

1963:11:22:18:00+++6:00 PM EST -- approximate time Bruce Smith from AFIP calls Humes "offering me whatever help I might need. . . . I thanked him saying I would call later if I needed help." [The Journal of the American Medical Association, May 27, 1992, page 2796]+++1963:11:22:19:14+++7:14 PM EST --"At about 1914 hours [EST, 1814 hours or 6:14 PM CST] the CG[Wehle] arrived with his Aide [Lipsey]. . . . At about this time the post mortem examination of the remains was initiated. In concert with the General's Aide, effective contact was established with the Headquarters element located at MDW and the Executive Mansion." [MDW Report titled "After Action Report," page 1, from the MDW files held at the Ford Library. The report is unsigned, but the writer believed to be Robert O'Malley]+++1963:11:22:20:00+++8:00 PM EST -- Col Finck is telephoned at home by Commander Humes and told to report to the National Naval Medical Center. Humes had received Finck's name from Brig Gen Blumberg, Director of AFIP. [Memorandum of Finck to Blumberg dated 1 Feb 65, page 1 of narrative]"Hour of [beginning of] autopsy 8:00 p.m. EST Bethesda, Maryland." [Autopsy report and WR 59] Commander Humes: ". . . the autopsy began at approximately 8 PM." [2 H 349] Humes calls Finck at home and asks him to come and consult. [HSCA Agency File 006165, Memorandum of Finck to Blumberg dated 1 Feb 65, page 1 of narrative]+++ 1963:11:22:20:30+++8:30 PM -- Finck: "The brain, heart and lungs had been removed before my arrival." [HSCA Agency File 006165, Memorandum of Finck to Blumberg 2-1-65, page 1 of narrative; also page 70 of HSCA Agency File 013617] Note: See Autopsy Manual, July 1960, Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, TM 8-300, NAVMED P-5065, AFM 160-19 for techniques on removal of lungs -- both techniques call for lungs to be removed along with the organs of the neck. +++1963:11:22:23:00+++11:00 PM- [2 H 349] to Midnight [HSCA Agency File 013617, page 3 of Finck, page 71 of document] -- approximate time autopsy ends+++1963:11:23:03:50+++3:50 -- body removed from morgue having been reconstructed, made up and dressed [Report titled "After Action Report," page 2, from the MDW files held at the Ford Library. The report is unsigned, but it is believed based upon the logs of the MDW, that he is Robert M. O'Malley]+++1963:11:23:05:30+++5:30 -- 6:00 EST -- approximate time of Humes' departure from the morgue to return home to fulfill a religious obligation [HSCA volume 7, pages 16 and 256-257] -- Humes has not slept in 48 hours [HSCA volume 7, page 257] and has not left the morgue since the beginning of the autopsy, he did not get much sleep between this departure and his arrival back at the hospital at about 10:30-11:00. [HSCA volume 1, page

