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Subject: Re: Memorandum on Rick Russo Videotaped Interviews of Autopsy Witnesses

TOM. This was a very helpful memo. I think there is no need for Russo to come to DC. I do not think that we should have an agreement to let Russo videotape any depositions. It appears that Russo's interests may be more proprietary than in helping to set the record straight.David. I think we should give Tom's memo to the Board and see what they wish to do. If the Board would like them deposed, we should do so. If not, we should not. We have already invited Riebe to come to D.C. and he has tentatively accepted.Doug. Could you check with Brian and find out whether there is an audiotape of Purdy's interview with Jenkins?To: Jeremy Gunn/ARRB, Douglas Horne/ARRBcc:David Marwell/ARRB From:Tom Samoluk/ARRBDate:03/11/97 11:29:36 AMSubject:Memorandum on Rick Russo Videotaped Interviews of Autopsy WitnessesI. IntroductionOn Monday, March 10, 1997, I viewed approximately three hours of a videotaped interview made by Rick Russo with five witnesses to President Kennedy's autopsy. The witnesses were: Floyd Riebe, Jerrol Custer, Dennis David, Paul O'Connor, and James Jenkins.The interview was conducted in Pittsburgh during late 1992 or 1993. Russo had the five men sit at a table together and they were all on camera answering questions from him (and later Wecht, as well as a few questions from Mark Crouch whose questions were conveyed through Russo) at the same time. The format sometimes led to more than one person talking at one time and the questioning was sometimes leading and imprecise. Russo failed to clarify a lot of statements that were made. Nevertheless, there were some interesting statements made.I will chronicle below what I believe to be the highlights of what each individual had to say during the interview. Because they were being interviewed together, I will record what each individual said, in order, as the interview was conducted. II. The Interview Dennis David (David)He said that the President's body arrived at Bethesda in a "gray shipping casket," transported in a black hearse. Approximately 25 minutes later, the entourage that included the First Lady and the Secretary of Defense arrives at the front entrance to the building.Paul O'Connor (O'Connor)The body arrived in a "grayish pink" casket and was contained in a body bag. The President's body was unclothed with a sheet around the midsection. He described a massive head wound and used his hand to describe it, moving from the side head into the back of the head. (As is often the case when someone is describing the head wound, it was imprecise and the parameters of the wound were not made clear with his hand.)James Jenkins (Jenkins)The body arrived in a "grayish brown" casket. In response to a question, O'Connor, Custer and David all said that they heard a helicopter or helicopters around the time that the official entourage arrived at Bethesda.Jerrol Custer (Custer)He said that he had already taken a full set of x-rays by the time the official entourage arrived at Bethesda.CusterHe said that he took 14 or 15 x-rays of the President's body. He made Record

Body:
recstat:
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
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Categories: