

O'Donnell, Kenneth

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12/18/63

Messrs. Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President, and David Powers, of the White House staff, rode in the two jump seats. All of the agents were instructed to watch the route for signs of trouble. Like all the other agents, they were instructed to scan not only the crowds at street level but the windows and roofs of buildings, overpasses and crossings. They were instructed to watch particularly for any objects being thrown, for any sudden movements through the crowd, and for any movements toward the Presidential vehicle. In addition, the men on the running boards had specific assignments. The men in the front positions had instructions that whenever the President's car slowed down to a walking pace or stopped or whenever the crowd pressing in toward the motorcade made it impossible for the escort motorcycles to stay in position at the immediate rear flanks of the President's car, they were to get off the running boards immediately and move up to positions just to the rear of the President and the First Lady. The two men riding in the rear positions on the running boards were to get off and take positions toward the front of the President's

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DECLASSIFIED
 Authority: Mem. D. 5/11/65
 By: [initials] NARS Date: 5/18/84

Commission No. 3
 Secret Service

Other Individuals and Organizations

~~Confidential~~ Involved of Interviewed*O'Donnell, Kenneth, 2/18/63 3*

Mr. James J. Rowley

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1-16-602.111

Catering for the luncheon was furnished by Crotty Bros., Boston, Massachusetts, the contract caterers for the Trade Mart. They normally operate the Trade Mart cafeteria on food service. The President's food supply was to come from the general food supply, and the head table waiters, food preparers, and Crotty Bros. personnel were listed and names and data sent by SAIC Sorrels, Dallas, to our Protective Research Section for processing. Any catering personnel in proximity to the head table were identified by green lapel clips.

The Dallas Fire Department conducted a safety inspection and had firemen deployed in the Trade Mart with protective equipment. The Dallas Health Department inspected the kitchen area and facilities.

The general public was not allowed in the parking lot area where the motorcade would pass and was to stop. No public vehicles were allowed to park in the lot. It was secured by ropes and barricades. Police officers were placed on the roof of the Trade Mart, Market Hall, and Dallas Home Furnishings Mart, as they overlooked the point where the President would alight from his vehicle. Police were also utilized for crowd, traffic, and parking control at the Trade Mart.

Special instructions were sent to lessees of the Trade Mart by W. E. Cooper, General Manager, Dallas Market Center. (See attachment #9.)

See Trade Mart diagram. Attachment #10.

POST ASSIGNMENTS

The following changes from the preliminary report should be noted: SA Rybka remained at the airport to help effect security of the departure with SA Lawton and SA Roger Warner. SA Taylor was assigned to be in close proximity to Mrs. Johnson and work the Vice Presidential Detail follow-up car in addition to those agents previously mentioned in the preliminary survey report.

SS-100-X, Presidential car, was driven by SA Greer with ASAIC Kellerman in the front seat.

SS-679-X, Presidential follow-up car, was driven by SA Kinney and worked by ATSAIC Roberts and SAs Hill, Landis, Ready, McIntyre, Bennett, and Hickey. Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Powers, White House Staff, were also in this car.

The Vice Presidential car, a Lincoln Convertible, was driven by Herschel Jacks, Texas DPS Officer, with ASAIC Youngblood in the front seat. The Vice Presidential Detail follow-up car, a Mercury Sedan, was driven

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Other Individuals and Organization
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O'Donnell, Kenneth

ATTACHMENT #2

*to Exh 7
12/18/63*

PROPOSED MANIFEST - AF #1
FORT WORTH TO DALLAS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. THE PRESIDENT | 20. MR. JOHN READY - SS |
| 2. MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY | 21. MR. DONALD LAWTON - SS |
| 3. MR. KENNETH O'DONNELL | 22. MR. WILLIAM T. MCINTYRE - SS |
| 4. MR. LAWRENCE O'BRIEN | 23. MR. HENRY RYEKA - SS |
| 5. MR. DAVID POWERS | 24. MR. WILLIAM GREER - SS |
| 6. BRIG. GEN. GODFREY T. MCHUGH | 25. CONG. R. ROBERTS |
| 7. MISS PAMELA TURNURE | 26. CONG. J. BECKWORTH |
| 8. MISS EVELYN LINCOLN | 27. CONG. O. TEAGUE |
| 9. MR. MALCOLM KILDUFF | 28. MSGT JOSEPH GIORDANO - USA |
| 10. MRS. MARY GALLAGHER | 29. CWO IRA GEARHART - USA |
| 11. DR. GEORGE BURKLEY | 30. CONG. J. WRIGHT |
| 12. MISS CHRIS CAMP | 31. MR. MERRIMAN SMITH - PRESS |
| 13. GOVERNOR CONNALLY | 32. MR. F. CORMIER - PRESS |
| 14. MRS. CONNALLY | 33. MR. B. BASKIN - PRESS |
| 15. SENATOR R. YARBOROUGH | 34. MR. B. CLARK - PRESS |
| 16. MR. ROY H. KELLERMAN - SS | 35. MR. GEORGE THOMAS |
| 17. MR. CLINT HILL - SS | 36. HMCM ELLIS H. HENDRIX - USN |
| 18. JOHN J. O'LEARY - SS | |
| 19. MR. EMORY ROBERTS - SS | |

*Commission No. 3
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Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of Interviewed*O'Donnell, Kenneth**Exh 12*The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy *attach 11*
on November 22, 1963, at Dallas, Texas**Confidential***12/18/63*

The President with Mrs. Kennedy and official party arrived at Love Field, Dallas, Texas, aboard AF #1 (USAF 26000) at 11:40 a.m. (cst). After receiving members of the official reception party, the President and Mrs. Kennedy walked over to a fenced area and shook hands with many of the people who had gathered there to view their arrival. At the conclusion of greeting the gathering, the President, Mrs. Kennedy, Governor and Mrs. Connally entered the presidential limousine (special car: bubble-top, 1961 Lincoln Continental, seven-passenger, four-door convertible sedan). The President sat on the right rear seat with Mrs. Kennedy to the left of him. Governor Connally sat on the right jump seat and Mrs. Connally sat on the left jump seat. I rode in the front (right side) and William Greer drove the vehicle.

In the Secret Service follow-up car, 1956 Cadillac touring sedan (top down), driven by SA Samuel Kinney, ATSAIC Emory Roberts rode in the right front seat, SA John Ready stood on the right front running board, SA Paul Landis on right rear running board, SA Clinton J. Hill on left front running board and William McIntyre on left rear running board. SA Glen Bennett rode in the right rear seat and SA George Hickey on the left rear seat. Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell and Mr. David Powers (White House staff) rode the left and right jump seats respectively.

Behind the follow-up car was the Vice President's car with Vice President and Mrs. Johnson and Senator Yarborough in the rear seat. SA Rufus Youngblood rode in the right front seat and a police officer drove the car. The following vehicles were four cars of congressional members, press cars, VIP bus and then press busses.

We departed Love Field at 11:55 a.m., along the planned motorcade route, enroute to a luncheon at the Trade Mart, given by the Democratic Citizens Council, scheduled for 12:30 p.m. cst. As the motorcade completed the main thoroughfare through Dallas, we made a sharp right turn, for about a 1/2 block, then a curved left turn into a slight downhill grade, entering an area with little or no spectators. We were still traveling at the normal rate of speed of from 12 to 15 miles per hour when I heard a noise, similar to a firecracker, exploding in the area to the rear of the car, about 12:30 p.m.

Immediately I heard what I firmly believe was the President's voice, "My God, I'm hit!" I turned around to find out what happened when two additional shots rang out, and the President slumped into Mrs. Kennedy's

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lap and Governor Connally fell into Mrs. Connally's lap. I heard Mrs. Kennedy shout, "What are they doing to you?"

Confidential yelled at William Greer (the driver) to "Step on it, we're hit!" and grabbed the mike from the car radio, called to SA Lawson in the police lead car that we were hit and to get us to a hospital.

With SA Lawson riding in the police car they quickly formed the accompanying escort for the motorcade around our limousines and sped us through the streets to the emergency entrance of Parkland Memorial Hospital. Sometime during the ride to the hospital while looking back into the car I noticed SA Hill hanging on to the back of the car, laying across the trunk. When we got to the hospital I called to the agents to get two stretchers. The special agents of the follow-up car with the police ran into the hospital, obtained two stretchers on wheels. We placed the Governor on the first one at which time I noticed he was conscious and I spoke to him saying, "Governor, everything is going to be all right." His eyes were wide open and he nodded his head in agreement. Just before we removed the President, SA Hill took off his coat, placed it over the President's head and chest and we placed him on the stretcher. Both were taken into separate emergency rooms. The hospital staff appeared quickly and went immediately to work. I accompanied the President to the emergency room. His eyes were closed but I could see no visible damage to his face. The room was crowded with the medical people so I immediately walked out into a doctor's room, asked SA Lawson for the phone number of the White House switchboard in Dallas. SA Hill dialed the number to the White House operator in Washington and I talked with Gerald A. Behn, Special Agent in Charge, White House Detail. I informed him that we had an incident in Dallas, the President and Governor Connally had been shot and both were in emergency rooms at the Parkland Memorial Hospital. This I believe was about 12:38 p.m. cst. This direct telephone line from Dallas to SAIC Behn at Washington was kept open from this time until the plane departed. SAIC Behn was kept informed of all proceedings, plans or desires of both Mrs. Kennedy and President Johnson.

We immediately secured the corridors and the emergency room area, furnished the blood type of the President to the medical staff upon their request. It should be noted that Vice President and Mrs. Johnson were placed in a separate room away from the emergency room. Some time later SA Warren Taylor came to me and said the Vice President wanted to see me. Mr. Johnson asked me the condition of the President and the Governor. I advised him that the Governor was taken up to surgery, that

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the doctors were still working on the President. He asked me to keep him informed of his condition. SA Kinney entered the emergency room area when I returned there and asked if it would be all right to drive the President's car and the follow-up car back to the airport, load them aboard the plane. I said "Yes" and told him to return the cars to Washington, D.C.

The 4 to 12 shift (ATSAIC Stout, etc.) joined us at the emergency room and the 8 to 4 shift (ATSAIC Roberts, etc.) immediately joined the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson.

Through Dr. Burkley, President's physician, we were advised officially of the death of the President which was registered on the death certificate as 1 p.m. cst. Between 1 p.m., and our departure from the hospital at 2:04 p.m. cst., a casket was obtained and with Mrs. Kennedy, SA Hill and Dr. Burkley riding in the hearse with the casket, SA Berger (Stout and Kellerman in front seat) drove the hearse with police escort to Love Field.

The Vice President and Mrs. Johnson had preceded us with Roberts shift to the airport and when we had arrived, the field had been secured and we rushed to AF 26000. All available special agents carried the casket from the ambulance up the rear steps and placed it in the rear section of the plane. When we boarded the plane, Vice President Johnson and his party were aboard the plane. The services of Federal Judge Sarah T. Hughes was obtained, she was brought into the plane, and Vice President Johnson was administered the oath of office and sworn in as President at 2:38 p.m. cst.

At 2:47 p.m., USAF 26000 was airborne for Washington, D. C., arriving at Andrews Air Force Base at 5:58 p.m., est.

While airborne, arrangements were made for a Naval ambulance from the New Naval Medical Center at Bethesda to be available at the airport. Upon landing we removed the casket, placed it into the ambulance. At the airport, Chief Rowley advised me that two FBI agents, Francis O'Neill, Jr., and James Siebert, had been assigned to this case and to allow them into the morgue at the U. S. Naval Hospital. I told Chief Rowley the cars would arrive at Andrews at about 8 p.m., and suggested he assign field agents to them to completely go over them for any evidence that might be found.

Mrs. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and General McHugh sat in the rear of the ambulance; SAs Greer, Landis and myself with Dr. Burkley rode in the front to Bethesda, with a police escort. The body was immediately taken to the morgue and the family was assigned rooms in the Towers ~~at the~~

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of the Center. Hill and Landis remained with Mrs. Kennedy in her quarters and William Greer and I remained in the morgue and viewed the autopsy examinations which were performed by Vice Admiral Gallway, Commanding Officer, NNMC, Chief Pathologist Cdr. James Humes, Lt. Col. Pierre A. Finck who is Chief, Military Environmental Pathology Division and Chief of Wound Ballistics, Pathology Branch, and J. Thornton Boswell, Cdr. Medical Corps, USN, together with the Naval Medical Staff. SA O'Leary was also in the morgue briefly. Agents O'Neill and Siebert were present.

During the night Joseph Gawlers Sons, Inc., funeral directors, were notified by Robert Kennedy and Sargent Shriver and a new coffin was obtained. After the completion of the autopsy and before the embalming I summoned SA Hill down to the morgue to view the body and to witness the damage of the gunshot wounds. The embalming was performed after the autopsy by the staff of Joseph Gawlers.

Prior to our departure from the Naval Hospital I received all film, x-rays, that were used during this autopsy, and upon arrival at the White House I turned them over to SAIC Bouck.

We left the hospital at 3:56 a.m. in the Navy ambulance and with police escort motored to the White House. Mrs. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy rode in the hearse, SA Greer drove, Kellerman in the front seat, SAs Hill and Landis with members of the family rode in cars following the ambulance. We arrived at the White House at 4:24 p.m. The body was placed in the East Room.

On Wednesday, November 27, 1963, FBI Agents O'Neill and Siebert were given an oral statement along the lines of this report.

Roy H. Kellerman
Roy H. Kellerman
Assistant Special Agent in Charge

11-29-63

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Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of Interviewed*O'Donnell, Kenneth*
attach
13U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Washington, D.C.

U. S. Secret Service

November 29, 1963. *to Exh. 12*

To: Chief James J. Rowley

From: ATSAIC Emory P. Roberts, The White House Detail. *12/18/63*SUBJECT: Schedule of events prior to and after the assassination
of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas on
Friday November 22, 1963.11:25 a.m. The President and Mrs. Kennedy with members of the
Presidential Party departed Carswell A.F.B., Texas via USAF
26,000 (Jet, also known as AF 1) enroute to Love Field, Dallas,
Texas.The following members of the United States Secret Service were
aboard this aircraft. ASAIC Roy T. Kellerman, in charge of
White House Detail for the Texas trip, SA Clinton Hill in charge
of Mrs. Kennedy's security, SA William Greer, Presidential driver,
ATSAIC Emory P. Roberts, in charge of 8 am - 4 p.m. shift, with
SA's John Ready, Donald Lawton and William McIntyre. SA John
O'Leary was also aboard AF 1. Special Agent Glen Bennett of the
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. shift arrived Dallas, Texas aboard USAF 6970.11:40 a.m. Presidential Plane arrived Love Field, Dallas, Texas,
which was five minutes late according to schedule, as we were due
there at 11:35 a.m.After the usual greeting of approximately 20 people, upon
deplaning, the President and Mrs. Kennedy walked to roped off
area and shook hands with a number of the assembled persons
gathered there, and autographed a few papers and pamphlets.
I accompanied the President, as well as other Special Agents
while he greeted the people. The President and Mrs. Kennedy
returned to their car.11:55 a.m. The President (right rear seat), Mrs. Kennedy (left
rear seat) Governor John Connally (of Texas) (right jump seat)
Mrs. Connally (left jump seat) ASAIC Roy T. Kellerman front seat,
with SA William Greer driving, (SS car 100-X - top removed) departed
Love Field.SA Donald Lawton of 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. shift remained at Love Field
with SA Warner and Rybka to set up security for the President's
departure for Bergstrom AFB, Austin, Texas. The Presidential
aircraft was due to depart Dallas at 2:35 p.m.The following persons departed Love Field in Secret Service
Follow-up car, 679-X and were located in and on running boards
of car as follows:~~Confidential~~
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ATSAIC Emory P. Roberts - front seat - operating radio.
 SA Samuel Kinney - driving (did an excellent job)
 Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell, Appointment Secretary to the President,
 left jump seat.
 Mr. David Powers, Presidential Aide, right jump seat.
 SA Glen Bennett, left rear seat.
 SA George Hickey, right rear seat (manning AR-15 (rifle))
 SA Clinton Hill, left running board, front.
 SA William McIntyre, left running board, behind Hill.
 SA John D. Ready, right running board, front.
 SA Paul Landis, right running board behind Ready.

Note: On shift report for Nov. 22, 1963, I listed SA Rybka as riding in center of rear seat, which was in error, as he was not in car. As mentioned above, he remained at Love Field.

The Presidential motorcade toured downtown Dallas, through huge crowds, that were sometimes so close, that motorcycles of the Dallas Police Department had to drop back from flanking the Presidential and Secret Service cars, so the two cars could get through. On several occasions the Special Agent working the running boards of the Follow-up car "hit" the ground and ran along side of the President's car; and SA Hill climbed on rear step of the President's car (left rear) where he remained until the crowd thinned and motorcycles had returned to their positions, flanking the rear of the President's car.

The Presidential motorcade was enroute to Trade Mart to Attend Luncheon, sponsored by the Dallas Citizens Council, The Dallas Assembly and the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest.

12:29 p.m. SA Winston Lawson (Advance Agent for Dallas stop) riding in lead car, gave "five minutes away," signal via radio, meaning five minutes away from Trade Mart. I immediately wrote 12:35 p.m. on Itinerary, as the time of arrival at Trade Mart.

12:30 p.m. First of three shots fired, at which time I saw the President lean toward Mrs. Kennedy. I do not know if it was the next shot or third shot that hit the President in the head, but I saw what appeared to be a small explosion on the right side of the President's head, saw blood, at which time the President fell further to his left. Mrs. Kennedy was leaning toward the President, however, she immediately raised up in the seat and appeared to be getting up on back of same. About this time I saw SA Clinton Hill trying to get on left rear step of the President's car. He got aboard and climbed up over the back of the car and placed himself over the President and Mrs. Kennedy. After SA Hill got on rear step of the President's car, it appeared that SA John Ready was about to follow and go for the right rear step, however, I told him not to jump, as we had picked up speed, and and I was afraid he could not make it.

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It is estimated that we were traveling approximately 15-20 miles per hour at the time of the shooting and it is believed that the follow-up car was approximately 20 - 25 feet behind the President's car.

The crowd was very sparse, in fact only a few people were along the motorcade route at the time of the shooting.

Just after the third shot was fired, I picked up the car radio and said "Halfback (code name for SS. Follow-up car) to Lawson, the President has been hit, escort us to the nearest hospital, fast but at a safe speed." I repeated the message, requesting to be cautious, meaning the speed. I had in mind Vice President Johnson's safety, as well as the President's, if he was not already dead.

The Vice President's car was approximately one-half block behind the Secret Service car, at the time of the shooting, and some of us waved for it to close in closer to the Secret Service car. The Vice President's car quickly closed the gap.

When I turned around to wave the Vice President's car to come closer, at same time, trying to determine where shots had come from, I said, pointing to SA McIntyre, "They got him, they got him," continuing I said "You (meaning McIntyre) and Bennett take over Johnson as soon as we stop." (meaning the hospital)

I turned around a couple times, just after the shooting and saw that some of the Special Agents had their guns drawn, I know I drew mine, and saw SA Hickey in rear seat with the AR-15, and asked him to be careful with it.

12:34 p.m. Presidential motorcade arrived at Parkland Hospital. (I did not look at my watch, however, I overheard someone at the hospital say that it took four minutes to get there.

Upon arrival at Parkland Hospital, I immediately ran to President Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy was lying over him. I said to Mrs. Kennedy to let us get the President. She said in effect that she was not going to move. I got one look at the President's head and remarked to ASAIC Kellerman, "You stay with the President, I'm taking some of my men for Johnson." SA's McIntyre and Bennett were already with Vice President Johnson, having joined SAIC Rufus Youngblood and other Special Agents assigned to the Vice President, as the Vice President arrived at the hospital.

The first thing we did, was request a room for the Vice President. After getting the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson in a room, at the hospital, I said in effect to the Vice President, in the presence of Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Cliff Carter, Executive Assistant to the Vice President and SAIC Youngblood, as well as others, that I did not think the President could make it and suggested that we get out of Dallas as soon as possible.

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We (SAIC Youngblood and myself) suggested that he (Vice President) think it over, as he would have to be sworn in. I suggested that we leave Dallas via AF 1, and SAIC Youngblood agreed and suggested that we return to the White House.

SAIC Youngblood can give more details, as I left the Vice President from time to time, once to get Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell, as the Vice President did not want to leave Dallas, without permission or suggestion from someone on the President's Staff. I located Mr. O'Donnell in hallway, near room where President Kennedy was.

While trying to locate Mr. O'Donnell for the Vice President, I came across ASAIC Roy Kellerman, who was assisting someone to fill in the President's blood type on a card. I remarked, that it was the same as mine Blood Group O, Rh Positive. Kellerman had card in his hand which he got from his wallet with the President's blood type.

At this time, I explained to Mr. Kellerman that the Vice President would probably leave for Washington very soon aboard AF 1.

I returned with Mr. O'Donnell to the Vice President, and while Mr. O'Donnell and the Vice President were talking, I mentioned to ASAIC Johns to check if the car (President's) was impounded. (I know that the word "evidence" was used. SAIC Johns left immediately.

Shortly after arrival at the Parkland Hospital, I asked C.W.O. Ira Gearhart, White House Communication Agency, (Courier for President) to step into room next to Vice President Johnson, and stay with him.

One of the Special Agents assigned to Vice President Johnson called the airport and requested the Presidential plane to stand by to take Vice President Johnson to Washington, D.C.

I contacted the White House Signal Board and advised them to cancel all the other stops that had been planned for the President. I saw SA Richard Johnson (4-12 shift) in hallway and asked him to augment V.P. Detail, which he did.

I had made arrangements with the Dallas Police, in front of the Parkland Hospital to have an unmarked police car for the Vice President and two other cars for other passengers and Secret Service, to take the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson to the airport. SA Lem Johns double checked this.

I left the Vice President a second time upon the request of Mrs. Johnson, as she had stated that she would like to see Mrs. Kennedy. After Inquiry of an agent in hallway, I located Mrs. Kennedy and asked her, if it would be alright if Mrs. Johnson came to see her, to which she replied "yes." I returned to the room where the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson were and told Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson followed me, with two Special Agents accompanying her.

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Mrs. Johnson spent a very short time with Mrs. Kennedy, who was sitting in a chair outside of room where the President was. I returned to room where the Vice President was, with Mrs. Johnson.

I left again, this time upon request of the Vice President to double check with Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell, if it would be O.K. for the Vice President to take AF 1 and return to Washington, D.C. I located Mr. O'Donnell in hallway and he said "yes".

The Vice President was informed that Mr. O'Donnell stated that he could leave. The Vice President said in effect, that he didn't want to leave without the approval of a staff member or the Secret Service.

At 1:15 p.m. (according to my watch) the Vice President, in the presence of Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Cliff Carter, SA IC Youngblood and others, was informed by me, that the President was dead. Vice President Johnson said to Mr. Carter to make a note of it and someone mentioned the time as 1:13 p.m. Mr. Malcolm Kilduff, Assistant Press Secretary to President Kennedy came into the room about that time and it was decided that he would not release the death of the President, until the now President Johnson had left the hospital.

1:35 p.m. The now President Johnson, and I believe Mr. Cliff Carter departed Parkland Hospital in an unmarked police car, accompanied by SA IC Youngblood. As far as I know, SA IC Youngblood never left Vice President's side, from time of shooting to arrival at USAF 1, which was spotted at Love Field, awaiting for Vice President Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson rode in police car, directly behind President Johnson accompanied by Congressman Brooks, and SA's Warren Taylor, Jerry Kivett and Glen Bennett.

Follow-up car was driven by a Dallas Policeman, accompanied by another policeman and SA John Ready in front seat; rear seat ATSAIC Roberts, SA McIntyre and C.W.O. Gearhart, WHCA Courier.

SA Johns followed in another police car.

1:40 p.m. President and Mrs. Johnson arrived at Love Field and immediately boarded AF 1. Special agents were posted strategically in and around the aircraft. SA's Lawton and Rybka joined us upon arrival at airport, in effecting security. All blinds on aircraft were immediately drawn. I do not know who requested that this be done, however, I assisted in closing them.

We learned that Mrs. Kennedy was enroute to AF 1, however, we could not confirm same, then we heard that President Kennedy's body was also being brought to the aircraft. I informed Colonel Swindel (Aircraft Commander) and other members of AF 1, that we

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would not leave or do anything, until we cleared same with SAIC Youngblood. As we had a few too many people aboard USAF 1, I did ask a couple to get off.

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After the arrival of Mrs. Kennedy and President Kennedy's body, I was informed by Col. James Swindel that a Federal Judge Hughes (woman) was enroute to AF 1, to swear in President Johnson. I immediately informed the police present and requested SA Ready to go to gate, to make sure that the Judge got in. When I saw Judge Hughes coming toward the aircraft, I went to meet her and escorted her to the front ramp and cleared her to go aboard, as no one was allowed to get aboard the aircraft, unless they were known personally or cleared by Secret Service. I did not go aboard and waited at bottom on ramp.

Upon arrival of ASAIC Kellerman with Mrs. Kennedy and President Kennedy's body, he advised me that the 4-12 shift (ATSAIC Stout's) would return to Washington, D.C. aboard AF 1. It is to be noted that SA Bennett of my shift (8 am - 4p.m.) also returned to Washington, D.C. via A.F. 1.

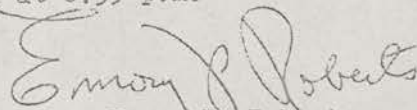
2:40 p.m. Approximately, SAIC Gerald A. Behn, in Charge of the White House Detail called Love Field, from Washington, D.C. and requested that I give him the time that A.F. 1 departed for Washington, D.C. I advised Mr. Behn that Judge Hughes was aboard swearing in President Johnson, and advised Mr. Behn when Judge Hughes departed A.F. 1.

2:47 p.m. A.F. 1 departed for Washington, D.C. with President and Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kennedy and President Kennedy's body.

I might mention that I assigned the Special Agents to the follow-up car, and each knew his assignment. For instance, SA Hill was assigned to work left rear of President's car (where Mrs. Kennedy was sitting), SA Ready was assigned to work the right rear of the President's car, then SA Landis was to work right front and SA McIntyre was to work the left front. As far as I can remember, SA Hill was the only one that had to jump on rear step of the President's car, while touring downtown Dallas, however, SA Ready would have done the same thing, if motorcycle was not at the President's corner of car.

3:15 p.m. ATSAIC Roberts, SA's Ready, Lawton, and McIntyre departed Love Field, Dallas, Texas via USAF 6970, and arrived Washington, D.C. (Andrews AFB) at 6:35 p.m.

Approved:



Emory P. Roberts

Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge

Gerald A. Behn
Special Agent in Charge.

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Nov. 22, 1963.

Confidential!

At 11:55 a.m. this date The President, Mrs Kennedy, Gov. and Mrs. ~~EdndkdjkEskkaky~~ Connally of Texas (Kellerman - Groer) departed Love Field, Dallas Texas in SS 100-X (top removed)

F.W. car - Kinney Driving - Roberts front seat, Jump seat on left side Ken O'Donnell, jump seat right side, Dave Powers, rear seat left Bennett, center Rybka and right rear - Hickey.

Left running board: Hill on the front, McIntyre behind him.
Right " " : Front heady behind him Landis.

We had received a 5 minute away signal (radio) from Lawson (in lead car) meaning 5 minutes from Trade Mart - ~~were~~ the President was going.

About 1 minute later at 12:30 p.m. two or three shots were fired, at which time I saw the President lean over on Mrs. Kennedy. I knew he was hit. Just as the first or second shot was fired Hill ran from follow-up car to President's car - jumped aboard and placed himself over Mrs. Kennedy and the President.

Upon seeing the President shot, I radioed Lawson to escort us to the nearest hospital fast but at a safe speed.

During the downtown motorcade the streets were lined with people, however, in the area where the shots rang out. the crowd was very sparse, in fact only a few people.

It is estimated that we were traveling about 20 - 25 miles an hour at the time of the shooting, and it is believed that the follow-up car was approx. 25 feet behind the President's car.

I could not determine from what direction the shots came, but felt they had come from the right side.

I immediately asked everyone on car to look to see if they could determine where the shots came from, - no one seemed to know.

Emory P. Roberts
Emory P. Roberts.