330]+++1963:11:23:10:30+++10:30 to 11:00 EST, 23 November 1963 -- approximate time of Humes return to hospital to meet with Finck and Boswell [HSCA volume 7, pages 16 and 256-257] -- he has first draft with him [HSCA volume 7, pages 16 and 256-257] which Boswell says is reasonably good[Transmittal memorandum dated 24 November 1963 from Capt. J. H. Stover, Jr., MC, USN to Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center. Typed on U.S. Naval Medical Center letterhead] and Captain Canada "sights" (at unknown time). [HSCA Agency File 002071, page 8, Boswell] At the meeting which ends about noon, Humes makes handwritten notations on this draft. [HSCA volume 7, pages 16 and 256-257]+++1963:11:23:12:00+++12:00 EST, 23 November 1963 -- approximate time of Humes' arrival at home for second time on the 23rd, he goes straight to bed.[HSCA volume 7, page 257]+++1963:11:23:20:00+++8:00 PM to 10:00 PM EST, 23 November 1963 -- approximate time Humes woke and began redrafting.[HSCA volume 7, page 257]+++1963:11:03:00+++3:00 AM to 4:00 AM EST, 24 November 1963 -- approximate time Humes completed the redraft. [HSCA volume 1, page 330] Humes told HSCA that he had a draft at home: "I had the draft notes which we had prepared in the autopsy room, which I copied."[HSCA volume 1, page 330]+++1963:11:24+++Unstated time in morning of 24 November 1963 -- Humes burns 1st draft in the fireplace[Montgomery County, Maryland Records -- Liber, 3077/Folio 322; Lot 18, Block G, 6713 Greyswood Road, Bethesda, Maryland (Humes home at time of assassination). Records show house did have a fireplace.] of his recreation room.[HSCA volume 7, page 258] +++1963:11:24+++Unstated time in early afternoon of 24 November 1963 -- Humes returns to hospital and meets with Boswell and Finck and revise draft Humes wrote previous night.[HSCA volume 7, page 258] The meeting takes place in Admiral Galloway's office.[HSCA Agency File 006165, end of fourth page of notes; also HSCA Agency File 002036, page 92] Galloway causes the word "presumably" to be inserted into the protocol.[HSCA Agency File 002037, page 4]+++1963:11:24+++Unstated time in early afternoon of 24 November 1963 -- Humes, Boswell and Finck are interrupted by officers waiting for their completed work and are told that Oswald shot.[HSCA volume 7, page 258]+++1963:11:24:17:00+++5:00 PM EST, 24 November 1963 -- Humes turns all papers over to Stover.[17 H 48] "I, James J. Humes, certify that all working papers associated with Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272 have remained in my personal custody at all times. Autopsy notes and the holographic draft of the final report were handed to Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Medical School, at 1700, 24 November 1963. No papers relating to this case remain in my possession." [Emphasis

added][17 H 48]

"I, James J. Humes, certify that I have destroyed by burning certain preliminary draft notes relating to Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272 and have officially transmitted all other papers

related to this report to higher authority." [Emphasis added][CE

387]+++1963:11:24:17:00+++5:00 PM to

6:45 PM EST, 24 November 1963 -- time range in which Stover had to have passed documents to

Galloway (see 6:45 PM, 24 November). His receipt reads in part: "All working papers have remained in

the continuous personal possession of CDR J. J. HUMES and a certificate to this effect is attached.

Certain early draft notes have been destroyed by CDR HUMES by burning, and a certificate to this effect

is enclosed. This first draft was sighted in part by CAPT R. O. Canada, MC USN on 23 November.

The entire report has been sighted by RADM C. B. Galloway, MC, USN, CAPT J. H. STOVER, Jr., MC,

USN, the authors, and Mrs. E. Closson, Typist, on 24 November 1963. It is earnestly requested that if the

enclosed report becomes part of the public record, or is made otherwise available by appropriate authority,

that facsimile copies be made available to the prosecutor and his assistants for their personal professional files." [Emphasis added][Memorandum from J. H. Stover, Jr., dated 24 November 1963 to

Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center. Typed on U.S. Naval Medical School letterhead]+++1963:11:24:18:00+++6:00 PM EST, 24 November 1963 -- Humes hand carries completed

typed protocol to White House and gives to Burkley.[HSCA volume 7, page

258]+++1963:11:24:18:45+++6:45 PM EST, 24 November 1963 -- Time written on hand drafted receipt

written by Burkley on White House stationary stating: "I hereby acknowledge receipt of the original and six

copies of the autopsy report on the body of President John F. Kennedy. Delivered to me by Cdr. James J.

Humes, USN, pathologists at USNH Bethesda, Md. who performed the examination. One copy and the

original draft notes are retained in a sealed envelope in Admiral Galloway [sic] safe at USNH Bethesda, Md."+++1963:11:25+++Unknown time 25 November 1963 -- Galloway issues receipt to Admiral

Burkley which reads: "Transmitted herewith by hand is the sole remaining copy (number eight) of the

completed protocol in the case of John F. Kennedy. Attached are the work papers used by the Prosecutor and his assistant." [Emphasis added][Receipt from Admiral Calvin B. Galloway to Admiral G.

