

ROBERT BOUCK Interview April 30, 1996

United States Secret Service, Special Agent in Charge, Protective Research in 1963

Assassination Records Review Board offices
600 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

10:30-1:30

Present were Joan Zimmerman, Douglas Horne, Phil Golrick, Tim Wray, and Jeremy Gunn

Prepared by Joan Zimmerman
[Not verbatim]

Tape 1, Side A

Q: (Gunn) Where were you on November 22, 1963?

A: Bouck said he had been in charge of training schools for agents before he was transferred to the Protective Research Section (an office file operation). He was attending a graduation dinner for training school graduation when Chief Rowley, who was also attending the dinner, was called to the telephone and told that the President had been shot. Bouck said he went to his office at PRS, and his staff looked through all of his files but found no leads. Later the name Oswald came in, but Oswald's name was not in any of the PRS files.

Q: (Gunn) Did Bouck have any other responsibilities?

A: Bouck offered that PRS functions included searching buildings, rooms where the President would be, and airports for bombs and electronic surveillance. PRS also screened mail for the President. PRS prepared lists of threatening individuals and prepared information for field offices.

Q: (Gunn) Did Chief Rowley give a specific assignment to Bouck on the day of the assassination?

A: PRS was in a different building. Bouck had no contact with Rowley except for a weekly staff meeting.

Q: (Gunn) What else did you do on the day of the assassination?

A: Bouck said he was in his office at PRS until 2 AM the night of November 22-23, 1963.

Q: (Gunn) Did Bouck receive physical evidence pertaining to the assassination?

A: Bouck received evidence from the autopsy and personal items from the limousine.

Q: (Gunn) What did Bouck receive from the autopsy?

A: Bouck received documents, papers, doctors' notes (which Bouck did not read) and photographic material. The President's shirt and some clothing came late in the evening, around 9 PM. A Secret Service agent who had been at the autopsy brought it in. The shirt, clothing, and the autopsy material came at the same time, also a watch and his wallet.

Q: (Gunn) What kinds of notes were there?

A: I did not read them or attempt to classify them. Some were on forms. I stored them in the filing cabinet. The doctors' notes were handwritten. Robert Kennedy asked to have items brought to him, then it was brought to the Archives.

Q: (Gunn) How long did Bouck have autopsy materials in his safe?

A. There is an inventory for when they were transferred. Months, then it was transferred to Mrs. Lincoln at Archives.

Q: (Gunn) Did the items come in at different times or at the same time?

A: I believe everything came in that one evening.

Q: (Gunn) Did Bouck talk to Dr. Burkley about the items?

A: No...Burkley said the Kennedy family wanted the material transferred to the Archives. Burkley was present for the inventory, and he helped to transfer the items to the Archives. Mrs. Lincoln verified the inventory.

Q: (Gunn) Did you have any conversation about the assassination with Dr. Burkley?

A: No. I don't recall ever having talked to him about the assassination. Burkley was not involved with the autopsy.

Q: (Gunn) How many notes?

A: The doctors' notes and photos and clothing took up about one half of a file cabinet drawer-about a square foot. They were in boxes and paper sacks. Bouck never saw the contents except for the films, which were undeveloped when Bouck received them. Bouck sent film to Navy lab to be developed and printed. Canisters contained brain tissue. There were several cans. There was a sheaf of doctors' notes...more than 2 or 3 pages. The courier to the Navy lab (with the film) was Jim Fox.

Q: (Gunn) Did Bouck talk to Fox about the photos?

A: No. He was only an observer who stayed with the film while it was developed.

Q: (Gunn) Did Bouck know of any controversy surrounding Fox and the autopsy photos?

A: No.

Q: (Gunn) Did anyone ask to see the autopsy materials in the safe?

A: Robert Kennedy asked twice for the items. No one else.

Q: (Gunn) Did Robert Kennedy actually come to the office himself?

A: A representative of Robert Kennedy's, maybe a doctor came to see the material several months after the assassination, shortly before transferring them to the Archives.

Q: (Gunn) Did Bouck remember what items they requested?

A: No.

Q: (Gunn) Did Bouck ever hear anyone say that autopsy photographs were missing?

