

NR_key_name: 776D2C6CE15F5CBA85256372005EC498**SendTo:** CN=Dave Montague/O=ARRB @ ARRB**CopyTo:****DisplayBlindCopyTo:****BlindCopyTo:** CN=R ecord/O=ARRB**From:** CN=David Marwell/O=ARRB**DisplayFromDomain:****DisplayDate:** 07/25/1996**DisplayDate_Time:** 1:14:58 PM**ComposedDate:** 07/25/1996**ComposedDate_Time:** 12:54:49 PM

Subject: Re: Initial conversation w/ Leland Benson re: JFK's tissue specimens

Good work in locating Benson. You should be more careful in the future to limit your contacts to confirmation of the identity of the individual. In this case, I think you went a bit further than you should have and ended up conducting a substantive interview. You should have stopped after confirming that he was the man we were looking for and then passed him on. As you know, a substantive interview should be conducted only after thorough preparation and full knowledge of all the issues involved. I realize that there is a fine line here. If the witness begins to tell you things, you don't want to stop him. I'm particularly concerned in this case about Benson's comments on the timing of his analyses. Realizing that this is a question of some concern to us, he now has an opportunity to "refresh his recollection," and we may have lost his unvarnished "best recollection."

To: Jeremy Gunn/ARRB, Tim Wray/ARRB, Douglas Horne/ARRBcc: David Marwell/ARRB
 From: Dave Montague/ARRB Date: 07/25/96 11:46:23 AM
 Subject: Initial conversation w/ Leland Benson re: JFK's tissue specimens
 CALL REPORT Issue # 43
 Document's Author: Dave Montague/ARRB Date Created: 07/25/96
 Who initiated the call? Review Board's representative in the call: Dave Montague
 Subject: Initial conversation w/Leland Benson re: JFK's tissue specimens
 Description of the Call
 Medical Project I found Benson living in Florida, spoke with both he & his son, then confirmed he's the same Benson who was the Supervisor of Histopathology at Bethesda in 1963. I identified myself & explained the nature of the Review Board. After my explanation, he acknowledged that he realized he could speak without concern about the oath of secrecy he was once held to. He told me he was surprised to hear from anyone re: "this whole thing" & that he hasn't spoken to any gov'n't person, researcher or reporter in well over 10 years. I asked questions of Benson in order to detail his role at Bethesda during 1963 & any JFK related information. During our conversation, he said the following:-he was the supervisor of the Histopathology Lab & the Morgue at Bethesda, but remembers it being called the Medical School at that time-Dr. Boswell was Benson's supervisor at that time & told all the staff that they couldn't say anything to anyone about JFK related information without first talking to the Public Affairs Office-he thinks Chief Boyer was at the autopsy & he was an assistant supervisor at that time-he was NOT present during the autopsy, but was called in the day after the assassination (Saturday) in order to work on JFK's tissue specimens-during the tissue work, there were about 3-4 technicians from his lab present; he remembers for certain that doctors Humes & Boswell were present & maybe some other pathologists as well; 1 government agent (wearing a suit) was present & he feels this person was either with the CIA or with Naval Intelligence; he felt the man could not have been with the Secret Service or the FBI because (from past experience) they were usually polite & identified themselves;

Body: Record

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DeliveryPriority: N

DeliveryReport: B

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