Burkley, dated November 25, 1963. Typed on National Naval Medical Center

letterhead]+++1963:11:26+++Unknown time 26 November 1963 -- Secret Service issues receipt to

Admiral Burkley for "One copy of autopsy report and notes of the examining doctor which is described

in letter of transmittal Nov. 25, 1963 by Dr. Galloway." [Emphasis added][Secret Service File CO-2-34030,

Protective Research Section, receipt dated November 26, 1963 signed by Robert I.

Bouck]+++1963:12:06+++6 December 1963 The Journal of the American Medical Association

credits

Humes with saying he returned the X-rays to Burkley on this date.[The Journal of the American Medical

Association, May 27, 1992, page 2799]+++1964:01:21+++21 January 1964 -- Lee Rankin tells Warren

Commissioners: ". . .we don't have the minutes of the autopsy, and we asked for those because we

wanted to see what doctor a [sic] said about something while he was saying it, to see whether it is supported by the conclusions in the autopsy and so forth . . ."[Transcript of meeting of the Warren

Commission, January 21, 1964, page 35] Also see both , Jim Jenkins: ". . . possibly Humes made

recorded notations . . ."[HSCA Agency File 002193, page 10, Jenkins] and Godfrey McHugh: ". . . the

pathologists recorded minute notes . . ."[HSCA Agency File 009414, page 4, McHugh] and compare to

recommendations of medical panel regarding oral notes.[HSCA volume 7, pages 187 and 188]

Was this

autopsy recorded? [All emphasis added]

Cooper: . . . Overholser.

Warren: Overholser, of course, is not a lawyer.

Cooper: No.

Warren: He is a doctor. I think those of you in Congress, members of Congress, certainly know

him. He has been the head of the St. Elizabeths Hospital here for many years.

Boggs: St. Elizabeths Hospital.

Warren: Just recently retired and his a very well-recognized, a very competent man, and we felt

that we ought to have someone who in, that field who, could advise us on matters concerning the life of

Oswald and possibly the life of Ruby also.

Rankin: He is on a part-time basis, Dr. Overholser, whenever the Commission or the staff need

him.[Transcript of Tuesday, January 21, 1964 meeting of the Warren Commission, page 5]

McCloy: I think of an interview between the doctors and Overholser, let's find out about these

wounds, if it is just as confusing now as could be. It left my mind muddy as to what really did happen.

Overholser could tell about that, why didn't they turn the body over, who turned the body over, who

were the people up there, and why did the FBI report come out with something which isn't consistent with the autopsy when we finally see the autopsy? [Emphasis added][Transcript of Tuesday,

January 21, 1964 meeting of the Warren Commission, page 20]

#### FROM NOTES ON OVERHOLSER:

Winfred Overholser was a psychiatrist who headed the Washington, DC area mental institution, St. Elizabeths, from 1937 to 1962. St. Elizabeths is a federal institution, and under Overholser pioneered the use of therapeutic agents and techniques which included psychodrama and tranquilizing drugs. Born April 21, 1892, in Worcester, Massachusetts, he graduated cum laude from Harvard in 1912 and received his M.D. from Boston University in 1916. After graduating from medical school, he joined the Army where he served in the neuropsychiatric section and received multiple citations. From the Army, Overholser began a distinguished career, affiliated with (to name a few) the Department of Health, Education and

Welfare, George Washington University, Boston University, St. Elizabeths Hospital, and many other prominent facilities and government agencies. He was also the recipient of several honorary degrees.[Marquis. Who Was Who in America with World Notables. Volume IV, 1961-68, page 726]

He figured prominently in two high profile treason cases, Ezra Pound and Col. Frank Schwable.

Both of men were either acquitted or had the indictment against them dropped primarily due to Overholser's diagnosis. In the case of Pound, Overholser had him confined to St. Elizabeth's for 13 years, 1945-58.