Confidential

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed

O'Donnell, Kenneth

Attach 14

to EPH 12

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, AT DALLAS, TEXAS

12/18/63

Statement of Special Agent Clinton J. Hill, United States Secret Service, concerning his activities and official duties on November 22, 1963. Statement dated November 30, 1963.

I, Clinton J. Hill, Special Agent, United States Secret Service, arrived at Love Field, Dallas, Texas, at 11:40 a.m. on November 22, 1963, from Fort Worth, Texas, aboard Air Force No. One (USAF #26000) with President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy. President and Mrs. Kennedy debarked the aircraft first from the rear ramp followed by Governor and Mrs. John Connally and by three or four Congressmen and Senators, and then myself and ASAIC Roy H. Kellerman.

Upon alighting, President and Mrs. Kennedy were greeted by a small reception committee and Mrs. Kennedy was presented a bouquet of red roses. I ran over to the Secret Service Follow-up car immediately upon my arrival and placed my topcoat and a small folder containing information on this Dallas stop of the Texas trip on the floor of the car. I then went back to where the President and Mrs. Kennedy were greeting an elderly lady in a wheel chair.

The general public was restricted from the ramp area of Love Field by a permanent chain-link fence. There were a number of photographers and correspondents on the ramp area covering the arrival.

The President noticed the large number of people being restrained by the fence and walked over to the crowd and began shaking hands. He moved from his right to his left down the fence. Mrs. Kennedy accompanied him. I remained very close to Mrs. Kennedy observing the outstretched hands of well-wishers to make sure no weapons were extended toward Mrs. Kennedy and that nothing was handed to her. I accompanied Mrs. Kennedy behind the President along the fence and then to the Presidential automobile which was waiting to take President and Mrs. Kennedy and Governor and Mrs. John Connally to the Trade Mart for a luncheon, after a 45-minute motorcade through downtown Dallas.

President and Mrs. Kennedy entered the automobile with the President getting into the right rear seat and Mrs. Kennedy into the left rear seat. Mrs. Connally got into the left jump seat and Governor Connally into the right jump seat. SA William Greer was driving the automobile with ASAIC Roy H. Kellerman in the right front seat. I went to the left rear side of the Presidential automobile and stood on the airport ramp along side where Mrs. Kennedy was sitting.

As the Presidential automobile began to move forward at 11:55 a.m. I walked along side of the left rear of the automobile for about 150 feet, and since there were no people at all on the airport ramp I went back to the automobile immediately behind the Presidential Automobile and mounted the forward portion of the left running board.

~~Confidential~~

Commission No. 3

Secret Service

Page Two of Statement of Special Agent Clinton J. Hill, dated Nov. 30, 1963:

~~Confidential~~

SA Sam Kinney was driving this Secret Service Follow-up car which was a 1955 Cadillac 9-passenger convertible specifically outfitted for use by the Secret Service. ATSAIC Emory Roberts was sitting in the right front seat and operating the two-way radio. SA John Ready was on the forward portion of the right hand running board; SA William McIntyre on the rear portion of the left hand running board; SA Paul E. Landis on the rear portion of the right hand running board; Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell, Presidential Appointment Secretary, was seated on the left side of the second seat; Mr. Dave Powers, Presidential Receptionist, was seated on the right side of the second seat; SA George Hickey was seated on the left side of the third seat; and SA Glen Bennett was seated on the right side of the third seat.

The Presidential Follow-up car was followed by a 1964 Lincoln 4-door convertible occupied by Vice-President and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, Senator Ralph Yarborough, with ASAC Rufus Youngblood in the right front seat. This automobile was followed by a Secret Service follow-up car for the Vice President, and then came automobiles occupied by photographers, correspondents, Senators and Congressmen.

Preceding the Presidential automobile was a Dallas Police Department Lead car in which SA Winston Lawson of the Secret Service was riding. Police motorcycles preceded and flanked the motorcade. There were two police motorcycles on the left side of the President's Secret Service follow-up car running abreast of one another between the automobile and the crowd of people.

My instructions for Dallas were to work the left rear of the Presidential automobile and remain in close proximity to Mrs. John F. Kennedy at all times. The agent assigned to work the left rear of the Presidential automobile rides on the forward portion of the left hand running board of the Secret Service follow-up car and only moves forward to walk alongside the Presidential automobile when it slows to such a pace that people can readily approach the auto on foot. If the crowd is very heavy, but the automobile is running at a rather rapid speed, the agent rides on the left rear of the Presidential automobile on a step specifically designed for that purpose.

As the motorcade moved from Love Field through downtown Dallas toward the Trade Mart, there were four (4) occasions before we reached the end of Main Street where I moved from the forward portion of the left running board of the follow-up car to the rear step of the Presidential automobile. I did this because the motorcycles that were along the left hand side of the follow-up car were unable to move up alongside the President's car due to the crowd surging into the street. The motorcycles were forced to drop back and so I jumped from the Follow-up car and mounted the President's car. I remained in this position until the crowd thinned and was away from the President's automobile, allowing the motorcycles to once again move up alongside of the automobile. When we approached the end of Main Street the crowd was noticeably less dense than had been the case prior to that point.

Confidential

Page Three of Statement of Special Agent Clinton J. Hill, dated Nov. 30, 1963:

Confidential

The motorcade made a right hand turn onto Elm Street. I was on the forward portion of the left running board of the follow-up car. The motorcade made a left hand turn from Elm Street toward an underpass. We were traveling about 12 to 15 miles per hour. On the left hand side was a grass area with a few people scattered along it observing the motorcade passing, and I was visually scanning these people when I heard a noise similar to a firecracker. The sound came from my right rear and I immediately moved my head in that direction. In so doing, my eyes had to cross the Presidential automobile and I saw the President hunch forward and then slump to his left. I jumped from the Follow-up car and ran toward the Presidential automobile. I heard a second firecracker type noise but it had a different sound—like the sound of shooting a revolver into something hard. I saw the President slump more toward his left.

I jumped onto the left rear step of the Presidential automobile. Mrs. Kennedy shouted, "They've shot his head off;" then turned and raised out of her seat as if she were reaching to her right rear toward the back of the car for something that had blown out. I forced her back into her seat and placed my body above President and Mrs. Kennedy. SA Greer had, as I jumped onto the Presidential automobile, accelerated the Presidential automobile forward. I heard ASAIC Kellerman call SA Lawson on the two-way radio and say, "To the nearest hospital, quick." I shouted as loud as I could at the Lead car, "To the hospital, to the hospital."

As I lay over the top of the back seat I noticed a portion of the President's head on the right rear side was missing and he was bleeding profusely. Part of his brain was gone. I saw a part of his skull with hair on it lying in the seat. The time of the shooting was approximately 12:30 p.m., Dallas time. I looked forward to the jump seats and noticed Governor Connally's chest was covered with blood and he was slumped to his left and partially covered up by his wife. I had not realized until this point that the Governor had been shot.

When we arrived at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, I jumped off the Presidential automobile, removed my suit coat and covered the President's head and upper chest with it. I assisted in lifting the President from the rear seat of the automobile onto a wheel type stretcher and accompanied the President and Mrs. Kennedy into the Emergency Room. Governor Connally had been placed in an Emergency Room across the hall.

I exited the Emergency Room almost immediately because of the large number of doctors and nurses in the room, which was quite small. I asked a nurse standing outside of the Emergency Room in which the President was lying to please have everyone except those Medical Staff members necessary leave the emergency ward. She immediately began screening medical staff members.

I asked for the nearest telephone. ASAIC Kellerman exited the Emergency Room and told me to contact the White House in Washington and to keep the line open continually. I asked SA Lawson for the telephone number of the Dallas White

Confidential

Page Four of Statement of Special Agent Clinton J. Hill, dated Nov. 30, 1963:

Confidential

House switchboard and he gave it to me. I dialed the Dallas White House operator and told him to connect me with the White House in Washington and to keep this line open continuously. He did so.

ASAIC Kellerman came out of the Emergency Room again and took the telephone and asked for SAIC Gerald A. Behn, Secret Service, The White House, Washington. This was approximately 12:39 p.m. Kellerman told Behn that there had been a double tragedy; that the President and Governor Connally had both been shot and that I would keep him advised. I took over the telephone and told Mr. Behn that the situation was extremely critical. The operator cut into the line and said The Attorney General wanted to talk to me. He asked me what the situation was and I advised him that the President had been injured very seriously and that I would keep him advised as to his condition.

Mr. Kellerman came back out of the Emergency Room and said, "Clint, tell Gerry that this is not for release and not official, but the man is dead." I told that to Mr. Behn and then requested that he immediately contact the Attorney General and other members of the President's family so that he could advise them of the situation rather than having them hear it over some news media.

I then received a request from Mr. O'Donnell to obtain a casket immediately so that we could transport the body back to Washington, D. C., as quickly as possible. I contacted the Hospital Administrator and asked for the name of the nearest mortuary. He said it would be O'Neil, Inc. I telephoned them and identified myself and requested that they bring the best casket immediately available at the mortuary to the Parkland Memorial Hospital Emergency Entrance and deliver it to me. The casket arrived in about twenty minutes at approximately 1:40 p.m. We wheeled it immediately into the Emergency Room where the President's body lay.

I advised the Air Force Aide that we wanted Air Force No. One moved to a different location at Love Field and to have it secured completely away from the view of the General Public. I requested that no press be admitted to the area in which Air Force One was to be placed. I requested SA David Grant to notify the Dallas Police that we did not want to use the same entrance to Love Field that previously had been planned. I then went with the Hospital Administrator and checked the shortest and most direct route from the Emergency Room to the emergency platform where the O'Neil hearse was waiting. I advised ATSAIC Stuart Stout of the route and requested that it be cleared of personnel.

The President's body, accompanied by Mrs. Kennedy, exited the Emergency Room at approximately 1:58 p.m. and proceeded to the emergency entrance platform. The casket was placed in the back of the O'Neil, Inc., hearse and Mrs. Kennedy, Admiral George Burkley (the President's Physician), and I entered the back of the hearse with the casket. SA Andrew Berger drove the hearse; ATSAIC Stuart Stout rode in the center front seat and ASAIC Kellerman rode in the right front seat.

Confidential

Page Five of Statement of Special Agent Clinton J. Hill, dated Nov. 30, 1963:

Confidential

We departed Parkland Memorial Hospital at 2:04 p.m. SA Lawson rode in the Dallas Police Department Lead Car. A Secret Service follow-up car followed immediately behind the hearse. The motorcade arrived at Air Force One, Love Field, at 2:14 p.m.

At 2:18 p.m. the casket was placed aboard Air Force One with Mrs. Kennedy accompanying it. The casket was situated in the left rear corner of the aircraft where four seats had been removed. Mrs. Kennedy sat in one of the two seats immediately across the aisle from the casket.

The aircraft could not immediately depart because Vice-President Johnson had to be sworn in as the 36th President of the United States and it was necessary to wait for a Judge to arrive to do this. All personnel on Air Force One including Mrs. Kennedy were requested to witness the swearing in ceremony which took place in the Presidential Compartment of Air Force One at 2:38 p.m. I also attended.

I departed Love Field, Dallas, aboard Air Force One at 2:47 p.m. en route to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. I arrived at Andrews Air Force Base at 5:58 p.m. I assisted in moving the casket bearing the President's body from Air Force One to a U. S. Navy ambulance. Mrs. Kennedy got in the back of the ambulance with the casket as did Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who had joined Mrs. Kennedy aboard Air Force One upon arrival at Andrews Air Force Base. General Godfrey McHugh also rode in the back of the ambulance. The ambulance was driven by SA Greer with ASAIC Kellerman, SA Landis, and Admiral Burkley riding in the front seat. I followed in the car immediately behind the ambulance with Dr. John W. Walsh, Dave Powers, Kenneth O'Donnell and Larry O'Brien.

The motorcade departed Andrews Air Force Base for Bethesda Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland, at 6:10 p.m. We were escorted by motorcycle police officers. The motorcade arrived Bethesda Naval Hospital at 6:55 p.m. Mrs. Kennedy, the Attorney General, SA Landis and I went immediately inside and via elevator to the 17th Floor of the hospital, the location of the Presidential Suite. Members of the immediate family and close friends were waiting in the suite.

The President's body was taken to the morgue at the hospital, accompanied by ASAIC Kellerman, SA Greer, and Admiral Burkley, for an autopsy. SA Landis and I secured the 17th Floor of the hospital and remained there with Mrs. Kennedy. We established a communications system with the White House and handled all telephone calls both incoming and outgoing, screening each and every call. Any person attempting to reach the 17th Floor was also screened.

At approximately 2:45 a.m., November 23, I was requested by ASAIC Kellerman to come to the morgue to once again view the body. When I arrived the autopsy had been completed and ASAIC Kellerman, SA Greer, General McHugh and I viewed the wounds. I observed a wound about six inches down from the neckline on the back just to the right of the spinal column. I observed another wound on

Confidential

Page Six of Statement of Special Agent Clinton J. Hill, dated Nov. 30, 1963:

the right rear portion of the skull. Attendants of the Joseph Gawler Mortuary were at this time preparing the body for placement in the casket. A new casket had been obtained from Gawler Mortuary in which the body was to be placed.

Confidential

I went back to the 17th Floor of the hospital at approximately 3:10 a.m. The President's body was taken from the U. S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland, at 3:56 a.m., accompanied by Mrs. Kennedy and Attorney General Kennedy, in the rear of a U. S. Navy ambulance driven by SA Greer. ASAIC Kellerman rode in the right front seat. I rode in the right front seat of a White House limousine immediately behind the ambulance. The motorcade was accompanied by motorcycle police and arrived at the White House at 4:24 a.m. The casket was taken immediately to the East Room and placed in the center of the room on a catwalk.

Clinton Hill

Clinton J. Hill
Special Agent
U. S. Secret Service

Confidential

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed

O'Donnell, Kenneth
Attach 15 to
exh-12

THE WHITE HOUSE DETAIL
November 29, 1963

12/18/63

Confidential

The following events regarding the assassination of the late President Kennedy, are outlined to the best of my knowledge. No statement is based upon information released by any form of news media.

