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INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Identifying Information:

Name Richard A. Lipsey

Date 1/18/78

Address _____

Place Steinberg's Sporting Goods
Baton Rouge, La.

City/State _____

Telephone _____

Date of Birth _____

M or S _____

Social Security _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

2. Physical Description:

Height _____

Color Eyes _____ Hair _____

Weight _____

Special Characteristics _____

Ethnic Group _____

3. Personal History:

a. Present Employment: _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

b. Criminal Record

1. Arrests _____

2. Convictions _____

4. Additional Personal Information:

a. Relative(s): Name _____

Address _____

MD 87

b. Area frequented: _____

c. Remarks: _____

Investigator

Andy Purdy *T. M. Flanagan, Jr.*

D.A. Purdy, Jr. T. M. Flanagan, Jr.

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KENNEDY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

NAME Richard A. Lipsey Date 1/18/78 Time 11:40 a.m.
Address _____ Place Steinberg's Sporting Goods
_____ Baton Rouge, La.

Interview:

The Select Committee on Assassinations interviewed Richard Lipsey because of his presence at the autopsy of John Kennedy. Since Mr. Lipsey chose to tape this interview; we also taped. This memorandum represents a summary of the tape recordings. No transcript has been made to date.

Lipsey stated that he was an aide to General Wehle who was the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington, U.S. Army. This office was responsible for all the funeral arrangements of JFK. Lipsey said that he witnessed the majority of the autopsy.

Lipsey began the interview by mentioning that he signed a document in his office about one week after the assassination which forbade him from revealing any information about the autopsy. He believes this had a 15-year limitation. After asking us about the validity of this agreement, we responded by saying that we wished he would respond on a voluntary basis and that it was the Committee's opinion that no harm would occur. Lipsey mentioned that these orders originated from a Colonel Holden. Lipsey agreed to coop-

Interviewer

Andy Purdy T. M. Flanagan, Jr.
(Signature)

D.A. Purdy, Jr./T. M. Flanagan, Jr.
(Name)

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Date Transcribed 2/16/78 by mcp
(Ini)

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erate and supply any information that he could.

Lipsey stated that he was born on October 7, 1939 in Selma, Alabama. He came to Washington, D.C. when he was selected as an aide to General Wehle. He said that Wehle's office would handle all ceremonial military functions in Washington.

After the assassination, Lipsey said that he and Wehle met the body at Andrews Air Force Base and placed it in a hearse to be transported to Bethesda Naval Hospital. Lipsey mentioned that he and Wehle then flew by helicopter to Bethesda and took JFK into the back of Bethesda. A decoy hearse had been driven to the front. After bringing the body into Bethesda, Lipsey said that Jackie Kennedy and the family entered the front of Bethesda and travelled to the "Presidential suite."

Lipsey next stated that General Wehle ordered him not to leave the body for any reason.

After entering the morgue and the autopsy room, Lipsey could only recall one other person besides the doctors who was present in the autopsy room. This was Lt. Samuel Byrd, head of the Old Guard. Byrd was responsible for

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guarding the body in any military ceremony.

Lipsey next mentioned that this was the first autopsy he had ever seen and that despite the circumstance, he was able to witness the autopsy without feeling ill. He believes the autopsy lasted approximately 3-4 hours. After the autopsy, the morticians entered and Lipsey remained there while they prepared the body. During the autopsy, Lipsey said that General Wehle would occasionally enter. At one point after completion of the autopsy, Lipsey mentioned that he sent the driver of General Wehle's car to collect some clothes at the White House for JFK.

In answer to a question, Lipsey stated that he does not know when the autopsy x-rays were taken.

We next asked Mr. Lipsey to describe the wounds. Lipsey said that it was obvious that a bullet "entered the back of his head and exited on the right side of his head." The other bullets entered at the "lower part of his neck" in the rear; one then exited and one hit ~~his~~ chest cavity and travelled down into the body. Lipsey does not feel that the doctors ever located the third bullet; in otherwords, it did not exit the body.