A: Bouck read in the newspapers that the tissues and some papers were missing. Bouck's understanding was that Robert Kennedy wanted to dispose of items he did not want public.

Q: (Gunn) Doctors at the autopsy saw photographs taken that no longer seem to be part of the collection. Was Bouck aware that there is some controversy about missing photographs?

A: Bouck was not aware of anything missing. Anything missing would have been after the transfer. Bouck had put the materials in a locked safe in the Executive Office Building, and it was guard-secured. Bouck had changed the combination.

Q: (Gunn) Did Bouck receive any bullet fragments?

A: Bouck did not have bullet fragments unless they were part of the autopsy materials.

Q: (Gunn) What was the size of the largest can?

A: There was more than one can. They were about 4" in diameter and about 4-5" high, round canisters. There was liquid in them. They probably contained body parts. One was the brain.

Q: (Gunn) Did Bouck have any other role with regard to the assassination?

A: There were twelve people on the staff at PRS. They were receiving information every day after the assassination in addition to their normal mail. The USSS was investigating the conduct of their own agents. Bouck had an assistant named Al Wong who helped with all the information and read reports coming in from field offices. Bouck scanned investigative reports.

Q: (Gunn) What was Bouck's role in the Secret Service investigation?

A: Bouck had custody of the reports and was filing them. Rowley assigned inspectors, especially Thomas Kelley to be in charge of the investigation. He was the liaison between headquarters and field offices. Reports from the FBI came to Bouck. USSS field offices did some investigations.

Q: (Gunn) Why did not FBI or CIA--both agencies had active open files on Oswald-- give information to the Secret Service? Did Bouck have any thought about why information may have been withheld?

A: USSS did not discuss this with CIA or FBI. Warren Commission discussed this. Bouck and liaison at FBI were in touch every day. Bouck thought the FBI judged badly on that particular one, but they were conscientious.

Q: (Gunn) Could Bouck clarify his role. Bouck put autopsy materials in a safe. Did Bouck have any other role or function related to the assassination?

A: Not really. Bouck added that the PRS was in charge of checking mail and food for the President. The USSS destroys food sent to the President. Bouck was in charge of Presidential security: transportation, the airplane, cars, the hotel room, etc.

Q: (Zimmerman) Did you ever travel with President Kennedy?

A: Overseas mostly.

Q: (Zimmerman) So it was not unusual that you did not accompany him to Dallas.

A: That trip was political, he was campaigning so the White House Detail was in charge. The Dallas office checked. When Bouck traveled with the President, he often rode on the press plane. He would be there to make sure his advance arrangements were carried through.

Q: (Gunn) Who at the Secret Service was directly responsible for Presidential protection?

A: White House Detail. Gerald Behn. Bouck had close liaison with White House Detail. PRS was separate from White House Detail. WHD and PRS had separate but equal jurisdictions. Behn normally traveled with JFK. He didn't on that day.

Q: (Gunn) Why didn't Behn go to Dallas?

A: Behn might have been on vacation.

Q: (Gunn) More than any other domestic trip, there was concern about Dallas.

A: The White House Detail was aware that Dallas was especially dangerous and so was the Dallas field office. Bouck did not know this in advance--only later. The Dallas field office had been investigating.

Q: (Gunn) Was it unusual for Behn not to go to Dallas?

A: Bouck said Behn had very competent assistants. Behn would only be an observer. The President has his own man for protection. The agents doing surveys were experienced. Behn did the planning beforehand.

Q: (Gunn) Gunn had spoken with a CIA person who was responsible for Presidential protection overseas who said that JFK was not very popular with Secret Service agents.

A: Some presidents were at odds with individual agents, but Kennedy was popular with the Secret Service. JFK was popular at PRS. Bouck worked with all presidents from FDR on. Kennedy was most congenial. He wouldn't consider an armored car. Kennedy did not want agents to ride on his car. He insisted on riding in an open car. The bubbletop might have made the aim of the assassin deflect. It complicates matters. Political motives compromise safety.

Q: (Gunn) Is it a standard rule for the Secret Service that the limousine can not go under a bridge or

underpass with people standing on the bridge above the President?

