same thing with the scalp. Because  
[12] there is no brain tissue here. You can't see it.  
[13] You can't determine it here because of the skull -  
[14] the bony skull. You can determine -

[15] I'd love to see the lateral portion, if  
[16] they enhanced that. Now, that's - that, in  
[17] itself, you'll be able to tell.

[18] MR. GUNN: And let's try the lateral.

[19] THE WITNESS: I've never seen this.

[20] Never.

[21] BY MR. GUNN:

[22] Q: You're now looking at the enhanced

[1] lateral.

[2] A: Here's the effect again. See the bone?

[3] There's the fragment.

[4] Q: And you're referring to the -

[5] A: Right -

[6] Q: - right above the sinus?

[7] A: Right orbital - No, no.

[8] Q: I'm sorry.

[9] A: No, frontal sinuses. But it's still  
[10] orbital ridge.

[11] It hits, fragments, and goes out. That's  
[12] why this portion of the skull is out. This is out.  
[13] Here's the cella turcica again. If there are  
[14] fragments, there's very minute portions. The only  
[15] reason why this isn't dark is, because this is an  
[16] enhancement.

[17] But you don't see any vascular markings in  
[18] here. Where are they? On a normal brain, you see  
[19] them in the skull. Your brain has veins. It shows  
[20] up. It has density. Blood has density.

[21] Q: So, at the time the X-rays are taken, the  
[22] brain has been removed from the cranium?

[1] A: It's not there.

[2] Q: On the AP view, there was the very large  
[3] fragment that was semi-circular.

[4] A: Correct.

[5] Q: Are you able to identify the location of  
[6] that?

[7] A: The only thing I could say, it is right  
[8] there.

[9] Q: And could you identify where that is  
[10] anatomically?

[11] A: It's anterior to the sphenoid bone, which  
[12] is - Here's the cella turcica. I would say, it's  
[13] anterior - no, superior - No, I can't say it's  
[14] anterior. This is -

[15] Q: Principally superior to the -

[16] A: Superior to the cella turcica. You  
[17] can't - The only way you can go -

[18] Q: Have a graph and -

[19] A: Right. You have to take - Like I  
[20] explained - I have to explain to you.

[21] There's only one way you can find out the  
[22] depth of a bullet. That's by taking a special

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[1] study. It's called tomography. Linear tomography  
[2] or a transpiral tomography.  
[3] Linear tomography is when they take  
[4] different fulcrum spots X-rays, and where the  
[5] X-ray's power source will rotate from - on a  
[6] longitudinal plane.  
[7] A transpiral, which is brand new now -  
[8] it's a new technology - it spirals. And you  
[9] change the focal - And you get length.  
[10] Q: You can identify the location with  
[11] precision.  
[12] A: Where you just - Right. By that  
[13] location that you have here that - on that  
[14] fulcrum.  
[15] Q: Okay.  
[16] A: You just see it. Then it starts to  
[17] disappear. Then it totally disappears. And that  
[18] way, you can tell.  
[19] This is a different projection. You're  
[20] looking - you're looking dead on. A side view.  
[21] Now, if you turned it this way, you're looking in  
[22] an AP projection. You're seeing the whole

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[1] fragment.  
[2] Q: All right. Okay.  
[3] A: You remember I brought this up on the  
[4] darker one? I said, you can just start to see a  
[5] faint image. And it brought it out on the  
[6] enhancement.  
[7] I have a question for you, Jeremy. Did  
[8] your other specialists - doctors see these  
[9] enhancements?  
[10] Q: No.  
[11] A: Okay. This tells the tale, right here.  
[12] Q: The enhancements?  
[13] A: Right.  
[14] Q: Okay.  
[15] A: This opens the door, literally. I showed  
[16] you the entrance wound, there. The exit wound has  
[17] to be up here somewhere.  
[18] If you turn this like that, what's that  
[19] tell you?  
[20] Q: Okay.  
[21] MR. GUNN: Can we go off the record for a  
[22] minute?