Lipsey next stated that the doctors removed all of JFK's intestines and organs and sectioned these and photo-

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graphed them.

Lipsey says that he recalls the doctors discussing the third bullet which he believes entered low in the neck and was deflected down into the chest cavity.

To the best of his recollection, Lipsey does not believe that the doctors found any "whole" bullets. He does feel that there was no question among the doctors that the bullets came from the same source.

We next asked Lipsey to recap his discription of the wounds. He described these as follows:

- (1) one bullet entered the back of the head and exited resulting in part of the face and head being blown away;
- (2) another bullet entered at the top of the neck (rear) which exited in the front portion of the neck; and
- (3) another bullet entered at the bottom of the neck (rear) or high in the back which did not exit.

Lipsey added that if you viewed JFK from the left side you couldn't notice any damage; from the right side, however, part of his head was blown away. Lipsey said he

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he concluded a bullet exited from the front of the neck because he saw where the doctors were working and listened to their conclusions. Lipsey also mentioned that the doctors dissected all of the organs in the chest region while looking for a missile.

Lipsey next stated that Sam Byrd made a tape recording of all the funeral events surrounding the assassination in which he (Byrd) participated. Lipsey felt that this recording, taped on either Tuesday or Wednesday following the assassination, may have included a commentary on the autopsy.

Lipsey next said that after the morticians finished preparing the body around 3:00 or 4:00 a.m., JFK's body was taken back to the White House and laid to rest in the East Room.

In response to a question, Lipsey said that he had not spoken to Sam Byrd since approximately January, 1974, then he (Lipsey) left Washington. Lipsey mentioned that he lived across from Byrd at Ft. Myer in the Officers BOQ. Lipsey also commented that Byrd is a permanent military type and that if he is still alive he's probably in the Army.

Lipsey next stated that he doesn't recall the

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doctors having discussions with anyone else during the autopsy or any discussion concerning the nature of the autopsy to be performed. He did acknowledge, however, that even though he was in a position to hear the doctor's conversations that he didn't always pay close attention. He was only interested in certain aspects. He added that he was 12 to 15 feet from the autopsy table.

Lipsey said that the doctors first examined the entire body and he believes that they discovered all of the wounds during this preliminary examination. He said that his recollection of the wounds are based on what he saw and what he heard. In reference to the front throat wound, all he saw was blood. He also added that no real entrance in the rear of the head existed; he feels that one bullet blasted away an entire portion (entrance and exit).

Since he never got close to the throat wound, he could not recall the nature of this wound. Further, Lipsey does not recall any discussion of a tracheostomy incision or of the wound in the trachea being caused by anything other than a bullet. Lipsey stated that he cannot recall the doctors specifically saying that the wound in the throat was caused by a bullet but he does feel the doctors were

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convinced that a bullet exited from the front of the neck.

Lipsey also does not recall any discussion of the nature of the bullet that caused the head wound. Lipsey said that the doctors were using the angle from the entrance in the rear of the head to the throat to look for the other bullet that entered high in the back. He said that both entrances looked the same. Lipsey mentioned that the doctors spent more time looking for the bullet that entered high in the back than anything else. He recalls that he said that the bullet could have gone anywhere. The doctors were also firmly convinced that this bullet did not exit in the front of the neck. Lipsey said the doctors followed the path of the bullet for a short distance until they lost the track at which point they removed the organs in an attempt to locate it. Lipsey cannot recall if the doctors photographed the interior chest. Lipsey also does not recall when the doctors took the photographs or if they x-rayed the lower extremities. Lipsey does recall the doctors examining the x-rays during the autopsy.

Lipsey does not recall any messages coming from the Kennedy family, any calls being made from the autopsy room or elsewhere, any discussion of cardiac massage, or any discussion that the bullet in the upper back exited from the same pathway that it entered.

