

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO

Mr. Belmont

DATE: November 29, 1963

FROM

A. Rosen

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY  
11/22/63  
DALLAS, TEXAS

Attached are the results of our interviews with Secret Service personnel who were in the President's motorcade at the time of his assassination.

The facts as related by Special Agent William Greer, the driver of the presidential car, and Special Agent Roy H. Kellerman, in charge of the Detail, are set forth. There are also attached the results of our interview with the head of the White House Detail, Gerald Behn.

Enclosure

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Mr. WILLIAM ROBERT GREER, Special Agent, U.S. Secret Service, assigned to the White House detail, who resides at 9513 Sheridan, Seabrook Acres, Maryland, was interviewed at The Secret Service Office in the White House and furnished the following information. B9-2304 Nov 11 1963

GREER serves in the capacity of Senior Agent assigned to driving the President's vehicle in motorcades. Two of the White House vehicles to be used in the Dallas Presidential visit had been flown into Love Field, Dallas, Texas in a C-130 type aircraft on the morning of November 22, 1963. GREER was in company with the Presidential party which arrived at Love Field in Air Force I, a jet used by President KENNEDY. On the President's arrival, all of the vehicles to be used in the motorcade were in position on the ramp and soon after the party had landed, they took their positions in the awaiting cars and the motorcade departed for downtown Dallas. JRC/63

It is normal procedure for the vehicle bearing the President to be the second car in the motorcade, which follows the lead car generally occupied by local police and the Secret Service Agent who had conducted the advance survey of the route prior to the date of the President's visit. In the Dallas parade GREER was driving the seven-passenger Lincoln Continental "bubble-top" and as customary, President KENNEDY was sitting on the right of the rear seat. Mrs. KENNEDY was seated to his left, Governor CONNALLY was seated directly in front of the President on the "jump-seat" which folds down on the floor between the front and rear seats. Mrs. CONNALLY was seated to the left of her husband on the "jump-seat" and Special Agent ROY H. KELLERMAN, of the Secret Service, was seated to the right of GREER. As this vehicle departed from the ramp at Love Field, additional Secret Service Agents were on foot surrounding the vehicle until it emerged from the crowded area.

The lead car, which was directly in front of the Presidential vehicle, was a police vehicle occupied by members of the City of Dallas Police Department and Secret Service Agent LAWSON, who had conducted the advanced survey of the Dallas route. GREER estimated that the motorcade was traveling at a speed of 15 to 20 miles per hour down the main thoroughfare, which was lined on both sides by vast crowds of people and many additional

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by -SAs JAMES W. SIBERT & FRANCIS X. O'NEILL Date dictated 11/27/63  
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persons were observing the motorcade through open windows in office buildings along both sides of the route. The weather was balmy and clear and many of the people were without coats.

The procession made a right turn, facing in the direction of the Book Depository Building and then a left turn, bringing the motorcade in front of this building which was then on the right. The same speed was maintained as the motorcade passed in front of this building and GREER estimates that he had crossed the center line of the building when he heard a noise which sounded like a motorcycle backfire. On hearing this noise he glanced to his right toward KELLERMAN and out of the corner of his eye noticed that the Governor appeared to be falling toward his wife. He thereafter recalls hearing some type of outcry after which KELLERMAN said, "Let's get out of here." He further related that at the time of hearing the sound he was starting down an incline which passes beneath a railroad crossing and after passing under this viaduct, he closed in on the lead car and yelled to the occupants and a nearby police motorcyclist, "Hospital, Hospital!" The lead car sped in the direction of Parkland Hospital closely followed by GREER, who at times floored the accelerator.

On arrival at the hospital, GREER and KELLERMAN jumped out of the vehicle and first removed Governor CONNALLY, who was placed on a stretcher. CONNALLY was removed first in order to push the "jump seat" forward thus permitting removal of the President. GREER recalls helping take the President's stretcher into the emergency operating room. It is his recollection that the President was breathing when removed from the vehicle and transported into this room.

GREER stated that since he was occupied with driving the vehicle, he did not have much opportunity to observe the activity occurring in the rear of the vehicle after the President and Governor were shot.

The following description of Agent GREER was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	WILLIAM ROBERT GREER
Address	9513 Sheridan Street, Seabrook Acres, Maryland
Nationality	American
Race	White
Sex	Male
DOB	9/22/09
Place of Birth	Northern Ireland
Height	5'10"

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Weight  
Eyes  
Hair  
Marital Status  
Occupation

175 lbs.  
Blue  
Brown, greying  
Married - one son  
Secret Service Agent since  
November, 1950, after previously  
serving with uniform force, Secret  
Service, since 10/1/45.

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Mr. ROY H. KELLERMAN advised that he is the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the White House detail, United States Secret Service. He stated he has been an agent with that organization since December 19, 1941. *TEXAS*

On November 22, 1963, he was the senior Secret Service agent assigned to President KENNEDY in Dallas, Texas.

He advised that Air Force Plane Number One arrived at Love Field, Dallas, Texas, on the morning of November 22, 1963. Upon departing from the plane, the President was met by Vice President JOHNSON.

Prior to getting into the White House Limousine which was waiting for the President, the President and the First Lady went to the fence separating the apron from the taxi area. He shook hands with many of the people there.

He then came to his limousine. Protocol dictates that the President be seated in the right rear of the vehicle. The President seated himself in this position and the First Lady sat next to him. Governor JOHN CONNALLY and his wife then entered the vehicle. Mrs. CONNALLY seated herself in the jump seat of the vehicle in front of Mrs. KENNEDY and the Governor was seated in the jump seat in front of the President.

Special Agent WILLIAM GREER of the United States Secret Service was the driver of the Presidential vehicle. Mr. KELLERMAN advised that he sat in the front of Governor CONNALLY, next to agent GREER.

He advised that the President's Car can be covered with a bullet proof bubble, however, it is not used on too many occasions. It was not used on this occasion.

*Is this correct?*

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SAs JAMES W. SIBERT and  
by FRANCIS X. O'NEILL/dgr

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The President's seat can be adjusted to a height of approximately ten inches. The only person who can adjust this seat is the President himself. This seat was not elevated on November 22.

KELLERMAN advised that preceding the Presidential vehicle out of Love Field, there was what is known as a lead car. This car belonged to the Dallas City Police Department, in which were Special Agent WINSTON LAWSON, United States Secret Service who was in charge of the Advanced Security in Dallas for the Presidential visit. This car is equipped with a portable radio connected with the Presidential car. The vehicle also had contact with the Dallas City Police Department. In addition to the lead vehicle, there was a motor cycle escort in front of the lead vehicle, along side the lead vehicle and along side the Presidential car. In the rear of the Presidential car was another White House Limousine containing Secret Service Agents. These agents walked along side the Presidential vehicle until the vehicle left the area of the apron. The agents then got into their car and followed immediately in back of the President.

KELLERMAN went on to say that the vehicle passed through the center of town doing the normal speed which was adjusted by the number of people in the crowd and on the streets through which the Presidential vehicle passed. The vehicle went through the center of town on a street, which name KELLERMAN did not recall. Towards the end of town, the vehicle came to a sharp right turn in the street. Few people were on either side at this time. In a matter of a block, the road veered to the left. There were extremely few people on either side of the road at this point. The vehicle was still going at the normal speed which KELLERMAN estimated to be approximately 15 miles per hour. The Secret Service car following the Presidential vehicle was "tight close at hand".

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KELLERMAN advised he does not recall passing the Texas State Book Repository Building. He advised the vehicle appeared to be going down a small decline at which time everybody in the car was seated.

KELLERMAN said he heard a noise like a firecracker.

At this point, KELLERMAN advised he had been in almost daily contact for the past three years, with the President, and said he could pick his voice out from any group of people.

Upon hearing a noise like a firecracker, he distinctly and positively heard the President say "My God, I've been hit". KELLERMAN advised he immediately turned his head to the left rear and almost instantaneously heard two additional shots.