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[1] [Discussion off the record.]  
[2] MR. GUNN: I'm going to ask Mr. Custer to  
[3] look at the testimony offered by Dr. Ebersole to  
[4] the House Select Committee on Assassinations.  
[5] For the Review Board Records, this is  
[6] marked as Exhibit No. MD-60. The testimony was  
[7] given on March 11th, 1978.  
[8] Mr. Custer has brought with him today his  
[9] own annotated version of Mr. - or, Dr. Ebersole's  
[10] testimony.  
[11] BY MR. GUNN:  
[12] Q: And what I'd like you to do, if you would,  
[13] Mr. Custer, is to look through the testimony. And  
[14] any important things that you have specific  
[15] knowledge of yourself that you would like to either  
[16] confirm what Dr. Ebersole said or dispute what  
[17] Dr. Ebersole said, I would appreciate it.  
[18] I would like you to identify the page  
[19] number and line number -  
[20] A: Okay.  
[21] Q: - if you could.  
[22] A: All right.

Page

[1] Q: Okay?  
[2] A: Ready?  
[3] Q: Yes.  
[4] A: Page two, line 23, and 24, and 25. And -  
[5] Well, that's good. Page two. He states that he  
[6] was acting chief radiologist at the National Naval  
[7] Medical Center in Bethesda.  
[8] Baloney. He was the radiologist on call.  
[9] There was a lot more people higher ranking than him  
[10] that were staff radiologists. They all took call.  
[11] He was a resident radiologist studying for his  
[12] board certification, which he did not receive till  
[13] the end of that year. That's one thing that I have  
[14] a problem with.  
[15] On page three, that was the same thing.  
[16] I agree with him on line two, page three,  
[17] where the commanding officer called him about 6:30,  
[18] and I was notified thereafter about the incoming.  
[19] And this is what is fantastic, where he  
[20] states - Okay. Page three, lines seven and  
[21] eight. He personally carried the cassettes  
[22] containing the X-rays to the X-ray department,

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[1] which was on the fourth floor.  
[2] Baloney. Dr. Ebersole never left the  
[3] morgue. Reed and I personally carried the X-rays.  
[4] There's pictorial evidence of that, that you have.  
[5] Q: You're referring to the photographs that  
[6] we marked as exhibits?  
[7] A: Correct. Absolutely correct.  
[8] All right. Page three, the bottom half,  
[9] 23, where he - Again, he says: "I would like to  
[10] emphasize this was a textbook wound; round,  
[11] smooth..."  
[12] COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, sir. With a  
[13] little more emphasis.  
[14] THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm just  
[15] going through this. I'll - I'll get to that one  
[16] point.  
[17] It says the back of the head was missing,  
[18] and the regular messy wound at the point we have a  
[19] wound of entrance.  
[20] Baloney.  
[21] MR. GUNN: Go off the record for a moment.  
[22] [Discussion off the record.]

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[1] BY MR. GUNN:  
[2] Q: Actually, why don't we do a quote on -  
[3] A: Okay. Page four, line five. He quoted:  
[4] "We took several X-rays of the skull."  
[5] True. I quote - I agree with him  
[6] wholeheartedly there. There, in itself, he told  
[7] the truth. But you only have three X-rays in  
[8] evidence.  
[9] Q: There's three X-rays of the skull in  
[10] evidence.  
[11] A: Right. I could go through this  
[12] completely, and go back and forth, and back and  
[13] forth. But all I'd be doing is become repetitious  
[14] here.  
[15] And Dr. Ebersole had a tendency to say one  
[16] thing, and turn around in midstream to change his  
[17] mind and say something else.  
[18] And he talks about bullet fragments. On  
[19] page four, line 11, says: "Initial film shows an  
[20] unusual metallic fragment in the skull, but no  
[21] evidence of a slug or a bullet."  
[22] Q: End quote.

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[1] A: Unquote. Come on. Now, I would say,  
[2] myself, that -  
[3] MR. GUNN: I'm sorry. Can I -  
[4] [Discussion off the record.]  
[5] MR. GUNN: Back on the record.  
[6] THE WITNESS: At all times, Dr. Ebersole  
[7] stayed within the morgue. Dr. Ebersole examined  
[8] the films as I brought them back, made  
[9] interpretations that contradicted many times  
[10] throughout that evening. I suggested to Dr.  
[11] Ebersole what films should be taken.  
[12] In this testimony, he states that there  
[13] are metal fragments in there, but they are not  
[14] bullets. Now, that is a complete turnaround, if I  
[15] ever heard of it, because a metal fragment big  
[16] enough to be seen has to be a portion of a bullet.  
[17] Common sense would tell you that.  
[18] Another thing. When Dr. Ebersole looked  
[19] at these films - He took basic physics like  
[20] anybody else did. And why couldn't he see  
[21] displacement of the anterior portion of the skull,  
[22] and realize there had to be force coming from

