

ROBERT BOUCK      Interview      April 30, 1996

600 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

10:30 AM

Special Agent in Charge,    Protective Research  
(Left the White House in 1967; retired in 1968)

prepared by Joan Zimmerman

others present part or all of the interview: Phil Golrick, Tim Wray, Doug Horne, Jeremy Gunn

Our goal: to collect records not to solve the case.

Topics:

1. Categories of USSS records
2. Chain of custody documents
3. Records that would illuminate relationships with other intelligence entities
4. The USSS investigation of the assassination

### **Protective Research Section**

1. Categories of Records

PRs files: trip indexes (did Bouck see protective survey reports?)

CO2 files: defined what did they consist of? How long were they kept?

COS files: Defined. Where were they housed? Who had access to them? What was in them? How were they used?

What other categories of records were there for security or investigations?

Chief Rowley told Agent Maurice Martineau to keep a COS file for surveillance and informant information on Cubans in Chicago after the assassination: Echeverria. Why would Chief Rowley wish to keep this investigation hidden?

Was the COS category used for other purposes? Confidential information about protectees?  
Did the USSS keep any confidential file on President Kennedy? Or members of the Kennedy family?

2. Physical location of Secret Service records. Who had access? (1800 G Street; 1310 L Street; Florida Ave; Centre Pointe; Pickett St--anywhere else?)

3. Bouck's preparation for Warren Commission and HSCA interviews: Does Bouck have briefing materials for these interviews? Did Bouck discuss his testimony before or after with anyone at the Secret Service? Did Bouck have to file a report on his testimony? Were there any areas where Bouck thought he could have said more in these interviews? Did Bouck provide the Warren Commission with specific examples of individuals investigated by PRS?

4. On page 2 of Bouck's second interview with the HSCA, he mentioned that he prepared a "packet of information about possible dangers" for White House staff for President Kennedy's trips. Where is the packet for the Texas trip?

#### **Chief Rowley's correspondence:**

In his Warren Commission testimony Bouck mentioned that he had worked in the Chief's office from 1945 to 1951. Did the Chief keep written records of his meetings and telephone calls? Where are these kept?

Categories of records: Chron files? Where were these kept? Who had access to them?

#### **Secret Service Historical Archives:**

What material was kept there? Are there any vaults or safes inside the Archives?

#### **Films and Photographs:**

Where were films and photographs kept?

--newscoverage of the doctors' news conference at Parkland hospital at 3 PM (Lifton says 2:15 PM)

--Zapruder film: how did Secret Service obtain copies? How many copies did the Secret Service obtain? Were these copies made from the first negative? Where are they now?

--Bouck mentioned that he was in charge of debugging the White House and that he knew about such "technical" matters. Did Bouck have direct contact with the Army Signal Corps? White House Communication Agency tape recordings of the motorcade, Air Force One, and the White House connection. Who has these tapes of the "Charlie net"?

--note letter re: Barker film of 6th floor and Secret Service training film made from this footage. Where is it?

Did the Secret Service have its own photograph developing facilities? Did Secret Service develop any film taken from onlookers in Dealey Plaza at these facilities? Did Secret Service keep photographs taken from bystanders at Dealey Plaza? Where are they?

Did the CIA develop any film for the Secret Service? Did the CIA analyze any photographs or film for the Secret Service? (Doug document on CIA report for Secret Service: where is this report?)

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Doug: chain of custody: medical materials

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Tim Wray:

Did Secret Service expect military backup for presidential motorcades? Was 112th Military Group supposed to back up the Dallas motorcade? Did Bouck have any contact with Ed Coyle from 112th Military Intelligence (San Antonio; Coyle stationed in Dallas)? Were these backup arrangements documented? Where are the files showing military support for the Secret Service on presidential trips?

Any files from other agencies? Military: ONI, OSI, DIA, Military Intelligence?

Page 304 Warren Commission testimony: Bouck mentioned liaison relationships with "the several military services."

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Did the Secret Service lose any agents in assassination?

Were you aware of agent identification being recalled and reissued within days after the assassination?

Did you have access to personnel files? Were you aware of any security investigations of Secret Service personnel after the assassination?

Were you the person to whom materials from Dallas were brought or did they go to Inspector Kelley?

Or to Chief Rowley? Where would Chief Rowley keep such materials? Did Bouck discuss this evidence directly with Chief Rowley? Was there a meeting among senior Secret Service staff about the conduct of the Secret Service investigation of the assassination?

### **Secret Service Investigation**

Cut short? Material handed over to FBI?

Does Bouck think the Service had more to find out?

Did FBI follow up Secret Service leads?

Cuban groups:

Anything beyond individuals in Chicago? Are there more reports in COS files?

Anything on Cubans and gun running in Texas? In Florida?

Anything on Minutemen? John Koch? Richard Lauchli?

Was Bouck aware of CIA involvement with DRE or other Cuban groups?

Limosine

Any records regarding decision to remove the windshield? Varying reports on whether there was a hole in the windshield, dents in the chrome. Were there any internal Secret Service reports on the limosine based on observations before the FBI searched the car?

All but two statements indicate that three shots were fired at President Kennedy. Were agents in the motorcade instructed to agree on three shots? (Kellerman said there had to be more than three shots) Did Bouck ever speak directly to Kellerman about the limosine? Did Bouck see the limosine Friday night before the FBI came? Were bullet fragments from the

limosine brought to Bouck or Rowley before being given to the FBI?

Transport of President Kennedy's body

From AF #1 to Bethesda: any evidence that President Kennedy's body went to Walter Reed first? (See note from LBJ Library material)

How many agents were present during the autopsy? Who were they? Did they submit internal reports? If so, where are these?

Why didn't Secret Service give the FBI the autopsy report before December 23, 1963? The Secret Service showed the autopsy report to the Dallas doctors on December 10, 1963--several days before giving it to the FBI. Why?

What was the Secret Service intention in showing the autopsy report to the Dallas doctors?

Elmer Moore was the agent who showed the autopsy report to the Dallas doctors. He later appeared before the Church Committee. Are there any records at the Secret Service reporting on his testimony?

Moore indicated that he had to conduct the investigation the way they were told by Thomas Kelley. Were you aware of any coercion? What instructions were you given about how to conduct an investigation after the assassination?

What was Bouck's relationship with Inspector Kelley. Could Bouck describe what Kelley was like? Page 3 of Bouck's first HSCA interview: Bouck described talking with Kelley "as a friend" about the tissue samples. Both were concerned about possible sensationalization. Both decided that in the interest of history, they would preserve them. Could Bouck elaborate on this conversation?

Specific COS materials:

Richard Case Nagell file: Was Bouck aware of Secret Service interviews with Nagell?

Sylvia Odio-Father Machann: any COS material on this aspect of Thomas Kelley's investigation?

Did the Secret Service investigate gunrunning in Texas before the assassination? How would you characterize the Secret Service's relationship with ATF?

Did the Secret Service investigate any rumor of an advance warning of an assassination attempt sent by teletype from FBI headquarters on November 17, 1963?

Did the Secret Service have any special suspicions of Edwin Walker? Other right-wing groups in Texas?