Upon turning his head to the left, he observed President KENNEDY with his left hand in back of him appearing to be reaching to a point on his right shoulder. The President fell on Mrs. KENNEDY's lap. She stated "My God, what are they doing to you?" Governor CONNALLY never said a word. Through the corner of his eye, he noticed that Governor CONNALLY appeared to be falling back face up in the lap of his wife. KELLERMAN stated he immediately turned around and advised Mr. GREER, "Get going, we've been hit". KELLERMAN had the microphone in his hand and radioed to LAWSON stating "we've been hit, lead us to a hospital immediately. Tell the police to escort us as fast as they can." He turned back again to the rear of the vehicle and saw Special Agent CLINTON HILL of the Secret Service climbing up on the back of the vehicle. HILL had been one of the agents in the follow-up vehicle immediately in back of the Presidential car. KELLERMAN stated that at this time, to the best of his recollection, the President was lying in the lap of Mrs. KENNEDY. He observed that Governor CONNALLY was now lying with his head up in the lap of Mrs. CONNALLY. KELLERMAN advised he asked agent HILL if he was all right and told him to hang on.

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The Presidential vehicle arrived at the Parkland Memorial Hospital in a matter of minutes. KELLERMAN stated he immediately jumped out of the vehicle and told hospital personnel to bring two stretchers. As the stretchers came out, KELLERMAN and GREER opened the back door of the Presidential car. Governor CONNALLY's eyes were open. He was told by KELLERMAN "Governor CONNALLY, everything is going to be all right". The Governor nodded his head in the affirmative. Three persons got into the vehicle at this time and lifted the Governor onto the first stretcher. They then got back in the Presidential car and with the assistance of KELLERMAN and GREER lifted the President from the lap of Mrs. KENNEDY and put him on the second stretcher. He described the President's head as lying partially on the lap of Mrs. KENNEDY and back against the rear cushion of the back seat. According to KELLERMAN, the President at this time was alive because he noticed that he was breathing. KELLERMAN advised he did not notice the extent of the injury to the President although he noticed a wound in the back of his head. The President's eyes were shut.

KELLERMAN advised the President was immediately taken into the Emergency Ward where several doctors began working with a feverish activity on Mr. KENNEDY to save his life. Several moments later, KELLERMAN stated the President died.

Mr. KELLERMAN said that from the time of this incident he has been going over in his mind the entire activity concerning the assassination of the President. The information that he has furnished to interviewing agents is factual and to the best of his knowledge is everything that occurred on November 22, 1963.

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Mr. GERALD A. BEHN, Special Agent in Charge, White House Detail, United States Secret Service, was interviewed at his office and advised that during the President's visit to the State of Texas, then Vice President JOHNSON would always arrive at the next city to be visited ahead of the President and would join the party awaiting the President's arrival. This was accomplished by the use of two Jets; Air Force I, which carried the President; and Air Force II, carrying the Vice President. On departing from a city, Air Force I would first take off followed by Air Force II which would thereafter pass Air Force I in flight, cruising at a faster speed, thus allowing the Vice President to arrive prior to the President and be with the greeting party.

Mr. BEHN was questioned concerning the section of the President's skull, which was brought to the National Navy Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland after the autopsy was in progress. He advised that this section, which was measured by the Doctor performing the autopsy as being 10 x 6.5 centimeters, was found in the Presidential car on the floor between the front and rear seats. He further related that two fragments of bullets had also been found in this vehicle in the front of the car and that the windshield had been cracked by the impact of one of these fragments.

BEHN was likewise questioned concerning the location of a bullet which had been found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and which had been turned over by the Secret Service to an Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for delivery to the FBI Laboratory. He stated that on learning of such a bullet being found at the Dallas Hospital he inquired of a group of his Agents who had returned from the Dallas trip on the night of November 22, 1963, and Secret Service Agent RICHARD JOHNSON produced this bullet which had been handed to him by someone at the hospital who had stated that it was not known whether or not the President had been placed on the stretcher where the bullet was found.

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Mr. BEHN advised that the undeveloped photographs and x-rays made during the course of the autopsy conducted at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, are in the custody of Mr. BOB BOUCK, Protective Research Section, United States Secret Service and could be made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on request.

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