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(202) 225-4624

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3369 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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October 18, 1978

Mr. James W. Sibert
4937 Normandy Court
Cape Coral, Florida 33904

Dear Mr. Sibert:

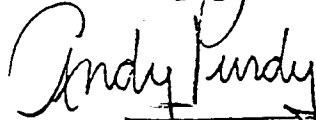
In accordance with our recent telephone conversation, I am enclosing an affidavit based on your interview on August 22, 1977.

Please carefully review this affidavit and, if it is accurate, sign it in the presence of a notary public and have it notarized. If you desire to make minor changes, please make those in the presence of the notary and initial and date each change. If you want to make any more major changes, please call me (202) 225-1910 and we will make arrangements.

Your assistance and cooperation in this matter are greatly appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Donald A. Purdy, Jr.
Staff Counsel

Enclosure

DAP:bas

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AFFIDAVIT

I, James W. Sibert, a resident of Cape Coral, Florida, being duly sworn make oath as follows:

I was interviewed on August 25, 1977 at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Ft. Meyer, Florida by James Kelly and Donald A. Purdy, Jr. of the staff of the Select Committee on Assassinations. During the interview I set forth the substance of the information which follows.

At this time I reaffirm that this information is accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge.

This statement is made freely, voluntarily, and without threats, promises, assurances, or remuneration from any sources.

I was assigned to the Baltimore FBI office at the time of the assassination; therefore, Bethesda Naval Hospital was within my jurisdiction. Specifically, the jurisdiction of the FBI was involved because there were civilian personnel on a military base; this automatically puts agents on station. Mr. O'Neill and I arrived at the Naval Hospital before receiving formal word from the bureau. Ed Tully was the agent in charge who gave us instructions. Specifically, we were instructed to: 1) get in the motorcade, 2) witness the autopsy and stay with the body, 3) preserve the chain of custody and take any bullets to the FBI Laboratory.

When the motorcade from the airport arrived at the Naval Hospital Bobby Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy were let off at the administration building. Mr. O'Neill and I helped carry the

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casket to the morgue with some Secret Service agents. One of the first things I recall hearing was someone mention "...checking with the wife regarding a partial autopsy and getting clearances." The talk concerned whether or not the body should be opened up to see if the bullet had gone down in the leg region. It was either Humes, Burkley, or a Secret Service man who wanted to check with Mrs. Kennedy.

One of the first things I did upon getting to the autopsy was to get the name of all the people present. Either O'Neill or I was present in the autopsy room at all times, except when everyone was cleared out during the X-Rays.

During the autopsy O'Neill and I took notes. We would listen for the measurements to be called out and we would write them down. O'Neill and I took possession of the little bottle containing the metal fragments that had been removed from the body. I believe there were probably two fragments. I believe that both fragments came from the head, possibly from the frontal sinus region.

When the damaged casket arrived the President was put on the table and everyone was cleared out so that X-Rays and photographs could be taken; we returned before they began cutting.

I left once during the autopsy to call the lab, because the doctors were having trouble locating bullets. I called Chuck Killion at the FBI Lab and was told that a bullet had been found in Parkland Hospital. I don't believe anyone called Parkland Hospital that night to find out what had happened there.

I recall the doctors looking for a bullet in the body and becoming frustrated during their search. They probed the wound with a finger and Dr. Finck probed it with a metal probe. The doctors concluded it only went so far and they couldn't find it.

I recall some discussion regarding the X-Ray of the femur. There was talk about consultation with Mrs. Kennedy before going ahead with it. I believe there were a couple of liaison people to Mrs. Kennedy present.

The head wound was in the upper back of the head. A large portion of the piece of the missing bone section came in somewhat later.

I recall the X-Rays of the head being shown in the room. The head X-Ray had many flecks like the Milky Way; part of the bullet had fragmentized or disintegrated. A lot of the metal fragments were tiny and those that were removed from the body were put in a little jar with a black top. Before they left the morgue we signed a receipt for the metal fragments. Regarding the receipt for the "missile" I do not recall how the receipt described the fragments. The receipt certainly was not for a whole missile, rather it was for "...some fragments." The receipt was prepared by someone else and typed up by a naval corpsman. If I had prepared the receipt I would have listed the items as metal fragments. A single "missile" to me means quite a bit of substance, more of a whole bullet. In reference to the fact that one of my reports says a copy of the receipt for the missile is attached, it is possible the Baltimore office may retain the original.

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Regarding my call to Killion and what prompted it, it should be noted that the Doctors were at loss as to where the bullet went. Nothing was ever mentioned about the anterior (front) neck wound being a possible bullet exit wound. The doctors were discussing the amount of fragmentation of the bullet and the fact that they couldn't find a large piece. They were wondering if it was a kind of bullet which fragments completely. That is why I left the room to call the lab, to find out about that type of bullet. I believe the wound in the front neck was characterized as a tracheotomy incision by someone.

After my phone call I returned to the morgue and told the doctors about the bullet found at Parkland. I didn't recall Kellerman saying anything about it. O'Neill and I were close enough to get anything that the doctor said about measurements. If I couldn't understand the measurements spoken by Humes I had him restate them. I don't recall the neck having been opened up for examination. One thing that struck me was when the President's body was turned on its side I noticed the famous scar on the President's back which occurred during the P.T. boat incident.

I had the impression that the doctors were getting clearances step-by-step from the Kennedy family before proceeding with the steps of the autopsy.

In my call to Killion, I asked about a discussion the doctors were having about a possible deflection of the bullet

through the body caused by striking bone. I thought this might have accounted for the extensive fragmentation. The phone call came after the probing. It was my impression that Finck and Humes agreed that there was no exit wound of the bullet through the back.

The photographs and X-Rays were collected by the Secret Service; neither O'Neill nor I handled them. Neither O'Neill nor I touched the photographs. Regarding the listing of those materials in my report, Humes told us the number of X-Rays and photographs; we had no independent verification, we didn't count them. We merely took notes during the autopsy and checked those notes when we made up the draft of our report. O'Neill and I had typical agent notebooks which we wrote in. I recall getting the measurements of the back wound and the skull bone but have no recollection of writing down the location of the entrance wound in the President's head. I was present when the bone piece was brought in which had been found in the limousine. It was X-Rayed and the doctors determined it had evidence of metal particles.

I examined the autopsy descriptive sheet found in the Warren Report; it was prepared by Dr. Boswell. The drawing is pretty accurate as to what we described. The general location of the wounds looks accurate. CE385 and CE 386 which I examined during the interview on August 22, 1977 looked accurate as well.

On reflection I believe Humes is the one who measured the back wound and I personally wrote it down. I never retained any

notes; the notes I used to draft the report were destroyed following usual Bureau procedures.

I understand that this affidavit may be introduced and received into evidence by the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States House of Representatives, and may lead them to make various findings of fact, and the statutes applicable to Congressional investigations, including but not limited to those concerning false statements, obstruction, or misleading, would subject me to criminal penalties for not telling the whole and complete truth in this affidavit.

James W. Sibert

: SS

Signed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____,
1978.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

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