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Subject: Andy Purdy

We met with Andy Purdy on Thursday. Although initially he appeared defensive and not happy to be here, he quickly loosened up when he realized that we were going to treat him with respect, and were not out to "blame" him for any shortcomings of the HSCA. This is true--we just wanted to get him to talk, to try to get inside the mind of someone who was on the last official investigation...someone who dealt with the medical evidence. Up front, and of his own volition, he quickly dealt with the three most obvious "shortcomings" of the HSCA, as follows: 1. He is surprised and disappointed that so many of the HSCA staff interviews of Autopsy witnesses were sequestered for 50 years (and have only been released in the last 2 years as a result of the JFK Act). 2. He is shocked and disapproving of the wording in the HSCA report which says (on page 37, article 155, of HSCA volume 7) that "All of those interviewed who attended the autopsy corroborated the general location of the wounds as depicted in the photographs." This is an untrue statement, as now revealed by the release of the many previously-sequestered staff interviews referred to above. He realizes that the combination of this untrue statement with the type and nature of those interviews--and some sworn testimony--which were sequestered, smacks of "cover-up" to much of the research community, and he considers that combination of events most unfortunate. He says his last month at HSCA was December 1978, and he says he does not know who wrote that statement in the report. (My comment: Blakey, Cornwell, and Dick Billings from Life magazine stayed on 4 or 5 months into 1979 to write the report.) 3. Most shocking of all, he says he "does not remember to what extent he and Mark Flanagan showed the autopsy photo tracings to witnesses they interviewed"...background: the HSCA has been roundly criticized for not showing the autopsy photos (or tracings of the photos) to Dallas or Bethesda witnesses. He said that if they didn't, it would have been because Blakey told them not to. (My comment: they were only shown to one person, and that was the photographer, John Stringer, according to interview reports.) He strongly believes that anyone who claims to have seen a hole in the back of the President's head was simply "wrong" because of the stress of the moment and the haste of their observations. (My comment: this doesn't account for either Dallas doctors who examined the wound after death--after treatment had stopped---or for Bethesda autopsy witnesses who saw the body for 4 or 5 hours and who said that there was a hole in the back of the head.) END

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