On Friday, Nov. 22, 1963, I was working on the 8 am to 4 pm shift of the Secret Service White House Detail, and was under the supervision of ATSAIC Emory Roberts. Other agents working that day were Jack Ready, Don Lawton, Glen Bennett, and two agents assigned to Mrs. Kennedy, Clint Hill and Paul Landis.

The Presidential aircraft, AF 1, arrived at Dallas Love Field, Dallas, Texas, at approximately 11:40 am on Nov. 22, 1963. The above-mentioned agents departed the front of the aircraft and assumed protective positions around the President when he departed the rear exit of AF 1. The President walked close to a large crowd and shook hands with the people for approximately 5 or 10 minutes. He then stepped into the Presidential limousine, an open car, and was seated to the right of Mrs. Kennedy, in the rear seat. Governor Connally and his wife were seated in the jump seats of the car, directly in front of the President and Mrs. Kennedy. The Governor was seated to the right of his wife. ASAIC Roy Kellerman was seated in the right front seat of the limousine.

As the motorcade departed Love Field, the President's car was closely followed by the Secret Service follow-up car, which maintained its position throughout the events of the day. Agent Roberts was seated in the front seat of the follow-up car, next to the driver. Kenneth O'Donnell was seated to the left of David Powers, in the jump seats of the car. Agents George Hickey, a driver, and Glen Bennett, were in the rear seat, with Bennett on Hickey's right. Agents Ready and Landis rode the right running board, with Landis behind Ready, and agent Clint Hill and I rode the left running board, Hill being in front of me.

The motorcade was scheduled to last approximately 45 minutes. As we passed through downtown Dallas, crowds were quite heavy, and two motorcycles, on either flank of the Presidential vehicle, were of considerable assistance in keeping the motorcade clear.

As the motorcade cleared the main downtown area, it made a right turn, went approximately one block, and then executed a left turn. After this turn, there was essentially no crowd, and green expanses of lawn stretched to the right and left of the motorcade.

~~Confidential~~ *Commission No. 3*
Secret Service

Confidential

Directly in front of us was an underpass with a green sign with white lettering, stating "Entering Thornton Freeway".

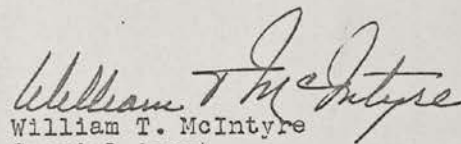
The Presidential vehicle was approximately 200 feet from the underpass when the first shot was fired, followed in quick succession by two more. I would estimate that all three shots were fired within 5 seconds. After the second shot, I looked at the President and witnessed his being struck in the head by the third and last shot. By that time, Mr. Roberts had used the radio in our car to direct the vehicles to a hospital. Most, if not all the agents in the follow-up car had drawn their weapons, and agent Hickey was handling the AR-15. None of us could determine the origin of the shots, and no shots were fired by any agent.

Upon arrival at the hospital, agent Bennett and I escorted then Vice-President Johnson into a vacant treatment room. Agents Youngblood and Kivett stayed with him while agent Taylor and I stood nearby. Agent Bennett established security outside the door to the room.

The shooting occurred at approximately 12:25 pm, and we had reached the hospital at approximately 12:30 pm.

Shortly after 1:30 pm, the Vice-President and Mrs. Johnson were taken to Love Field and placed aboard AF 1. Agents Lawton, Ready, and I established security around the aircraft. Within a short time, Mrs. Kennedy, accompanying the body of President Kennedy, arrived at Love Field, and boarded AF 1. AF 1 then departed Dallas, Texas, at what I think was about 2:15 pm.

At 3:15 pm, agents Roberts, Lawton, Ready, and I departed Dallas, Texas via AF 6970, the back-up plane, and arrived at Andrews Air Force Base at 6:30 pm. We all then returned to the White House, and submitted summarized reports of the day's events to Mr. Roberts.


William T. McIntyre
Special Agent
U. S. Secret Service

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

November 22, 1963

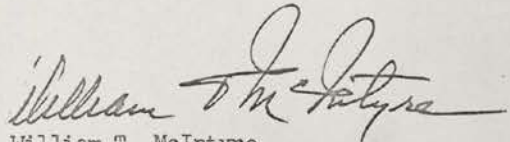
~~Confidential~~

On this date, at approximately 12:30 pm, at Dallas, Texas, I was assigned the post of the left rear area on the running board of the Secret Service Follow-up car. At this time, the President and Mrs. Kennedy were riding in the Presidential limousine, about 30 feet in front of my position.

As we approached the underpass leading to the Thornton Freeway, there was little, if any crowd present. I heard three shots fired and observing the President, noticed that he had been struck by at least one bullet, I thought in the head.

I recall a rolling lawn to the right of the area where the President was shot, and seem to also recall an expanse of lawn to the left of the Presidential vehicle.

I attempted to locate the origin of the shots, but was unable to do so. Both the Presidential vehicle and the Secret Service follow-up car immediately sped to the hospital.



William T. McIntyre
Special Agent
White House Detail

~~Confidential~~

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed*O'Donnell, Kenneth*
Attack 19 to
24th 12~~Confidential~~ 12/18/63

Just prior to the shooting I was seated in the rear of SS-679-X on the left side. As 100-X made the turn and proceeded a short distance I heard what seemed to me that a firecracker exploded to the right and rear. I stood partially up and turned to the rear to see if I could observe anything. Nothing was observed and I ~~immediately~~ turned around and looked at the President's car. The President was slumped to the left in the car and I observed him come up. I heard what appeared to be two shots and it seemed as if the right side of his head was hit and his ~~hair~~ hair flew forward. I then reached down, picked up the AR 15, cocked and loaded it and stood part way up in the car and looked about. By this time, 100-X and 679-X had passed under the overpass and was proceeding at a high rate of speed towards the hospital.

Clint Hill who was lying on the trunk of the President's car looked into the car and then looked back at us and shook his head. Emory Roberts then turned around and said to words of this effect that we had to take care of the Vice President. He assigned two agents to go to him the minute we arrived at the hospital. He told me to stand by with the AR 15 in case there was any danger to the Vice President when we arrived at the hospital.

I did this, and after the Vice President was escorted into the hospital, I returned the gun to the car. Kenneth O'Donnell asked me to take him into the hospital. He couldn't get by the local police. I took him into the area where the President was and assisted the agent outside the door to keep the people away who didn't belong there. I was then relieved and went back to the cars where I assisted Agent Kinney to put the plastic top on 100-X. We were then told by Roy Kellerman to take the cars to the plane and stand by. I drove 100-X to the plane, loaded it in company with Agent Kinney. We stood by until the plane took off.

George W. Hickey
George W. Hickey
Special Agent
11-22-63

~~Confidential~~
Commission No. 3
Secret Service

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of InterviewedTREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

FILE NO.

O'Donnell, Kenneth
Attacks 17 to
Exh. 12~~Confidential~~ 12/18/63

The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy as it appeared to Paul E. Landis, Jr., Special Agent, U. S. Secret Service.

I was assigned to work the follow-up car from Love Field Airport, Dallas, Texas. My position was on the right rear portion of the running board. Special Agent John Ready was on the running board ahead of me. SAs Hill and McIntyre were on the left-hand running board. SAs Bennett and Hickey were in the rear seat. Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell and Dave Powers were in the middle seats, and ATSAIC Roberts was in the front seat, and Sam Kinney was driving.

I remember the motorcade reaching the end of Main Street, in downtown Dallas, Texas, turning right and approaching a gradual left turn. As the President's car approached the intersection to make the left turn, the crowd appeared to thin down and almost end. As we reached the intersection I made a quick surveillance of a building on the right side of the route, which appeared to be the last one that the President would pass. It was a modernistic building, about eight stories high with large glass windows. None of the windows were open, and I did not notice anyone standing by the windows. My first thought was that the building was either closed or that all of its employees were on the street corner.

As the President's car continued around the corner, I returned my gaze to the crowd along the right-hand side of the route and noticed that it was fairly scattered. I continued to look ahead to what appeared to be an overpass over the route we were traveling. At this point the President's car and follow-up car had just completed its turn and both were straightening out.

At this moment I heard what sounded like the report of a high-powered rifle from behind me. My first glance was at the President, as my eyes were almost straight ahead at that time. I did not realize that the President had been shot at this point. I saw him moving and thought he was turning in the direction of the sound. I immediately returned my gaze to the building which I had observed before, at a quick glance saw nothing and dropped my eyes to the crowd at the intersection, scanning it quickly from right to left. I saw nothing out of the ordinary and thought that the sound might have been a fire cracker, but I couldn't see any smoke. In fact, I think I recall Special Agent Jack Ready saying, "What was it? A fire cracker?" I remarked "I don't know, I don't see any smoke." All during this time I was scanning the crowd and returning my gaze to the President's car. By then I think I had my gun out, but I do not recall exactly when it was drawn. I then thought that maybe one of the cars in the motorcade had had a blowout that had echoed off the buildings. I looked at the front right tire of the President's car and



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~~Confidential~~*Commission No. 3 Secret Service*

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Confidential

saw it was alright and glanced to see the right rear tire but could not see the follow-up car was too close. In fact, from my position on the running board of the follow-up car I could not see the rear bumper of the President's car. I glanced back towards the President, he still appeared upright in his seat, leaning slightly towards Mrs. Kennedy. It was at this moment that I heard a second report and saw the President's head split open and pieces of flesh and blood flying through the air. I also remember Special Agent Clinton Hill attempting to climb onto the back of the car at the time the second shot was fired. I would guess that the time between the first and second shot was approximately four or five seconds.

My reaction at this time was that the shot came from somewhere towards the front, but I did not see anyone on the overpass, and looked along the right-hand side of the road. By this time we were almost at the overpass, and the only person I recall seeing was a negro male in light green slacks and a beige colored shirt running across a grassy section towards some concrete steps and what appeared to be a low stone wall. He was in a bent over position, and I did not notice anything in his hands.

By now both the President's car and the follow-up car were traveling at a high rate of speed. As we passed under the overpass, I was looking back and saw a motorcycle policeman stopping approximately where I saw the negro running. I do not recall hearing a third shot.

Paul E. Landis, Jr.
Paul E. Landis, Jr.
Special Agent
November 27, 1963

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of Interviewed

*O'Donnell,
Kenneth*

*Attach 17 to
E4th. 12*

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, AT DALLAS, TEXAS

12/18/63

Confidential

Statement of Special Agent Paul E. Landis, Jr., United States Secret Service, concerning his activities and official duties on November 22, 1963.

On November 22, 1963, I arrived at Love Field Airport, Dallas, Texas, at 11:35 a.m., having traveled from Ft. Worth, Texas, to Dallas, Texas, on board U. S. Air Force Flight #6970. Upon my arrival I disembarked from the aircraft and immediately walked to where the motorcade vehicles were parked. Special Agent Sam Kinney was the first person that I recognized, and I remember speaking to him and standing by the Follow-up car and jokingly asking him if he could tell me where the Follow-up car was.

After speaking to Sam, I walked over to Special Agent Win Lawson just to double check to see if I was still assigned to working the Follow-up car as had previously been arranged. He was standing by the front right fender of the car in which the President would be riding, and he told me that I was still to ride in the Follow-up car.

Only a very few moments later the President's Aircraft was pulling up to its mooring spot and I moved up to where I would be near the President and First Lady when they disembarked from the aircraft.

There appeared to be a very large crowd at the airport and most of the people were restrained behind a chain-link fence which was about four or five feet high. On the opposite side of the fence from the crowd there was a very narrow sidewalk and curbing which ran along the fence-line.

There were several people on the same side of the fence as the President but most of them were photographers.

As soon as the President and First Lady disembarked from the Aircraft, Mrs. Kennedy was presented a bouquet of roses. The President was also presented what appeared to be two hand-drawn charcoal portraits of himself and Mrs. Kennedy in a black leather and glass folding frame. I believe that this was given to him by a lady wearing a red coat.

Just after the President received the black leather frame I held out my hand and he handed it to me. I had been standing just off to Mrs. Kennedy's left, slightly in front of her. She was on the left side of the President.

At this time the President and First Lady started walking towards the crowd which was restrained behind the fence. On the way, they did stop for a few seconds to talk to an elderly lady in a wheel chair who was on the field area about thirty feet from where the above presentations were made.

They then walked over to the crowd and walked along the fence from their right to their left. At first I was in front of the President, clearing a pathway through the photographers and observing the crowd reaching over the fence;

~~Confidential~~

*Commission No. 3
Secret Service*

Page Two of Statement of Special Agent Paul E. Landis, Jr., dated Nov. 30, 1963:

~~but~~ but I noticed that Mrs. Kennedy was moving along slower and becoming separated from the President so I asked another agent, I don't recall who, to move up where I was and I dropped back to assist Special Agent Clinton Hill who was next to Mrs. Kennedy. I continued to keep a pathway clear for Mrs. Kennedy, removing small hand signs that had been dropped in her pathway on the sidewalk and occasionally cautioning to watch out for the curbing. At one point, where the direction of the fence made a right angle turn to the left of the way we were moving, I do remember reaching up and holding a fairly large flag away that someone was waving over the fence. Only a few feet further and the fence and sidewalk made another 90 degree turn in the direction in which we were originally moving.

At this point we stopped momentarily and started in the direction of the cars which were slightly behind us and had been moving along towards us. Mrs. Kennedy asked where the President was and SA Hill noticed him continuing along the fence shaking hands with the crowd; so Mrs. Kennedy returned to the fence and did the same.

Only a short distance later the President and First Lady stopped shaking hands and entered their automobile. I stood by the right rear side until the car started moving and then hopped on the right rear portion of the right running board of the Follow-up car. I was standing with my right leg on the running board and my left leg up over and inside the Follow-up car. I stayed in this position until we were leaving the Airport area and remarked that, "I might as well get all the way in," and I did so. I glanced at my watch but I don't recall the time.

Special Agents Glen Bennett and George Hickey were seated to my left respectively in the rear of the Follow-up car. Mr. David Powers was seated directly in front of me in the center portion of the Follow-up car and Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell was seated on Mr. Power's left. Special Agent Sam Kinney was driving and ATSAIC Roberts was seated in the right front seat. Special Agents John Ready, Clinton Hill, and Tim McIntyre were standing on the right front, left front, and left rear portions of the running board, respectively.