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Lipsey said that he was not in charge of security within the room but just had responsibility to watch the body. Lipsey does not recall anyone taking attendance in the autopsy room or any orders concerning admittance to the room. Lipsey does not believe the doctors returned any of the organs to the body. He mentioned that the brain was one of these organs.

Lipsey feels that the doctors did remove some metal fragments from JFK's body but has no idea concerning where they removed them from or what their dimensions were.

At this point, we had Lipsey diagram the wounds on a face sheet (see attachment).

Lipsey does not recall anyone else taking notes or any other federal agents in the room. Nor does he recall anything about the reinterment of the body or even when it occurred.

Lipsey says he feels he knows "for a fact" that someone shot JFK three times and that these bullets came from behind. He states he definitely remembers the doctors commenting that the bullets came from the same spot and direction and that they were "absolutely, unequivocally" convinced that he had been shot three times. In reference to the diagrams on the face sheet, Lipsey stated that the blown

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away portion represents an entrance and an exit. Lipsey also identified the entrance in the lower head as being just inside the hairline. Lipsey again reiterated that there is no question in his mind that the doctors feel there were three separate wounds and three separate bullets. Lipsey concluded by saying he has not discussed the autopsy with anyone, not even his wife.

We concluded this interview at 1:15 p.m.

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Same way
Blown away as wound #1

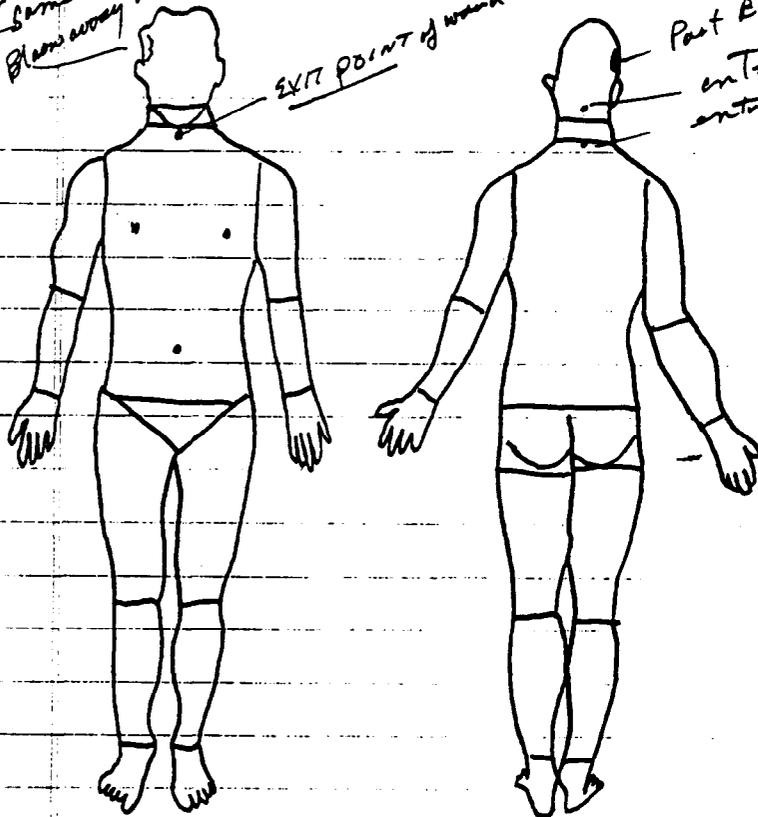
EXIT POINT of wound #2

entrance & exit
of bullet
wound
#1

Past Blown away - #1

entrance of bullet
#2

entrance
of bullet
#3
(not in
order)



1/18/78

Richard A. Lipsey

RICHARD A. LIPSEY

Witnessed by: Donald A. Purdy, Jr.

Baton Rouge, La.

T. Mark Flanagan, Jr.

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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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