A: Bouck did not recall any rules about this. Bouck did not work on the advance survey. The White House Detail was concerned about roofs and windows.

Q: (Gunn) Was the USSS concerned about roofs, and windows being closed along motorcade routes in 1963?

A: Bouck doesn't know. Maybe we could ask Floyd Boring. He is still alive.

[Gunn left the room and instructed Doug Horne to accompany him. Horne returned after about ten minutes.]

Q: (Zimmerman) Did President Kennedy ever say to you that he did not want agents riding on his car?

A: Information about that came from the press secretary. President Kennedy was very friendly. He did not intercede except through his top people. Not in the sense of instructions. (Doctors ?) suggested, don't have the follow up car too close, don't tailgate. Many presidents were much more concerned about activities of protection being obvious. Bouck participated in the creation of the first armored car. That was the car JFK was shot in. President Johnson would not ride in it for a long time (after it had been refurbished). Johnson said he would rather be shot than have the public think he was afraid. JFK was not that particular, but he was not amenable to riding in an armored vehicle at election time.

Q: (Zimmerman) I would like to turn to categories of Secret Service records. In your testimony for the Warren Commission you described your files at PRS. Could you describe your trip indexes in more detail?

A: As material came in, it was read and classified and files were searched.

Q: (Zimmerman) Were these kept in file folders?

A: Yes. Those were scanned for current documents. The folders contained letters or other information suggesting that the individual could be a threat. Parole boards do not do a very good job judging people--except for those people who made threats or who were definitely deluded or who demonstrated their intention to use violence. Those would be set aside. Some folders were out all the time. They were arranged alphabetically. We tried to get pictures, description, address, and notified the local police. Each time the President was going to Chicago, we looked at all those things. People

who lived in or traveled to Chicago were in that index. The President's staff would notify the White House Detail if he was going to Chicago. PRS would pick out people in Chicago. People must actually do something. If they threaten the President, the Secret Service can then act. We had vast numbers in mental institutions who were evaluated. Those who came to the White House: the Secret Service sent them to St. Elizabeth's. St. Elizabeth's kept some and transferred some back to their home states. If the President was traveling to their area, we would have to look them up.

Q: (Zimmerman) Once President Kennedy canceled a trip to Chicago. Do you recall if that was a result of information you provided?

A: I recall there was an instance.

Q: (Zimmerman) Do you recall Thomas Vallee?

A: The name is a bit familiar. When near assassinations occur... there's never any notice made of the vast numbers of people who don't get a chance to do anything. Some would have been very embarrassing to the President if we had not stopped them.

END OF SIDE A, TAPE 1

Q: (Zimmerman) I would like to ask you about categories of records. Was a "CO 2" a criminal case?

A: I don't remember.

Q: (Zimmerman) For example, the Lee Harvey Oswald file was a CO 2.

A: It was our main file number. For something we didn't classify geographically, we put it into our data file.

Q: (Zimmerman) Was that separate from PRS?

A: No.

Q: (Zimmerman) Were there other numbers such as "CO 3"?

A: No. I don't even recall that. Files at PRS were under the same filing number--the data collection. Plus there were cross indexes: geographical and administrative files contained survey reports and main files at PRS.

Q: (Zimmerman) Alphabetical?

A: They were filed by number and indexed alphabetically.

Q: (Zimmerman) What was a "601"?

A: It's an administrative file; probably a survey for a trip.

Q: (Zimmerman) Or a "3-11"?

A: That would be the 11th district field office. This is embarrassing. The file system at the Secret Service, I originated it. I spent 6 months working on this file system. I set up the whole system. The details escape me.

Q: (Zimmerman) Would the field office assign its own file numbers?

A: They had their own numbers.

Q: (Zimmerman) They followed guidelines.

A: There were file system guidelines. The same for every office, same categories of numbers. "CO 2s" were investigations. I could refresh my memory. I have forgotten.

Q: (Zimmerman) Or a "COS"?

A: I have no recollection. I believe "CO 2" was the main information data.

Q: (Zimmerman) Those were investigative files as opposed to 601 administrative files?

A: "601" may be exceptional. My clerks were there. They would know.