[1] I went to - Like the next morning, he  
[2] states that he went to - He wanted to take the  
[3] body to the morgue - or, from the morgue to the  
[4] main department.  
[5] Oh, come on. The security was so tight  
[6] around there, you - if you sneezed, there was  
[7] somebody there wanting to know what happened. They  
[8] wouldn't let the body be moved out of there at all.  
[9] And he felt that the quality of the films  
[10] were not as good because of the portable unit.  
[11] Baloney. It was the film itself. The film type.  
[12] The technological advancements at that time weren't  
[13] that great.  
[14] Don't get me wrong. Bethesda, at that  
[15] time, had the top stuff, so to speak: the X-ray  
[16] machinery, the so-called top films, everything.  
[17] But it was at that time - in '63, it was unheard  
[18] of. Tomography? What is that, a nasty word? The  
[19] technological advancements hadn't quite advanced  
[20] that far. We didn't have CT scanning.  
[21] Do you realize what we could have done if  
[22] we had CT'd this man? You wouldn't have had to

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[1] the -  
[2] No, let me correct that.  
[3] - the posterior portion of the skull, and  
[4] realize there had to be force coming from the  
[5] anterior portion of the skull. He knew that. Now,  
[6] he's an educated man. He has to know that.  
[7] Also, in the statements he made that he  
[8] couldn't recollect certain things; how many people  
[9] were in the morgue at that time.  
[10] Oh, come on. It was pure mayhem. The  
[11] gallery was completely full. I'd show you on your  
[12] Exhibit -  
[13] BY MR. GUNN:  
[14] Q: 201?  
[15] A: - 201. From one - from the right-hand  
[16] portion of the gallery to the left-hand portion of  
[17] the gallery, loaded. Not considering the people  
[18] that were milling around on the morgue floor there,  
[19] going from pillar to post, and making different  
[20] notes, and doing this and that, and the technicians  
[21] that were working. There was definitely more than  
[22] 15 people in that morgue at that time.

[1] question all this. Where was this bullet? Where  
[2] was the depth? It would have been right there,  
[3] mapped out to you. Three-dimensional CT.  
[4] And he was so vague in everything that he  
[5] said.  
[6] Magnification. On page six, from line  
[7] four to six. "So, after -" As Dr. Ebersole  
[8] quotes: "So, after seeing the films at the White  
[9] House Annex, going back to Bethesda, and using a  
[10] human skull to determine a magnification level."  
[11] Actually, they were substantial factor  
[12] changes. He -  
[13] COURT REPORTER: End of quote?  
[14] MR. GUNN: End quote.  
[15] THE WITNESS: In the films. But he knows  
[16] to get no magnification - this is part of his  
[17] board certification - everything has to be taken  
[18] at 72 inches. Not 44 inches.  
[19] And this was all taken at 44 inches that  
[20] night, which causes magnification. This was  
[21] supposed to be a radiologist that knew what he was  
[22] talking about. I have to disagree with him

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[1] The commotion was astronomical. The  
[2] decibel level was extremely high. You had to  
[3] scream at people at times.  
[4] And when I'm taking X-rays, I placed an  
[5] apron on to protect myself. I had to scream for  
[6] these people to move when I was shooting in that  
[7] direction.  
[8] And it's just - He was so vague on  
[9] everything that he come up with.  
[10] Q: Dr. Ebersole?  
[11] A: Dr. Ebersole. And he took the X-rays at  
[12] 3:00 o'clock in the morning. That's crazy.  
[13] I moved - I removed the whole X-ray  
[14] equipment - the X-ray machine, all the films, took  
[15] them back to the department. And I went to bed.  
[16] And I was woke up at 5:00 o'clock in the  
[17] morning by Captain Brown and Dr. Ebersole,  
[18] commending me on my performance. And I just looked  
[19] at them, and I shook my head. And I said thank  
[20] you, rolled back over, and set to sleep.  
[21] And he was so vague on everything that he  
[22] come up with.