The motorcade had not proceeded far when ATSAIC Roberts asked me to get back on the outside running board, "Just in case," which I immediately did. The crowd was about two deep along each side of the road and I would guess that we were traveling about twenty miles per hour.

As the motorcade proceeded towards the main business section of downtown Dallas I watched the crowd for anyone trying to run towards the President's car or any person who might be holding anything harmful in his hands. I observed the rooftops and windows of the buildings along the route. On the outskirts of town most of the buildings were of a one or two story type structure and very few people were on the rooftops. The crowd was three or more deep along the street as we proceeded towards downtown Dallas with most intersections more heavily crowded. The outskirts seemed to consist mostly of used car lots, junk

~~Confidential~~

Page Three of Statement of Special Agent Paul E. Landis, Jr., dated Nov. 30, 1963:

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dealers, auto parts stores, and this typical type of neighborhood. At one intersection there were some Cuban Pickets but I don't recall exactly what their signs said except that they did have "Cuba" on them.

A little further towards town some people had a sign asking the President to please stop and shake hands, which he saw as he passed and stopped. I immediately ran up to his car as it stopped and assumed a position next to him and observed the crowd as it merged on the car, especially watching the hands. Most of the people were children but I do remember one of the adult ladies who was holding the sign, remarking, "It worked, our sign worked!"

At various places along the route I remember Mr. Dave Powers standing up and taking movies of the President's car and the crowd.

The closer we came to downtown Dallas the larger the crowds became. At several places they were forcing their way into the street and there was just barely enough room for the cars to get through. There were two motorcycle escorts on each side of the President's and the Follow-up car and in several instances the crowd was so close that the motorcycles could not get through and had to drop completely behind the Follow-up car. During these instances SA Clint Hill would run up and jump on the left rear bumper of the President's car and he would ride there until the crowd was further back away from the President's car.

Just before we reached the heart of downtown Dallas, I remember noticing some new looking, very high, multi-storied skyscrapers and I remarked to Jack Ready that there were even people way up on the roof of one. I think the motorcade made a right turn onto Main Street, as that is the only street sign I saw and remembered. I remember thinking to myself that about every town I know of has a Main Street.

I'm not sure how far we traveled on Main Street, but I do know that this is where the crowd seemed heaviest. The buildings were tall on both sides of the street but I didn't notice many people in the windows. I continued to scan the crowds on the street and the buildings along the route. I glanced at the President's car somewhere along Main Street and saw Clint Hill again standing on the left rear bumper behind Mrs. Kennedy who was seated to the President's left. Governor Connally was seated in front of the President and Mrs. Connally was in front of Mrs. Kennedy.

The crowd lined both sides of the street and in several places was right out into the street leaving barely enough room to get through.

Not long after we turned onto Main Street there was one boy who, I would say, was in his early teens who ran out from the crowd after the President's and Follow-up cars had passed and tried to overtake the President's car. I saw him coming and tapped SA Ready on the shoulder and pointed towards him. He was carrying a camera. SA Ready jumped off the running board, overtook the boy and pushed him back into the crowd.

~~_____~~

Page Four of Statement of Special Agent Paul E. Landis, Jr., dated Nov. 30, 1963:

When we reached the end of Main Street we turned right and approached a gradual left turn. As we approached the intersection and while we were turning left, the crowd seemed to thin and almost disappear around the turn. I then made a quick surveillance of a building which was to be on the President's right once the left turn was completed. It appeared to be the last one in sight. It was a modernistic type building, approximately eight stories high, and it had large glass windows. I also seem to recollect orange paneling or siding. None of the windows were open, and I did not see anyone standing by them. I surmised that the building was closed or that all its employees were out on the street corner.

As the President's car continued around the corner, I continued to survey the crowd along the righthand side of the road and noticed that it was fairly scattered, with hardly enough people to form a single line. I continued to look ahead to an overpass over the route we were traveling. At approximately this point, I would say, the President's car and the Follow-up car had just completed their turns and both were straightening out.

At this moment I heard what sounded like the report of a high-powered rifle from behind me, over my right shoulder. When I heard the sound there was no question in my mind what it was. My first glance was at the President, as I was practically looking in his direction anyway. I saw him moving in a manner which I thought was to look in the direction of the sound. I did not realize that President Kennedy had been shot at this point.

I immediately returned my gaze, over my right shoulder, toward the modernistic building I had observed before. With a quick glance I saw nothing and immediately started scanning the crowd at the intersection from my right to my left. I observed nothing unusual and began to think that the sound had been that of a fire cracker but I hadn't seen any smoke. In fact, I recall Special Agent Jack Ready saying, "What was it? A Fire Cracker?" I remarked, "I don't know; I don't see any smoke." So far the lapsed period of time could not have been over two or three seconds.

All during this time I continued to scan the crowd, returning my gaze towards the President's car. It must have been another second or two before the next shot was fired because, as I recall having seen nothing out of the ordinary, I then thought that maybe one of the cars in the motorcade had had a blowout that had echoed off the buildings. I looked at the right front tire of the President's car and saw it was all right. I then glanced to see the right rear tire, but could not because the Follow-up car was too close.

I also thought of trying to run and jump on the President's car but did not think I could make it because of the speed at which we were traveling. I decided I had better stay where I was so that I would at least be near the First Lady, to whom I am assigned. I think that it was at this point that I thought, "Faster, Faster, Faster," thinking that we could not get out of the area soon enough. However, I don't have any idea as to how fast we were then moving.

~~Continued~~

Page Five of Statement of Special Agent Paul E. Landis, Jr., dated Nov. 30, 1963:

I had drawn my gun, but I am not sure exactly when I did this. I did leave my suit coat unbuttoned all during the motorcade movement, thinking at the time that I could get to my gun faster this way, if I had to.

I glanced towards the President and he still appeared to be fairly upright in his seat, leaning slightly toward Mrs. Kennedy with his head tilted slightly back. I think Mrs. Kennedy had her right arm around the President's shoulders at this time. I also remember Special Agent Clinton Hill attempting to climb onto the back of the President's car.

It was at this moment that I heard a second report and it appeared that the President's head split open with a muffled exploding sound. I can best describe the sound as I heard it, as the sound you would get by shooting a high powered bullet into a five gallon can of water or shooting into a melon. I saw pieces of flesh and blood flying through the air and the President slumped out of sight towards Mrs. Kennedy.

The time lapse between the first and second report must have been about four or five seconds.

My immediate thought was that the President could not possibly be alive after being hit like he was. I still was not certain from which direction the second shot came, but my reaction at this time was that the shot came from somewhere towards the front, right-hand side of the road.

I did not notice anyone on the overpass, and I scanned the area to the right of and below the overpass where the terrain sloped towards the road on which we were traveling. The only person I recall seeing clearly was a Negro male in light green slacks and a beige colored shirt running from my left to right, up the slope, across a grassy section, along a sidewalk, towards some steps and what appeared to be a low stone wall. He was bent over while running and I started to point towards him, but I didn't notice anything in his hands and by this time we were going under the overpass at a very high rate of speed. I was looking back and saw a motorcycle policeman stopping along the curb approximately adjacent to where I saw the Negro running.

After we rode under the overpass I again looked at the President's car and saw Special Agent Clint Hill lying across the trunk. He was looking back towards the Follow-up car shaking his head back and forth and gave a thumbs-down sign with his hand.

ATSAIC Roberts asked if anyone got the exact time of the shooting and someone said "about 12:30 p.m.;" then someone told me to get inside the car and pulled me by the arm. My sun glasses fell off and Special Agent Bennett handed them to me. By now we were on an Expressway and a few people were standing in spots along the way waving as we went by.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page Six of Statement of Special Agent Paul E. Landis, Jr., dated Nov. 30, 1963:

ATSAIC Roberts was telling the other agents in the Follow-up car to cover Vice-President Johnson as soon as we stopped.

Sometime around 12:37 p.m. we arrived at Parkland Memorial Hospital. I immediately ran to the left rear side of the President's car, reached over and tried to help Mrs. Kennedy up by taking hold of her shoulders. She did not want to let go of President Kennedy whose head she held in her lap and she was bending over him. She said something like, "No, I want to stay with him!"

Agent Hill had in the meantime opened the left rear door of the Presidential Convertible, stepped inside and took Mrs. Kennedy by the arm. She released the President and someone said, "Cover up his head." Agent Hill took off his suit coat and covered up the President's head. I also remember Mr. Powers leaning in the car and saying, "Oh, No!, Mr. President! Mr. President!"

By this time someone was lifting the President's body out of the right side of the car. Agent Hill helped Mrs. Kennedy out of the car, and I followed. Mrs. Kennedy's purse and hat and a cigarette lighter were on the back seat. I picked these three items up as I walked through the car and followed Mrs. Kennedy into the hospital.

The President's body was taken directly to an Emergency Room, and I think I remember Mrs. Kennedy following the people in but coming out almost immediately. The door to the Emergency Room was closed and I stayed by Mrs. Kennedy's side. Someone, in the meantime, had brought a chair for Mrs. Kennedy to sit in and she sat just outside of the Emergency Room. There were several people milling around and with the help of a nurse we cleared all unauthorized personnel out of the immediate area.

Someone came out of the Room that the President was in and asked if anyone knew his Blood Type. ASAIC Kellerman and SA Hill immediately reached for their wallets. ASAIC Kellerman gave the man the information first.

At one point someone else came out of the President's Room again and said he was still breathing. Mrs. Kennedy stood up and said, "Do you mean he may live?" No one answered.

Most of the time while in the hospital I stayed right next to Mrs. Kennedy. Twice, I believe, she went into the Room where the President was; however, I remained outside by the door. A short time later I still remember several people standing around, and I asked a doctor for help in clearing the area.

At approximately 2:00 p.m. the President's body was wheeled from the hospital in a coffin into an ambulance. Special Agent Andrew Berger drove the ambulance; ASAIC Kellerman and ATSAIC Stout were in the front seat. Mrs. Kennedy, Admiral Burkley, and Agent Hill rode in the rear of the ambulance with the President's body.

~~Confidential~~

Page Seven of Statement of Special Agent Paul E. Landis, Jr., dated Nov. 30, 1963:

I rode in the Follow-up car behind the ambulance which departed the hospital at 2:04 p.m.

At 2:14 p.m., the President's body arrived at Love Field Airport and several Secret Service agents immediately carried it on board U. S. Air Force No. One via the rear door. I followed on board behind Mrs. Kennedy and then moved to the forward section of the plane. I witnessed the swearing in of President Johnson at 2:39 p.m. in the center compartment on board Air Force #1, and at 2:47 p.m. departed Love Field Airport, Dallas, Texas, via Air Force No. One, with Mrs. Kennedy and the body of the late President Kennedy.

Upon our arrival at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., at 5:58 p.m. I helped carry the late President Kennedy's coffin from Air Force #1. The body was placed in an ambulance which departed Andrews Air Force Base at approximately 6:10 p.m., driven by Special Agent William Greer. ASAIC Kellerman, Admiral Burkley, and I rode in the front seat of the ambulance. Mrs. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy rode in the rear of the ambulance with President Kennedy's body.

The above party arrived at Bethesda Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Md., at approximately 6:55 p.m. Special Agent Hill and I escorted Mrs. Kennedy to the 17th Floor where we immediately secured the area. Only hospital personnel assigned to the area, Kennedy family members and friends, and authorized personnel were allowed in the area.

I only left the 17th Floor twice while Mrs. Kennedy was there. Once, to find ASAIC Kellerman in the hospital morgue and give him a telephone message from Chief Rowley. The other time was to find a White House driver.

At 3:56 a.m., on November 23, 1963, Mrs. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy departed Bethesda Naval Hospital via ambulance, accompanying the late President John F. Kennedy's body to the White House. Special Agent William Greer was driving and ASAIC Kellerman accompanied. Special Agent Clinton Hill rode in the first limousine behind the ambulance and I rode in the second limousine.

The above Party arrived at the White House at 4:24 a.m.

Paul E. Landis, Jr.

Paul E. Landis, Jr.
Special Agent
U. S. Secret Service

~~Confidential~~

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of Interviewed

O'Donnell, Kenneth
Attach 19 to
Eph. 12

Saturday
November 30, 1963

12/18/63

~~Confidential~~

To: Gerald A. Behn, Special Agent in Charge, White House Detail, United States Secret Service

From: George W. Hickey, Jr., Special Agent, White House Detail, White House garage, United States Secret Service

Subject: Activities of S.A. George W. Hickey, Jr. from the time he arrived at Love Airfield, Dallas, Texas, Thursday, November 21, 1963, to the time he departed from the above Love Airfield, Friday, November 22, 1963

Report: Thursday, November 21, 1963

I arrived at Love Airfield, Dallas, Texas at 6:05 p.m. via U.S.A.F. C 130 plane #12373. U.S.A.F. flight order number 597, dated November 15, 1963 giving the names and rank of the crew of the above plane is attached to this report and initialed by me this date. S.A. Samuel Kinney was the senior agent aboard this plane which was being used in Presidential support to transport Secret Service Cars 100X and 679X. We were met at the airport by S.A.I.C. Forest V. Sorrels of the Dallas Field Office and S.A. Winston G. Lawson, the advance agent for the White House Secret Service Detail. S.A. Kinney unloaded 679X and I unloaded 100X from the plane. The drivers of the above cars accompanied by agents Sorrels and Lawson then drove to the garage beneath the airport's main terminal building where security was placed on the cars by the Dallas Police Department as arranged by S.A.I.C. Sorrels.

Agents Kinney, Hickey, Lawson and Sorrels then drove in a Dallas field office car to the Sheraton Hotel in Dallas where reservations had been made for us. Agent Kinney and I then went to our room to wash and change clothes before dinner.

We met with Agent Lawson, Warrant Officer Arthur Bales of the White House Signal Agency and Jack Puterbaugh, a Democratic National Committee man for that area at about 8:30 p.m. at the hotel, and drove to the Dallas Trade Mart where the President was to speak the next day. The premises were checked by Agent Lawson for final security details. At about 9:15 p.m. we departed and went to dinner. Finished about 11:00 p.m. and proceeded back to the Sheraton Hotel where we parted company and went to our respective rooms.