Q (Zimmerman) Were there different levels of confidentiality for files?

A: Not really. All files were considered confidential. Some files were kept in locked file cabinets--very important files.

Q: (Zimmerman) In an HSCA interview, one agent from Chicago named Martineau indicated to Chief Rowley that information on gunrunning, Cubans, an informant's information should be given a "COS." That seemed to imply different levels.

A: Headquarters had its own filing system separate from PRS. PRS was not part of headquarters. A separate file system. The Director's office dealt with the field offices primarily on investigations, they did not have PRS files.

Q: (Zimmerman) So there was no cross-reference between PRS and the CO files. Do you know of any other examples that would have been in the headquarters file?

A: All communications, instructions. We had manuals. So there wasn't as much as at an earlier date. There were various kinds of investigations: one was presidential protection. Much of that material came to me. Although if the Chief's office were involved, they had files that did not contain my stuff. I might have a copy of theirs, but they would not have my information. Counterfeiting, forgeries and violations related to money were the three big categories. Those were categories of investigations in field offices and inspection files.

Q: (Zimmerman) In your remarks to the Warren Commission you mentioned that you worked in the Chief's office. Was this the Chron file you are speaking of?

A: I worked in various places. Started at Michigan State in engineering, switched to law enforcement administration, and then Bouck was recommended to Chief of Secret Service Wilson. Bouck went to the Detroit office, then to the Washington, D.C. field office (along with Gerald Behn who started at the same time). Worked for 30 years for the Secret Service. Went to Warm Springs with FDR. Then Director of Personnel. Then the Organization of the Chiefs (there are 5 or 6 enforcement agencies in Treasury.) Has a training program. I ran training schools at Treasury, including the White House Police. Then they began to have some trouble at PRS, which was started during World War II. They began to work with indexes, and I was assigned to that until I was made an Inspector shortly before I retired.

Q: (Zimmerman) When you were in the Chief's office was there a Chron file?

A: There were CO 2 files...a great part of referrals from the Treasurer and the White House came to the Chief's office. They were referrals to the field.

Q: (Zimmerman) Where was Chief Rowley's office?

A: On the second floor of the Treasury. Then they moved. Bouck (PRS) was always in the White House. They moved to H and 19th St. I was never working at that location except when I was an Inspector.

Q: (Zimmerman) So there were Secret Service records in your office and Secret Service records in the

Chief's office. Do you know of any other sites where Secret Service records are kept?

A: Every field office.

Q:(Zimmerman) Any other storage sites?

A: At the time of the assassination, three places: Chief's office, protection was primarily at PRS, then each field office. Agents at each station had some of their own.

Q:(Zimmerman) When you prepared for testimony for the Warren Commission or the HSCA, did you have any briefing material provided by the Secret Service?

A: I had notes on yellow pads, but I don't recall anything else. The Secret Service did not prepare anything.

Q:(Zimmerman) Do you still have your notes?

A: I probably destroyed them. They were just handwritten.

Q:(Zimmerman) Did the Secret Service ask for a report after you testified?

A: No. I was incidental. I was not in control of anything. I happened to be in the office where the files ended up as material came in. I didn't really know the details of the contents of much of the investigation. Inspector Kelley was our liaison. He's been dead quite a few years.

Q:(Zimmerman) In your HSCA testimony, you mentioned that you supplied the White House Staff with packets of information about possible dangers that might occur on a trip.

A: We sent pictures of people we thought were bad together with a report. The local field office did some checking to see if those people were still in town.

Q:(Zimmerman) Do you remember what happened to the packet you prepared for the Texas trip?

A: We never saw them after. I presume they kept them for a while I would guess. They probably threw them out. The next time at that location there would be different people to look out for.

Q:(Zimmerman) Did you keep a record of what you sent?

A: We did have records. We knew exactly what we did each time. I don't know what happened to

those records after I left.

Q:(Zimmerman) Are these still in PRS files? Or would these be included in the protective surveys?

A: As a rule, we never got the protective surveys. The White House Detail did have files of what they generated in terms of trip surveys and stuff like warrants.

Q:(Zimmerman) Is the packet you prepared in that file?

A: No. They never sent it back

Q:(Zimmerman) Did you keep a record of the packet?