Overholser headed the OSS's "truth drug" experiments which for the most part were conducted at St. Elizabeths. In search of a perfect "speech-inducing agent," Overholser tested numerous drugs until

finally producing a success -- an odorless, colorless, tasteless extract from cannabis that could be surreptitiously placed into food, or injected into a cigarette or cigar. These studies were so secret that they

were conducted under the auspices of the Manhattan Project. +++1964:03:16+++16 March 1964 Dr. HUMES. "In the privacy of my own home, early in the morning of Sunday, November 24th, I made a

draft of this report which I later revised, and of which this represents the revision. That draft I personally burned in the fireplace of my recreation room." [Emphasis added][2 H 373] +++1966:10:31+++ 31 October 1966 -- The brain and autopsy tissue sections are discovered to be missing[Document titled "Inspection of Materials Relating to the Autopsy of President John F. Kennedy

The National Archives," signed November 4, 1966 by Bahmer, Reis, Rhoads, Kahn and Brewster]+++1966:11:01+++1 November 1966 -- at the request of the DOJ,[DOJCIVIL 182-10001-10021

dated November 22, 1966, titled "Discussions with Naval Medical Staff Participating in JFK Autopsy," from

Carl W. Belcher to file, also see HSCA Agency File Number 002036, page 140, Finck's testimony in New

Orleans, 2/24/69, part II] Drs. Humes, Boswell, Ebersole and Mr. Stringer reviewthe autopsy photos and

films[Report titled "Report of Inspection by Naval Medical Staff on November 1, 1966 at National Archives

of X-rays and Photographs of Autopsy of President John F. Kennedy," signed January 26, 1967] 4

November 1966 -- Department of Justice Memo from Carl Belcher to fileCarl W. Belcher of the DOJ, who

was present during the review on the 1st, contacts Humes at his office to request information about a note

Humes brought to the review which was written on "a torn scrap of paper." Humes explained that the

notes were made from receipts held in the office "of the Admiral in charge" and pertained "only to the x-ray

[sic] pictures and photographic pictures." [DOJCIVIL 182-10001-10021 dated November 22, 1966, titled

"Discussions with Naval Medical Staff Participating in JFK Autopsy," from Carl W. Belcher to file]+++1966:11:08+++8 November 1966 -- Department of Justice Memo from former Warren Commission

counsel W. David Slawson

"Later on Sunday, November 24, Dr. Humes burned his first rough draft of the autopsy report . .

."

[Emphasis added][Record Number 182-10001-10020 (DOJ Civil) Memorandum dated November 8, 1966

from W. David Slawson to Office of the Attorney General, page 1]

". . . . I checked by telephone with Mr. Marion Johnson of Archives [sic] who told me that he knew of

nothing other than CE 387 and 397 that might be the autopsy report or notes or drafts related thereto." [Emphasis added][Record Number 182-10001-10020 (DOJ Civil) Memorandum dated November 8, 1966 from W. David Slawson to the Office of the Attorney General, page 2]

+++1966:11:22+++22 November 1966 -- Belcher of the DOJ writes a memorandum to the "file" reflecting

his concern that Humes brought "notes" to the review on November 1st, and summarizing his interview

with Humes on the 4th.[DOJCIVIL 182-10001-10021 dated November 22, 1966, titled "Discussions with

Naval Medical Staff Participating in JFK Autopsy," from Carl W. Belcher to file]

+++1966:11:25+++25

November 1966 -- The Baltimore Sun

. . . an incident took place that has created much controversy. Dr. Humes destroyed "certain preliminary

draft notes" by burning them in his fireplace.... Originals Preserved ....Dr. Boswell said that all original

notes were preserved, as far as he knows, and were turned over to National Archives. He said the things that were burned were copies of the protocol as they were revised.

On November 24, the final protocol was typed up, signed by all three pathologists and handed over to Adm. Burkley, President Kennedy's physician.