Friday, November 22, 1963

Awoke about 7:00 a.m., washed, packed suitcase, checked out of hotel and had breakfast. About 8:30 a.m. Agent Sorrels met Agent Kinney

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 and me outside the hotel and drove to the airport arriving about 9:00 a.m. We went directly to the garage and relieved the police of the security of the cars. Washed and cleaned both cars and checked outside, inside and underneath for security violations - none found. We drove the cars to the area where the President was to be met about 11:00 a.m. Cars were kept under close observation until the arrival of the President, when Agent William Greer of the White House Detail took over control of 100X and Agent Kinney 679X.

The President and his party then ~~he~~^{we} proceeded up to the fence holding the crowd back and greeted and shook hands with them. I assisted Agents on the detail to make a path for them and helped Agent Greer keep the cars abreast of the President as he moved along the length of the fence.

After the President and his party entered and were seated in 100X I entered 679X as I had been instructed to do by Agent Lawson. I was seated in the rear left side seat. The shift leader, Emory Roberts, had instructed me to take control of the AR15 rifle whenever I was riding in 679X as an extra man. I did this and had the ammunition clip ~~not~~^{just} inserted in the rifle and placed the rifle within easy reach of me.

The motorcade then left the airport and proceeded along the parade route. Just prior to the shooting ~~the~~ Presidential car turned left at the intersection and started down an incline toward an underpass followed by 679X. After a very short distance I heard a loud report which sounded like a firecracker. It appeared to come from the right and rear and seemed to me to be at ground level. I stood up and looked to my right and rear in an attempt to identify it. Nothing caught my attention except people shouting and sheering. A disturbance in 679X caused me to look forward toward the President's car. Perhaps 2 or 3 seconds elapsed from the time I looked to the rear and then looked at the President. He was slumped forward and to his left, and was straightening up to an almost erect sitting position as I turned and looked. At the moment he was almost sitting erect I heard two reports which I thought were shots and that appeared to me completely different in sound than the first report and were in such rapid succession that there seemed to be practically no time element between them. It looked to me as if the President was struck in the right upper rear of his head. The first shot of the second two seemed as if it missed because the hair on the right side of his head flew forward and there didn't seem to be any impact against his head. The last shot seemed to hit his head and cause a noise at the point of impact which made him fall forward and to his left again. ~~not~~^{not}

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~~At the possible point of impact of the other of the other~~ ~~show that~~ Possibly four or five seconds elapsed from the ~~time of~~ the first report and the last. ~~140~~

At the end of the last report I reached to the bottom of the car and picked up the AR 15 rifle, cocked and loaded it, and turned to the rear. At this point the cars were passing under the over-pass and as a result we had left the scene of the shooting. I kept the AR 15 rifle ready as we proceeded at a high rate of speed to the hospital.

Agent Clint Hill was riding across the rear and the top of 100X in a horizontal position. He looked into the rear of 100X and turned toward 679X and shook his head several times. I received the impression that the President at the least was very seriously injured. A few moments later shift leader Emory Roberts turned to the rest of us in the car and said words to the effect that when we arrive at the hospital some of us would have to give additional protection to the Vice President and take him to a place of safety. He assigned two of the agents in the car to this duty. I was told to have the AR 15 ready for use if needed.

When we arrived at the hospital the President and Governor Connally were taken inside and about the same time the Vice President had arrived. I requested him to come into the hospital to a place of safety and he was surrounded by his detail and the other assigned agents, and myself and led into the hospital. When he entered I returned the gun to 679X as ordered by Agents Roberts.

By this time a great number of police had arrived with newsmen and others in the motorcade, and Agent Kinney and I stood by the cars. Agent Kinney requested that I go and see if I could find out what was to be done with the cars. As I was on my way into the hospital to do this, Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell asked me to take him to where the President was as he could not get by the police. I did this and he joined Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Dave Powers outside the President's operating room.

Agent John D. Ready was stationed outside this room and he requested that I take his place for a few moments and to allow no unauthorized persons to enter or linger outside the door and to care for Mrs. Kennedy if necessary. I did this until Agent Ready returned and relieved me.

As I was leaving to go back to the area where Agent Roberts was, Mr. Dave Powers asked me to get a priest which I did. Agent Roberts informed me to wait until later when a decision might be made about the cars. Upon returning to the vehicles, I assisted Agent Kinney to put the tops on the cars.

JWT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A short time later Agent Roy Kellerman told Agent Kinney and me to take the cars to the plane and stand by for orders. Agent Kinney drove 679X and I 100X to the plane and loaded them and secured the plane, allowing no one to enter except the regular crew.

After Airforce #1 left, we received orders to depart for Washington, D.C. and return the cars to the garage and preserve any evidence that might be in them. Departed Love Airfield, Dallas, Texas via U.S.A.F. plane #12373 at 3:35 p.m.

The above report has been initialed by the below signed on each of its four pages, including the attached flight sheet.

gwd

George W. Hickey, Jr.

George W. Hickey, Jr.
Special Agent, U.S.S.S.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed*O'Donnell, Kenneth attacks 21*

1-22-614.0 to EPH 12

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

U.S. Secret Service

TO : Chief

DATE: November 29, 1963

FROM : SAIC Youngblood - Vice Presidential Detail

~~Confidential~~

SUBJECT: Statement of SAIC Rufus W. Youngblood, Vice Presidential Detail (office 1-22), concerning details of events occurring in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963.

At 11:35 a.m., AF-2 plane arrived at Love Field airport, Dallas, Texas. The Vice President, Mrs. Johnson, and others were aboard this plane including ATSAIC Thomas L. Johns, SA Warren W. Taylor, and myself of the Vice Presidential Detail (office 1-22). SA Jerry D. Kivett of the Vice Presidential Detail was on the ground in Dallas ahead of us.

We arrived before the Presidential aircraft, and the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson were met by numerous dignitaries when they disembarked from the plane. ATSAIC Johns, SA Taylor and myself were staying in the immediate vicinity of Vice President and Mrs. Johnson. SA Kivett was working intermittently with us and also keeping up with location of cars, the other airplane, etc.

Prior to the arrival of the Presidential aircraft, I led the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson to the reception line, and when AF-1 was in position and the ramp was in place, led them to the foot of the ramp. They greeted the President and the First Lady upon their arrival. We later followed the Presidential couple and when the Presidential couple went along the fence to greet the public, we did likewise but in a separate group. During this time, I was always in close proximity to the Vice President; Warren Taylor was in close proximity to Mrs. Johnson; and we were both being assisted by Johns and Kivett. When the President took his position in the Presidential vehicle, we did likewise in the Vice Presidential vehicle. The following persons were in the Vice Presidential vehicle when the motorcade departed from the airport at approximately 11:50 a.m., CST.

In the front seat: The driver, Herschel Jacks, Texas Highway Patrol
Other side front seat: ASAIC Youngblood
Rear seat, behind driver: Senator Ralph W. Yarborough
Rear seat, middle: Mrs. Johnson
Rear seat, behind ASAIC Youngblood: The Vice President

The above vehicle was a 4-door Lincoln convertible with the top down. I had a shoulder strap (DCN) portable 2-way radio with me on "Baker" frequency.

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The following persons loaded into the Vice Presidential follow-up car:

The driver
ATSAIC Johns
SA Warren W. Taylor
SA Kivett
Mr. Cliff Carter, member of the Vice President's staff

~~Confidential~~

ATSAIC Johns had a portable radio which was the companion of the one I had--also on "Baker" frequency. This Vice Presidential follow-up car also had a portable, 2-way radio set on "Charlie" frequency.

When we departed from the airport, the motorcade order was:

Lead car
Presidential car
Presidential follow-up car
Vice Presidential car
Vice Presidential follow-up car
Other cars--press, dignitaries, busses, etc.

During the motorcade, the order listed above was not changed and remained so until we arrived at the hospital.

Upon leaving the airport, we were proceeding to the Trade Mart and were due to arrive there at 12:30 p.m. We were proceeding at a slow pace to this destination, which was entirely normal due to the large crowds of people along both sides of the motorcade route. During our motorcade, the Presidential vehicle made some stops to greet well-wishers. Our speed and the stops were naturally controlled by the Presidential car. I was working both in and out of the Vice Presidential car on these stops. To my recollection, the Vice President did not leave the vehicle during the motorcade. Several times during the motorcade, I was in radio contact with the Vice Presidential follow-up car concerning times, distances, etc.

During the motorcade, I instructed our driver to keep some distance (about two or three car lengths) behind the Presidential follow-up car while we were going at slow speeds.

The motorcade had just cleared the congested downtown area and made a right turn. I recall observing an illuminated clock sign on a building--the time was 12:30 p.m., which was the time we were due to be at the Trade Mart. The motorcade then made a left turn, and the sidewalk crowds were beginning to diminish in size. I observed a grassy plot to my right in back of the small crowd of bystanders on the sidewalk; some tall buildings; a downhill grade ahead where the street went under what appeared to be a railroad overpass. We were about two car lengths behind the Presidential follow-up car at this time.

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~~Confidential~~

I heard an explosion--I was not sure whether it was a firecracker, bomb, bullet, or other explosion. I looked at whatever I could quickly survey, and could not see anything which would indicate the origin of this noise. I noticed that the movements in the Presidential car were very abnormal and, at practically the same time, the movements in the Presidential follow-up car were abnormal. I turned in my seat and with my left arm grasped and shoved the Vice President, at his right shoulder, down and toward Mrs. Johnson and Senator Yarborough. At the same time, I shouted "get down!" I believe I said this more than once and directed it to the Vice President and the other occupants of the rear seat. They all responded very rapidly. I quickly looked all around again and could see nothing to shoot at, so I stepped over into the back seat and sat on top of the Vice President. I sat in a crouched position and issued orders to the driver. During this time, I heard two more explosion noises and observed SA Hickey in the Presidential follow-up car poised on the car with the AR-15 rifle looking toward the buildings. The second and third explosions made the same type of sound that the first one did as far as I could tell, but by this time I was of the belief that they definitely were shots--not bombs or firecrackers. I am not sure that I was on top of the Vice President before the second shot--he says I was. All of the above related events, from the beginning at the sound of the first shot to the sound of the third shot, happened within a few seconds.

In my crouched position, I observed the people on the streets to scatter; heard some shouts; saw the motorcade increase speed, and I knew we were making a rapid evacuation. I shouted to the driver to stick with them and stay close. We then began moving very fast. I then called on my portable radio, which I had with me, to the Vice Presidential follow-up car and ordered them to switch to "Charlie" frequency. As I switched to "Charlie," I heard some transmission from the Presidential follow-up car. From fragments of what I heard and what I saw, I knew that the President had suffered injury. I could see an agent (who had previously run from the Presidential follow-up car, although I did not observe this when it happened) lying across the trunk turtle of the Presidential car above the President and Mrs. Kennedy. I heard enough radio transmission to know we were headed for a hospital. I could also see the agents in the Presidential follow-up car waving our car to come up close, and I told our driver to stay as close and go as fast as he could without having a wreck.

This driver wasn't talkative and he wasn't excitable. He responded to everything I said. He did an excellent job.

During this ride to the hospital, I had some brief conversations with the Vice President and Senator Yarborough in response to their questions. I told the Vice President that the President must have been shot or wounded, but I did not know his condition. I told the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson to follow me and the agents as closely and quickly as possible when we got to our destination. They agreed to do this.

~~Confidential~~

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When we got to the hospital, my agents (SA's Kivett and W. Taylor) from the Vice Presidential follow-up car were on the ground by the time we stopped. Also, some agents from the Presidential follow-up car were coming back to assist us. We left the car immediately (Vice President and Mrs. Johnson and myself) and, surrounded by agents, went into the hospital and quickly into a corner of a large room with partitions. We did not stop to look at or for the Presidential car occupants. Senator Yarborough did not go with us. I told one agent (Glen Bennett, Protective Research Section) to stop any traffic into the room unless he knew the person to be a member of our party. Vice President and Mrs. Johnson and myself were in the corner of the room while SA's Kivett and W. Taylor were securing the room by evacuating a couple of occupants and closing blinds, shades, etc. They remained in our immediate proximity. We were shortly joined by ATSAIC Johns, Congressman Thornberry, Congressman Brooks, and Cliff Carter. ATSAIC Roberts, White House Detail, came in and told us that the President was badly wounded and probably would not live. I advised the Vice President that we should evacuate the hospital and go to the airplane and return to Washington, D.C., and the White House.

At this time I had no knowledge of whether the actions that caused the President to be shot were the work of one man, a small group, or what. I felt that the safest place for him, and in the best interests of all concerned, was in the White House. Others who were present also concurred. We were later joined by ASAIC Kellerman who reported the President's condition was very critical. Ken O'Donnell came to the room and told us the same thing, and said we should return to Washington.

During all of this time, many things occurred and I don't recall now the exact order. I talked to Mrs. Johnson and obtained information about Lynda and Lucy, and told SA Kivett to make the necessary calls to have them placed under Secret Service protection. Mrs. Johnson left the room briefly on two occasions, accompanied by SA's Kivett and W. Taylor. I had several conversations with the Vice President about moving the airplane, and at one time he considered moving it to Carswell Air Force Base and driving this distance. We also considered just moving it to another location at Love Field, and this is what I told SA Kivett to have them do, and to have enough fuel for cross-country flight. I told the Vice President that we would drive to the airport with he and Mrs. Johnson in separate cars; that I wanted him to stay down below window level; and that Mrs. Johnson would be accompanied by agents.

I had previously told ATSAIC Johns in the presence of the Vice President that he should go out of the hospital and get two cars on a stand-by, preferably unmarked police cars with police drivers who were familiar with Love Field, etc. I told him we would not return to the motorcade cars. I also told him that we would take an unknown route, and to make sure the drivers were thoroughly familiar with the area. ATSAIC Johns reported back that he had this set up.

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The Vice President and I were both questioning the feasibility of leaving the hospital by the same way in which we had entered it. I told ATSAIC Johns to check on the various exits from which we might enter the cars and make a hasty evacuation, and to get cars at other exits if this could be worked out. While he was gone, ASAIC Kellerman and Mr. Ken O'Donnell came into the room. We learned that the President had died.