A: We kept geographically this information. If we pulled out Chicago, we had an index of people of concern. There was a photograph file. Then we could use a carbon copy of some individuals. Maybe nothing had changed. We summarized and added new information. Events were brought to the attention of locals so they had these files too. We asked relatives to help us.

Q:(Zimmerman) Did you give these packets to White House staff or just to the field office?

A: If a really bad situation existed, we would talk to staff, but basically, they (WH staff) were not involved in protective information.

Q:(Zimmerman) The Secret Service has its own Archives. Was that there when you were there?

A: I think the information was there but spread through tons of files. The federal government passed a statute that said records could be destroyed after 30 years if they had no historical value. I believe the Secret Service did on occasion take advantage of that law. In doing so, when they ran across some things of historical interest...they did not have archives as such, but historical information in various files was pulled out and set aside.

Q:(Zimmerman) For the autopsy material, were you using an extraordinary safe or were there vaults for highly secure purposes?

A: This was a secure building. The safe was in my office...a four-drawer fireproof file cabinet type safe. It was burglary proof with file locks. No one broke into it. It had file locks on the drawer.

Q:(Zimmerman) Were you aware of any vaults for records or for highly sensitive material?

A: We had some vaults in Treasury that Treasury had for storage of bullion, but most were not used

for records. The file rooms at Treasury were locked. A number of cabinets were locked. We did not have a great amount of classified material or top secret.

Q:(Zimmerman) Were your PRS records sensitive material?

A: Important but not particularly sensitive. The Indexes were in locked cabinets and safe cabinets. After they were over with, they did not constitute any secret or classified material.

Q:(Zimmerman) On films and photographs, you mentioned photographs in files of threatening people. Do you know where other kinds of photographic material is kept?

A: We did not really have much except mugshots and portraits mostly kept in file folders except for the ones on the alert list. We used them over and over again. Most pictures Fox made were copies of mugshots.

Q:(Zimmerman) At the time of the assassination from documentary evidence various films and photographs were coming into the Secret Service...

A: On people we were sufficiently interested in there would be photos. If they came to the White House, we photographed them.

Q:(Zimmerman) For example, news film of Parkland doctors on the afternoon of November 22: where would that be stored at the Secret Service?

A: File section we set aside for the assassination information. I don't recall having seen it. Possibly it might be at the Detail office. I was not processing that.

Q:(Zimmerman) Do you recall how, for example, the Secret Service obtained copies of the Zapruder film?

A: I had custody of that. I think Inspector Kelley obtained it. One of his trips to Dallas. I don't know what chain of custody was. Same file cabinet but not with the autopsy materials.

Q:(Zimmerman) The same four-drawer file cabinet?

A: Yes. I didn't have much in the file cabinet.

Q:(Zimmerman) What did Inspector Kelley say it was when he gave it to you?

A: I don't recall. I have a faint recollection that he gave it to me. He might have taken it to the Chief

to see. On two or three occasions Treasury officials wanted to see it. I took it to Treasury and showed it to top officials.

Q:(Zimmerman) So you saw it several times.

A: Yes, a dozen times.

Q:(Zimmerman) Do you remember who the Treasury officials were?

A: No. Not the Secretary. I know they were high level. Not people I knew.

Q:(Zimmerman) You just recall one copy?

A: One copy.

Q:(Zimmerman) Do you know what happened to it?

A: I doubt if it's still there. I don't think we would have turned it over with autopsy stuff.

Q:(Horne): Regarding the Zapruder film: we know Kellerman brought you autopsy materials. Did Kelley give you the Zapruder film that night also, or was it given to you at a different time?

A: Not the same night. Some time later.

Q:(Zimmerman) Did he (Kelley) tell you how he got it?

A: He may have but I don't recall.

Q:(Zimmerman) Did he give you a report?

A: They just asked me to have some autopsy photos developed.

Q: In your Warren Commission testimony, your background is listed. You were in charge of debugging the White House and other technical matters. You had contact with the Signal Corps, which was responsible for setting up the "Charlie net" in the motorcade.