Sometime later, an additional report containing microscopic examination data -- but not the specimens of the wound [sic] -- was also submitted." [Emphasis added][The Baltimore Sun, November

25, 1966, page 1, by Richard H. Levine, "Pathologist Who Made Examination Defends Commission's

Version." Note that in the first sentence it is unclear whether Humes told this to Boswell after Boswell

arrived at home (as in a phone call on that date), or if Humes told Boswell that he [Humes] had made this

decision after arriving at home. Also note that Levine's attribution that the destruction took place prior to

the Saturday morning meeting is not supported by the evidence and is quite likely a misstatement of

fact.]+++1967:01:17+++ 17January 1967 -- Finck, stationed in Vietnam, receives orders to fly to D.C.[HSCA Agency File Number 006165, page 1 of notes titled "Privileged Communication"]

+++1967:01:20+++20 January 1967 -- Finck arrives in D.C. and reports to the Surgeon General of the

Army, Lt. General Heaton. Heaton advises Finck to proceed to the DOJ. Later that day all three pathologists review the autopsy photos and X-rays, and write a statement comparing them to the autopsy

report.[HSCA Agency File Number 006165, page 1 of notes titled "Privileged Communication"] This

review was requested by the DOJ.[Untitled or dated report signed by Humes, Boswell and Finck, January

27, 1967, page 1]+++1967:01:26+++26 January 1967 -- Humes, Boswell and Finck meet to sign the report

they drafted on the 20th[Untitled or dated report signed by Humes, Boswell and Finck, January 27, 1967]

+++1977:09:17+++17 September 1977 --Dr. HUMES. ". . . since it's in the record I want to comment about it some comments that I destroyed, some notes related to this, by burning in the fireplace of my home, and that is true. However, nothing that was destroyed is not present in this write-up." [HSCA volume 7, page 257]

Dr. HUMES. "And here I was, now in the possession of a number of pieces of paper, some of which unavoidably, and in the confusion which I described to you earlier, were stained in part with the blood of our deceased President. And I knew that I would give the record over to some person or persons in authority, and I felt that these pieces of paper were inappropriate to be turned over to anyone, and it was for that reason and for that reason only, that, having transcribed those notes onto the pieces of paper that are before you, I destroyed those pieces of paper. I think I'd do the same thing tomorrow. I had a similar problem, because I felt they would fall into the hands of some sensation seeker."

Dr. BADEN. "Is everything you had on the notes recorded in the holographic document before you, which is kept in the Archives, that you wrote at that time?"

Dr. HUMES. "Correct. Now, there are corrections and comments and changes of language in here. I think I'd have to go through them and with care to see if some of them are substantive or not substantive, and they are a result of meeting with Dr. Boswell and Dr. Finck on Sunday afternoon in the Naval Medical Center and going over them together. This document then was signed by all three of us, whereas in the part before some minor changes were made maybe they -- some of them sounded like we'd expressed an opinion, and we thought maybe that wasn't what should be done."

[Emphasis added][HSCA volume 7, page 258]+++1967:09:07+++7 September 1978 -- Dr. HUMES. "It was decided that three people couldn't write the report simultaneously, so I assumed the responsibility for writing the report, which I began about 11 o'clock in the evening of Saturday, November 23, having wrestled with it for 4 or 5, 6 hours in the afternoon, and worked on it until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning of Sunday, the 24th. . .

. . . I had the draft notes which we had prepared in the autopsy room, which I copied . . . ."

Mr. CORNWELL. "I only have one final question. First, however, the notes are no longer in existence; is that correct?"

Dr. HUMES. "The original notes which were stained with the blood of our late President, I felt, were inappropriate to retain to turn in to anyone in that condition. I felt that people with some peculiar ideas about the value of that type of material, they might fall into their hands. I sat down and word for word copied what I had on fresh paper."

Mr. CORNWELL. "And then destroyed them?"

Dr. HUMES. "Destroyed the ones that were stained with the President's blood."

Mr. CORNWELL. "The final question is, you were present throughout the entire embalming operation; is that correct?"

Dr. HUMES. "I was in the morgue from 7:30 in the evening until 5:30 in the morning. I never left the room." [Emphasis added][HSCA volume 1, page 330]