[1] wholeheartedly.  
[2] And another thing I couldn't get over, the  
[3] way that he was treated. He was carried around on  
[4] a silk pillow by his colleagues. "We don't want to  
[5] step on your feet, Doctor."  
[6] BY MR. GUNN:  
[7] Q: What I'd really like to do is avoid sort  
[8] of -  
[9] A: Okay.  
[10] Q: - comments about that.  
[11] A: That's fine.  
[12] Q: But just what you observed, and what he  
[13] commented on, and whether it's accurate or not.  
[14] A: Well, let me go through this real quick  
[15] here, then.  
[16] Page eight, line 21. "Do you have any  
[17] independent recollection of -" Oh, wait a minute.  
[18] Let me go back. No, that - Make that 20.  
[19] "Dr. Brown: Now when you say repeats,  
[20] were X-rays repeated after the autopsy started? Do  
[21] you have any recollection?"  
[22] "Dr. Ebersole: The second group of X-rays

[1] were taken either before the incision was made or  
 [2] very shortly there after."  
 [3] Now, he sounds pretty confused to me.  
 [4] He's not sure what. And we proved today there were  
 [5] some taken before, and there were some taken after.  
 [6] I can't remember what pages or what  
 [7] section it's on, but he made the statement - he  
 [8] was questioned to the fact, were there any  
 [9] controlling facet - or factors in the gallery that  
 [10] controlled the morgue - the morgue procedure at  
 [11] that time?  
 [12] "No, there were not."  
 [13] Come on. There were two men that  
 [14] constantly stood up, directed which way things  
 [15] would go.  
 [16] Q: That's the general that you referred to  
 [17] and the other person - the civilian?  
 [18] A: The general and the plain clothes. Which,  
 [19] by deduction, I assumed that was Kennedy's personal  
 [20] physician.  
 [21] Q: Admiral Burkley?  
 [22] A: Admiral Burkley.

[1] Page 15, line 20. He's saying how many  
 [2] gunshot wounds that he looked at during his career,  
 [3] 20 to 25.  
 [4] That doesn't make an expert by any means.  
 [5] We had radiologists there -  
 [6] Q: Just, once again -  
 [7] A: Sure.  
 [8] Q: What I'd like to do is to avoid how many  
 [9] other -  
 [10] A: Yeah, okay.  
 [11] Q: Just what you observed that is incorrect  
 [12] from what he observed. Not his qualifications.  
 [13] A: All right. I'm stepping over the bounds  
 [14] again.  
 [15] Pretty much, that's it. I'd be going  
 [16] through constant repetition on this. What I can do  
 [17] is, I can leave this - this one that I went  
 [18] through and made statements on - with you. And if  
 [19] you want to mimeograph it out, that's fine. If you  
 [20] don't, we can do that, too.  
 [21] Q: I would like to go back to page five, if  
 [22] we could, which was the -

[1] A: Sure.  
 [2] Q: There's an issue that you partly mentioned  
 [3] after we looked at the X-rays, and that we also  
 [4] discussed while looking at the X-rays. And this -  
 [5] these were the pencil drawings on X-ray No. 2.  
 [6] A: Which line is it?  
 [7] Q: If you look at page five -  
 [8] A: Right.  
 [9] Q: - starting on line 19.  
 [10] A: All right.  
 [11] Q: Where he says he may have drawn lines on  
 [12] the film. Does that help refresh your recollection  
 [13] or change your mind at all about whether you saw  
 [14] him actually make lines on the films during -  
 [15] A: He did draw lines.  
 [16] Q: - lines during the time of the autopsy?  
 [17] A: He - he did draw lines during the time of  
 [18] the autopsy.  
 [19] Q: And you saw those?  
 [20] A: I saw those.  
 [21] Q: Okay.  
 [22] MR. GUNN: Okay. I think that's all that

[1] we have. We'd like to thank you very much.  
 [2] We will be sending to you a copy of the  
 [3] transcript, which you'll be able to review and make  
 [4] corrections on, send back to us, then we will send  
 [5] you a copy of the final -  
 [6] THE WITNESS: All right.  
 [7] MR. GUNN: - transcript, as well. So,  
 [8] thank you very much for your time and patience.  
 [9] THE WITNESS: Are we off the record?  
 [10] MR. GUNN: This deposition is concluded.  
 [11] [Whereupon, at 3:40 p.m., the taking of  
 [12] the deposition concluded.]  
 [13] [Signature not waived.]

[1] CERTIFICATE OF DEPONENT  
 [2]  
 [3] I have read the foregoing pages, which  
 [4] contain the correct transcript of the answers made  
 [5] by me to the questions therein recorded.  
 [6]  
 [7]  
 [8] Jerrol Francis Custer  
 [9]  
 [10]  
 [11]  
 [12]  
 [13] Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
 [14] \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1997.  
 [15]  
 [16]  
 [17]  
 [18] Notary Public in and for  
 [19]  
 [20] My commission expires  
 [21]  
 [22]

**Lawyer's Notes**

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