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The Vice President was concerned about wanting to leave quickly as he had been advised to do, and which he now felt that he should, but he was also very much concerned about leaving without Mrs. Kennedy. It was finally agreed, at the advice of Mr. O'Donnell and others of us, that we would leave the hospital and go to AF-1 (President Kennedy's former airplane), with Mr. O'Donnell and others bringing Mrs. Kennedy as soon as they could remove the body. We were told that Mrs. Kennedy would not leave without President Kennedy's body.

While we were in this room, we were visited by Malcolm Kilduff of the White House Press Secretary's office. I also recall other White House staff people coming in, among whom I think were Mr. Larry O'Brien and, I believe, Mr. Dave Powers. I remained in the room with the Vice President at all times. Mrs. Johnson made some notes regarding the situation.

We started to leave the room and to evacuate the hospital, and since ATSAIC Johns had not returned, I grabbed one of the agents and told him to run ahead and get the cars ready, and we started out.

As soon as we got outside, we loaded into an unmarked police car-- the driver of which was Jesse Curry, Chief of Police, Dallas. The Vice President and I got into the back seat. He got in first and slumped below window-level, and I got in after him. Congressman Homer Thornberry got in the front seat. I was seated behind Congressman Thornberry.

Mrs. Johnson was in the company of SA's Kivett and W. Taylor, and also Congressman Brooks. SA Glen Bennett had also been working very closely with our group since our arrival at the hospital, and he got in the car with Mrs. Johnson.

I ordered the driver (Chief Curry) to drive out and head for Love Field. Congressman Albert Thomas was walking, and seeing Congressman Thornberry, he called out for us to stop and pick him up. I don't believe he saw the Vice President. I told the driver to continue but by this time Congressman Thomas was by the side of the car. The Vice President ordered the driver to stop, whereupon we immediately took the Congressman aboard and proceeded again. Congressman Thomas got in the front seat with Congressman Thornberry being moved over closer to the driver. The Vice President then requested that Congressman Thornberry climb over into the back seat, which he did. Congressman Thornberry

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took a position on the window side behind the driver. We then had the Vice President in the middle of the back seat.

We were momentarily blocked by traffic which was coming onto the hospital access road--a delivery truck, I believe. Rapid police assistance got us through this obstacle, and we continued to the airport. We had motorcycle escort which began using sirens. We asked Chief Curry to stop them from using sirens, which he did by use of his radio.

When we approached the apron at Love Field, I called on my portable radio that we would board AF-1 rapidly and to be ready to receive us aboard. They replied that the plane was ready.

The Vice President and I practically ran up the ramp, followed by the others. I gave several orders to agents and Air Force crewmen about checkpoints at front and rear of plane, and pulling down all shades.

The Vice President went to the stateroom area, and Mrs. Johnson joined us there. Congressmen Thornberry, Brooks, and Thomas were also there. The Vice President told me to observe all of the events that I could, and to tell my agents to make notes, and also to tell any of his staff to do likewise. I passed these instructions on to my agents. I went everywhere the Vice President did, and was present when he called Attorney General Kennedy. He asked the Attorney General about the legal aspects of taking the oath of the President, such as when, where, and who should administer it. The Vice President placed calls to the office of Federal Judge Hughes, and he received a call from the Justice Department. He instructed Marie Fehmer to take down the wording of the oath. The Vice President had another phone conversation with the Attorney General. The Vice President advised me and others that Judge Sara Hughes would be coming to the plane, and I advised other agents and had them pass the word to local security officials. He also asked me to check on the status and location of Mrs. Kennedy and the President's body, and inform him of their estimated time of arrival.

Mrs. Kennedy and the President's body arrived at the plane ahead of Judge Hughes. The Vice President and Mrs. Johnson went to Mrs. Kennedy's bedroom to comfort her.

When Judge Hughes arrived, the oath was administered, and Cecil Stoughton, White House photographer, took photos of this event. His photos show most of those who witnessed this event within the stateroom and thru the passageway door leading to the front of the plane. There were some other witnesses who were not in the pictures since we were on the side of the stateroom where the photographer was. These persons included myself, an Air Force steward, and an agent who was stationed at the rear of the plane with the President's body.

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The oath of office was administered at approximately 2:40 p.m., CST. Judge Hughes and Chief Curry disembarked from the plane, and the plane was airborne from Love Field, Dallas, at 2:47 p.m., CST, enroute to Andrews Air Force Base.

The foregoing account of events is true and accurate to the best of my recollections.

Confidential

Rufus W. Youngblood
Rufus W. Youngblood
Special Agent in Charge, 1-22

Confidential

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of Interviewed*O'Donnel, Kenneth**Attaches 2 3 to
Exh. 12*

1-22-614.0

U.S. Secret Service

TO : Chief

DATE: November 29, 1963

FROM : ASAIC Thomas L. Johns - Vice Presidential Detail

SUBJECT: Statement regarding events in Dallas, Texas, on Friday,
November 22, 1963.

This personal statement is being submitted at the direction of SAIC Rufus W. Youngblood, Vice Presidential Detail, office 1-22.

On Friday, November 22, 1963, I was assigned to the Vice Presidential Detail, office 1-22, and was working the movements of Vice President Johnson during his travels on this date with ASAIC Youngblood. ASAIC Youngblood was riding the Vice President's car on all movements and I worked the Vice Presidential follow-up car. Special Agent Warren W. Taylor was also working all Vice Presidential movements on this date, and was assigned to Mrs. Johnson. SA Taylor rode the Vice Presidential follow-up car when Mrs. Johnson rode in the car with the Vice President.

On this same date, the Vice President and party arrived Love Field, Dallas, Texas, at 11:35 a.m., CST. President Kennedy and party arrived Love Field at 11:38 a.m., CST, and at 11:50 a.m., CST, the Presidential and Vice Presidential motorcades departed Love Field en route to the Trade Mart where the President was to speak.

The motorcade and security personnel were as follows:

President's car
Secret Service follow-up car
Vice President's car: ASAIC Youngblood
Vice Presidential security car: ATSAIC Johns, and
SA's Taylor and Kivett

The Vice Presidential security car was a 1963 or 1964 Mercury 4-door sedan driven by a man whom I believe to be an employee of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Mr. Cliff Carter, Aide to Vice President Johnson, was seated in the middle front seat; SA Kivett, who was the Vice Presidential Detail's advance man for Fort Worth-Dallas, was seated in the right front seat; SA Taylor was seated in the left rear seat; and I was seated in the right rear seat of this car.

The motorcade had passed through the downtown section of Dallas, and at approximately 12:35 p.m., CST, I heard two "shots," not knowing whether they were firecrackers, backfire, or gun shots. These two shots were approximately two or three seconds apart, and at this time we were on a

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slight downhill curve to the right. On the right-hand side of the motorcade from the street, a grassy area sloped upward to a small 2 or 3-foot concrete wall with sidewalk area. When the shots sounded, I was looking to the right and saw a man standing and then being thrown or hit to the ground, and this together with the shots made the situation appear dangerous to me. I estimate that the motorcade was going approximately 12 to 14 miles per hour at this time, and I jumped from the security car and started running for the Vice President's car. I felt that if there was danger due to the slow speed of the motorcade, I would be of more assistance and in a more proper location with the Vice President's car. Before I reached the Vice President's car, a third shot had sounded and the entire motorcade then picked up speed and I was left on the street at this point. I obtained a ride with White House movie men and joined the Vice President and ASAIC Youngblood at the Parkland Hospital.

I did not have any trouble keeping my balance when getting out of the security car, and it is on this that I base the estimated speed of the motorcade. Also, as the door of the security car opened to the rear, I lost some time in getting out and starting to run for the Vice President's car.

At no time did I see any details concerning persons in President Kennedy's car, as his security car was a large one with agents standing on the running boards and this obscured my view of the President's car.

I arrived at Parkland Hospital at approximately 12:45-12:50 p.m. and immediately joined ASAIC Youngblood with Vice President Johnson. In a few minutes I was directed by ASAIC Youngblood (at the request of Vice President Johnson) to go to ASAIC Kellerman and ask him to give a report on the condition of President Kennedy to Vice President Johnson. I found ASAIC Kellerman and conveyed this message to him, and then I returned to close proximity of Vice President Johnson. Mr. Ken O'Donnell came to the Vice President and advised that President Kennedy was in a "bad way" and advised Vice President Johnson to return to Washington, D.C. Those present with Vice President Johnson were Mrs. Johnson, Congressman Homer Thornberry, ASAIC Youngblood and, most of the time, Congressman Jack Brooks and Special Agents Jerry Kivett and Warren Taylor.

ASAIC Youngblood then requested that I obtain transportation (cars) for the Vice President, and to have drivers who were thoroughly familiar with any and all routes from the hospital to Love Field, and to have added police protection placed at Love Field. I went outside the hospital and spoke to an inspector--highest ranking police officer. We discussed cars for use of the Vice President, and possibly other members of his party, and he offered the use of several unmarked police cars. Chief Curry, Dallas Police, then joined us, and in further discussion they stated that they would send a large police detail to Love Field and "completely secure it." The Police Inspector himself then stated that he would drive Vice President Johnson to the airport.

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Confidential

I returned to the Vice President and ASAIC Youngblood and heard Ken O'Donnell inform Vice President Johnson that President Kennedy had died. To the best of my knowledge I believe that the Vice President learned from Mr. O'Donnell that Mrs. Kennedy was getting a casket, and would proceed as soon as she could to AF-1 for return to Washington, D.C., with President Johnson on the same plane.

At the request of ASAIC Youngblood, I then went and got the hospital building superintendent, and with him started looking and checking out another exit to use from the hospital. I was gone about ten minutes, and when I returned to last location in the hospital of the Vice President and ASAIC Youngblood, I learned that they had just departed the hospital en route to AF-1.

I went outside the hospital, and with Mr. Cliff Carter and Mr. Jack Valenti, staff member and friend of Vice President Johnson, respectively, and Captain Cecil Stoughton, I obtained a police car and driver, and all of us drove to Love Field, and I went aboard AF-1 and rejoined the Vice President and ASAIC Youngblood.

I then conferred with Col. James Swindal, pilot of AF-1, and a decision was made to remove seats from small rear compartment of AF-1 for use of Mrs. Kennedy and the casket containing President Kennedy's body. Also, passengers on board were identified and a manifest started at front entrance to AF-1, the rear entrance being reserved for Mrs. Kennedy.

Via radio-telephone, I then talked with SAIC Behn, White House Detail, Washington, D.C., and informed him that Mrs. Kennedy and the body of President Kennedy would accompany the Vice President back to Washington, D.C.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., Federal Judge Sarah Hughes came aboard AF-1, and gave the Presidential Oath of Office to Vice President Johnson, witnessed by all at the request of the Vice President.

AF-1 then departed Love Field, Dallas, Texas, immediately following the above, at 2:50 p.m., CST, en route for Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, and I was aboard the plane.

Thomas L. Johns
Thomas L. Johns
ASAIC, 1-22

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved or Interviewed*attach 24 to
Exh. 12**O'Donnell, Ken* 1-22-614.0

U.S. Secret Service

TO : Chief

DATE: Nov. 29, 1963

FROM : SA Jerry D. Kivett - Vice Presidential Detail

~~Confidential~~SUBJECT: Statement regarding events in Dallas, Texas, on Friday,
November 22, 1963.

I arrived Love Field, Dallas, Texas, at approximately 10:30 a.m., CST, from Fort Worth, Texas. I was driven from Fort Worth by SA Warner, Dallas Field Office, and SA Shannon was also in the car. SA Shannon had worked the previous midnight at Fort Worth and was catching a commercial flight from Dallas to Austin in order to work the following midnight at the LBJ Ranch.

Upon arrival at Love Field, I immediately contacted SA Lawson, and assisted him in advance arrangements prior to the arrival of the President and the Vice President. I assisted him in arranging motorcade cars and various other duties as he directed. I contacted the local representative of Continental Airlines and obtained four pillows to be used in case the President and his party wanted to sit on the back of the convertible. I was in constant contact with Art Bales as to the exact location and time of arrival of the Vice President and Presidential aircraft. I also conferred with Mr. Jack Peuterball (phonetic), political advance officer, on who was going to greet the Vice President when he arrived.

AF-2, with the Vice President and party aboard, arrived at 11:35 a.m., CST. I was at the foot of the ramp when Vice President and Mrs. Johnson and party disembarked. Vice Presidential Detail agents accompanying the Vice President were ASAIC Youngblood, ATSAIC Johns, and SA Taylor. Other White House Detail agents were also on board. The Vice President was greeted by the local committee consisting of 15 persons. ASAIC Youngblood and ATSAIC Johns remained in close proximity to the Vice President; SA Taylor remained in close proximity to Mrs. Johnson; and I was making sure that the Vice President and others moved to the proper area to greet the President, and also was keeping an eye on the Presidential plane so as to advise ASAIC Youngblood of its location.

AF-1, with the President and party aboard, arrived at 11:40 a.m., CST. The Vice President was at the foot of the ramp to greet President and Mrs. Kennedy when they descended the steps of the plane. After the President was greeted by the reception committee (same committee that greeted the Vice President), he walked past his automobile and up to the crowd which was behind a waist-high cyclone fence. He and Mrs. Kennedy began to shake hands with those assembled there. The Vice President and Mrs. Johnson also went past their cars to the fence and also started shaking hands. ASAIC Youngblood and ATSAIC Johns remained in close proximity to the Vice President, with SA Taylor in close proximity to

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Mrs. Johnson. I was alternating between remaining in close proximity to the Vice President and seeing that the Vice President's car and follow-up car were staying right behind the Presidential car and follow-up car as President and Mrs. Kennedy and Vice President and Mrs. Johnson moved down the fence to their left shaking hands.

When President and Mrs. Kennedy took their positions in their car, I assisted ASAIC Youngblood and ATSAIC Johns in getting Vice President and Mrs. Johnson in their car. The Vice Presidential car was a 1964 Lincoln convertible with the top down. The driver was Herschel Jacks, Department of Public Safety, and ASAIC Youngblood rode in the right front seat. In the back seat were Senator Yarborough, Mrs. Johnson, and the Vice President-- left to right. As the motorcade started moving out, I ran alongside the Vice President's car for approximately 15 to 25 yards and then jumped into the Vice Presidential follow-up car, a 1963 Mercury 4-door sedan. This vehicle was driven by Joe Rich, Department of Public Safety, with Cliff Carter, Executive Assistant to the Vice President, in the middle front seat, and I was in the right front seat. SA Taylor and ATSAIC Johns were in the back seat, left and right sides respectively. The motorcade proceeded out of the airport and along the motorcade route.

The entire route was well lined with people, and on several occasions when the crowds were large, I opened the door of the vehicle to be prepared to get out if necessary.

During the entire parade route, I could not see the Presidential car well, but I could see the Presidential follow-up car and observed the agents standing on the running board.

On one occasion (exact location unknown), the Presidential car stopped and a few well-wishers went over to the car to shake his hand. The stop was very brief and none of the crowd made an attempt to shake the Vice President's hand. During this time I had the door open and was standing halfway out of the car, prepared to go up to the Vice President's car if necessary. During the motorcade, as we moved further downtown, the crowd became increasingly heavy and I noticed numerous persons watching the motorcade from windows of the various buildings we passed. All agents in the Vice Presidential follow-up car were closely observing the crowd both along the streets and watching from the windows.

Approximately three minutes before the assassination, in the very downtown part of Dallas, I observed a young white male approximately 21 years old, running toward the Presidential car. As he got alongside the Presidential follow-up car, SA Ready, who was working the right front running board, jumped down from the follow-up car and forcibly shoved this individual back into the crowd. We continued along the motorcade route and turned off Main Street. At this point, SA Lawson in the lead car gave a "5-minutes to Trade Mark signal"--moments later the first shot was heard.

See additional statement for actions during and after assassination.

~~Confidential~~

Jerry D. Kivett
SA Jerry D. Kivett

Statement by Jerry D. Luvett concerning the events of November 22, 1963.

November 29, 1963

I was riding in the Vice Presidential follow-up car immediately behind the Vice President's car and the third car behind the President's car. The Vice President's car was a 1964 steel gray Lincoln convertible, borrowed from Ford Motor Company, Dallas, Texas and was driven by Herschel D. Jacks, Texas Department, Public Safety. ATSAIC Youngblood was riding in the right front seat of this vehicle. In the back seat were Senator Yarborough, Mrs. Johnson, and the Vice President, left to right. The Vice Presidential follow up car was a 1963 yellow 4-door Mercury Sedan, also borrowed from Ford Motor Company, driven by Joe H. Rich, Texas Department, Public Safety. Cliff Carter, Executive Assistant to the Vice President was seated in the middle of the front seat and I was seated in the right front seat. In the rear seat was SA Taylor and ATSAIC Johns, left to right respectively. The motorcade had just made a right turn from Main Street and then made an immediate left turn on to Elm Street. The motorcade was heading slightly downhill toward an underpass. As the motorcade was approximately 1/3 of the way to the underpass, traveling between 10 and 15 miles per hour, I heard a loud noise - - someone hollared "What was that?" It sounded more like an extremely large firecracker, in that it did not seem to have the sharp report of a rifle. As I was looking in the direction of the noise, which was to my right rear, I heard another report - - then there was no doubt in my mind what was happening - - I looked toward the Vice Presidential car, and as I did so, I could see the spectators, approximately 25-50, scattering - - some were falling to the ground, some were running up a small hill, and some were just standing there stunned - - here I heard the third shot. I could see the President's car, and observed Mrs. Kennedy, who seemed to be standing up in the car and trying to get out. I was getting out of the car to get to the Vice President's car and assist Youngblood; I had reached for my gun but did not draw it for I could not tell where the shots were coming from; when I saw the Presidential car speed down the street, since I could not get to the Vice Presidential car, I fell back into the follow-up car and hollared to the driver to go-go, and the car lurched forward behind the Vice President's car. During this time, I don't know exactly what happened, but it seems that the Vice Presidential follow-up car was moving quite slow. ATSAIC Johns was out of the car (I have no knowledge of what actions he took), and as we moved out, ATSAIC Johns was left. SA Taylor was seated to my left rear, and since all the actions took place on my right, I do not know what action he took. Cliff Carter, to the best of my knowledge remained still in the middle front seat.

Once we left the area, I could see all three cars - - the President's car (I could not see any principal party and could only see Clint Hill on the back of the car) - - The follow-up car, with some agent holding the AR-15 pointed in the air - - The Vice President's car (I could not see the Vice President, but could see ATSAIC Youngblood lying over the area where he had been sitting - - I don't recall seeing Mrs. Johnson or Senator Yarborough). We were traveling at a high rate of speed. ATSAIC Roberts said over the radio, and this is not a direct quote but to the best of my recollection - - To the hospital - to the hospital, as fast as possible - Lawson, are we going to the hospital? - Hurry, he's hit - - Then Roberts called to Youngblood, I answered since Youngblood was using Baker frequency with our follow-up car; however, I had a Charlie set in the follow-up car also. Roberts said

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November 29, 1963

to cover our man good, I replied that Youngblood had him covered - - at this point Youngblood, who had switched his radio to Charlie answered and stated that he had him covered and to take of, we were right behind them. It took approximately 4 minutes from the time the first shot was fired until we reached the hospital. As soon as we reached the hospital, ASAIC Youngblood and myself ran the Vice President into the Hospital and continued running with him until we reached an isolated room. SA Taylor immediately followed with Mrs. Johnson. As we were taking the Vice President into the hospital, Roberts informed him that the President had been shot and was critically injured and probably would die. Once inside the hospital, we had the Vice President and Mrs. Johnson in an isolated room. We pulled all window shades so as no one would know our exact location. At first it was the Vice President, Mrs. Johnson, Youngblood and myself. Moments later, Emory Roberts came in and said the President would not make it. A discussion followed as to what action would be taken and all agents were in agreement that we should leave the hospital as soon as possible, fly to Washington and go to the White House, which was the safest location for the Vice President to go. The Vice President asked for Congressman Homer Thornberry and Congressman Jack Brooks to join him in the isolated room, he also asked that someone go to get coffee for he and Mrs. Johnson. Cliff Carter who also had come into the room went to get the coffee. Roy Kellerman came into the room and discussed the President's condition with the Vice President. The Vice President did not want to leave the hospital immediately and fly to the White House because he said it would appear presumptuous on his part. ASAIC Youngblood told me to get in touch with Austin, Texas and Washington, D. C. and have agents assigned to the Vice President's daughters immediately. I located a phone which was being manned by a member of a telephone company, who had accompanied the Presidential party and who had an open line to the Signal Board in Washington. I asked first for Chief Rowley, then Chief Paterni and ended up talking to Chief Wildy. I told him to call Austin and have an agent assigned immediately to Lynda Bird Johnson and as she could probably be located at Kinsolving Dormitory, University of Texas. That an agent should also be assigned immediately to Lucy Baines Johnson, who could best be located at National Cathedral for Girls, Washington, D. C. Since I was talking to the Signal Board I asked for Austin, Texas. I talked to SA Paine, advised him to get an agent with Lynda as soon as possible. He put SA Lockwood on the phone and I told him to find Lynda and stay with her until he heard further word and that she was probably at Kinsolving Dormitory, University of Texas. Upon completing these calls, I went back to the room where the Vice President was.

Mrs. Johnson stated that she would like to visit Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Connally. Someone, I don't remember who, I think it was a member of the hospital staff, showed Mrs. Johnson to Mrs. Kennedy's location and to Mrs. Connally's location where she visited briefly with each. She was accompanied at all times by SA Taylor and myself. Upon returning to the isolated room where the Vice President was located, I overheard Ken O'Donald tell the Vice President that the President was dead. It was then decided to leave the hospital immediately. ASAIC Youngblood told me to get in touch with Air Force One to advise them to fuel for a cross country flight and to move to another

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November 29, 1963

part of the airport. I located a phone which was opened to the Dallas Signal Board and contacted Air Force One, cannot recall who I talked to. I advised them to refuel the plane for a cross country flight, and to move it to another location. I was advised that the plane was refueled and ready to go and that they were in the process of trying to locate another location. I told him to call me back as soon as they moved to a new location. I returned to the room where the Vice President was and Youngblood told me we are leaving right now. We exited from the hospital by the same room we had entered. SA Taylor and myself accompanied Mrs. Johnson, placed her in an unmarked police Sedan and drove immediately behind the car carrying the Vice President to the airport. A car of Secret Service agents followed directly behind us. This vehicle (the one Mrs. Johnson was in) was driven by an uniform police officer, name unknown, with SA Taylor, SA Bennett, in the front seat; in the rear seat were Congressman Brooks, Mrs. Johnson, and myself, left to right. I requested Mrs. Johnson to crouch down in the seat so that she could not be seen from the outside, she did so immediately. Upon arrival to the airport (Love Field) SA Taylor and myself ran Mrs. Johnson up the ramp into the airplane. Upon instructions from ASAIC Youngblood, all window shades in the airplane were pulled down and check points were established at both doors leading to the Vice President's area of the airplane, (Air Force One). At first the Vice President was put in the State Room, i. e. where the beds were; however he said this was in bad taste and he moved up to the sitting room, i. e. where the table and television set are located. At first inside this area where the Vice President, Mrs. Johnson, Cliff Carter, Marie Fehmer, Jack Valenti, members of the Vice President's staff, Paul Glynn, Vice President's Air Force Valet, ASAIC Youngblood and myself. SA Taylor manned the check point at the front door leading to the State Room and SA Bennett manned the check point at the rear door leading to the State Room. There followed a series of conferences between the Vice President, Congressman Horner Thornberry, Congressman Jack Brooks, and Albert Thomas. The Vice President and the others in the State Room were also watching television accounts of the President's Assassination. I do not recall what necessarily was discussed and at one time or another various members of the White House staff came back to the State Room to talk to the Vice President. It was decided that the plane would remain and wait for Mrs. Kennedy and the President's body. Malcolm Kilduff asked me to inquire of the Vice President if he wanted any press to go back on the plane with him. I inquired of the Vice President wishes in this matter and he said yes, let me talk to Kilduff I then asked Kilduff to come in and talk to the Vice President. About this time we received word that Mrs. Kennedy and the President's body were on the way. During the discussions that took place in the State Room, the Vice President stated that he had talked with the Attorney General and they agreed that the Vice President should take the oath of office of President of the United States as soon as possible. The Vice President added that he had been able to contact Judge Sarah T. Hughes and she would be at the plane in 10 minutes to administer the oath of office. About this time Mrs. Kennedy and the President's body arrived at the airplane. The Vice President and Mrs. Johnson attempted to console Mrs. Kennedy in the State Room where she was. It was cleared of all personnel exception of Vice President, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kennedy,

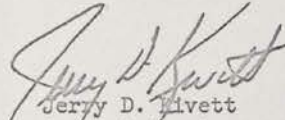
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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November 29, 1963

ASAIC Youngblood, and a member or two of the White House staff, exactly who I cannot recall. Judge Hughes soon arrived and prepared to administer the oath of office. The Vice President invited all who wished to observe the proceedings into the State Room. I do not know exactly who was there, but to the best of my knowledge the following persons were there: Vice President, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kennedy, Ken O'Donald, Dave Powers, Congressmen Brooks, Thomas, and Thornberry, Marie Fehmer, Elizabeth Carpenter, Cliff Carter, Jack Valenti, Paul Glynn, ASAIC Youngblood, ATSAIC Johns, myself, Mariam Smith of the United Press International and Captain Stoughton, White House photographer. The Vice President took the oath of office at approximately 2:40 PM in the airplane and it was airborne enroute to Washington, D. C., at 2:47 PM.

The foregoing account of events is to the best of my knowledge.


Jerry D. Livett
Special Agent

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Authority *Exec. Paper. Ct.*
78/12/85
By *mmg* NARS Date *5/18/84*

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of Interviewed

O'Donnell, Kenneth

AG:mfd:19Mar64
MEMORANDUM

March 19, 1964

TO: Francis W. H. Adams
FROM: Alfred Goldberg
SUBJECT: Interview with Mr. O'Donnell

In connection with your impending interview with Kenneth O'Donnell of the White House Staff, could you inquire about the origin of President Kennedy's trip to Texas on November 21-22, 1963? It would be helpful to know when the trip was conceived and by whom, when a firm decision was made to take the trip, and why the trip was undertaken. This information would round out our knowledge of pre-assassination events related to the trip itself and permit early preparation of a preliminary narrative of these events.

cc: Mail Room Files
Mr. Rankin's Chron File
Mr. Goldberg

KP
O'Donnell, Kenneth

MEMORANDUM

May 5, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

FROM: Arlen Specter

I called Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell today. His secretary advised that he was out of town and requested a letter. Accordingly, I have drafted the attached letter for your signature.

noted - 11m
+ IPR
5/5/64

AS:mln
5 May 1964

MAY 5 1964

Mr. F. Kenneth O'Donnell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

This Commission wishes to interview you concerning your knowledge of the events of November 22, 1963.

We would very much appreciate it if you would let us know of your availability at the earliest possible date.

Please contact either Francis W. H. Adams or Arlen Specter, who are attorneys on the Commission staff, for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

~~Investigation and Evidence~~ 5
K.P.

AS:mln

MEMORANDUM

May 5, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

FROM: Arlen Specter

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12w
5/5/64
J.L.R.

AS:nlm
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The White House
Washington, D. C.

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We would very much appreciate it if you would let us know of your availability at the earliest possible date.

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Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

*K.F.
O'Donnell, Kenneth*

AS:mln
20 May 1964

MAY 22 1964

Mr. Kenneth F. O'Donnell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

Thank you for presenting your knowledge of the facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy in the deposition which was taken on May 18, 1964.

With this letter, I am enclosing a copy of the deposition transcript for your review. If there are any changes which you wish to make in your testimony, please make them in ink on the transcript and initial each change. Then please sign the deposition on page 51, indicating your approval.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

Enclosure

*1/22/64
5/20/64*

*K.P.
O'Donnell, Kenneth*

AS:mln

MEMORANDUM

May 19, 1964

TO: Melvin A. Eisenberg
FROM: Arlen Specter

Attached is Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell's deposition which I have reviewed and corrected.

This deposition should appear at the very start of the deposition transcripts, since it takes up the preliminary matters in Phase I. I have forwarded a copy to Mr. O'Donnell for his review, but I am sending my copy on to you now so that you may have it first.

Attachment