A: They were my godfather. We had equipment-type devices. They paid for it. They did recordings for the President. Anything needed in connection with Presidential function. Our budget was meager so we needed the Signal Corps. They provided communications for the Presidential and Secret Service

with gadgetry from the military.

Q:(Zimmerman) On November 22, there are references to internal walkie-talkies--also communications at the Sheraton-Dallas. The Charlie net went outside the motorcade. Was that recorded?

A: No. We didn't.

Q:(Zimmerman) Any communications recorded?

A: No. My guess is no. Those who knew are dead now. Usually if that was done it would be because the Secret Service asked for it.

Q:(Zimmerman) [Shows letter from Rowley to Clyde Rembert of KRLD TV, March 27, 1964, to Bouck.] This is a letter from Chief Rowley, which mentioned Eddie Barker from a local TV station, who made a film of the scene on the 6th floor. This film was used for Secret Service training. Do you recall this?

A: No. I've never seen this.

Q:(Zimmerman) Do you know where such a film would be kept?

A: It would have been kept at the White House Detail.

Q:(Zimmerman) In training classes, did you use films?

A: We used military films on investigative techniques--defense, protection. Treasury bought police department films and how detectives worked. We had 40-50 of these type films, gotten from other sources, mostly 16 millimeter. About one hour long.

Q:(Zimmerman) Kept at White House Detail?

A: No. I was loaned to enforcement agencies at Treasury to conduct training. That agency did training for all agencies.

Q:(Zimmerman) You mentioned Mr. Fox. Were you able to develop your own mugshots?

A: Yes. We had a small lab. Fox did odd jobs.

Q:(Zimmerman) For crime scenes?

A: No. Fox did not do anything outside the office. He developed film and made prints. If the President were leaving town, we had packets. Fox put in copies of photos. Then we had some copying capability, but no crime scene capacity.

Q:(Zimmerman) In the literature on the assassination, there is discussion of people in Dealey Plaza taking pictures with their own cameras. Various agents asked for their film or cameras. Did any of this film come to you?

A: If that was done, it was done locally. Thomas Kelley would know.

Q:(Zimmerman) Do you remember the Moorman film?

A: I know there were other films. We never saw them. If those existed they were either in the White House Detail files or Dallas field office files.

Q:(Zimmerman) Would they still be in the Dallas office?

A: I doubt that they would be in either place now. The Secret Service was very meticulous on maintaining material. When they got around to destroying anything, it was usually after 40 or 50 years. It was a major event. They discussed it for a year before they got up enough nerve. I don't think they ever destroyed anything they were sorry about afterwards. But they went further than the law required.

Q:(Zimmerman) As far as file footage was concerned, you only recall the Zapruder film.

A: Pertaining to the assassination. I read in newspapers that there were others. I may have talked to Kelley. But I never saw any other film.

Q:(Zimmerman) There is a report about the Secret Service asking the CIA to write an analysis of the Zapruder film. Were you aware...

A: I never knew that was done. But that would be in the White House Detail files...or the Chief's files.

Q:(Zimmerman) Were you involved in liaison with other agencies?

A: I sent them cases to be investigated, I made hundreds of calls. I did not supervise or direct how the information should be handled. That would be written by the Chief's office.

Golrick: I have some follow-ups to points Joan was covering.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE B

TAPE 2 SIDE A

Q:(Golrick) While you were heading PRS, you had built up file classifications.

A: I was in the Washington Field Office. They loaned me to the Chief for these projects.

Q:(Golrick) In 1963, there were standardized procedures so each field office set up was filed in the same way.

A: We bought 200-300 file folders, name cards, kits from a filing company for all offices in the Service.

Q:(Golrick) Around the time of the assassination, was there a standard reference source that clerical staff or agents in the field or headquarters could go to in order to see classifications?

A: There was a manual that showed the entire outline of the division cards and names of individual files and partition number or letters. They were showing names of files organized under the Dewey decimal system specific filing relationship.

Q:(Golrick) That outline of the filing system: Do you recall what the name of that manual was?

A: It was 30 or 40 pages. I would guess it probably exists in most offices today.

Q:(Zimmerman) Was it called an administrative file manual?

A: File System Manual because it did not contain any folders or anything for the data files, i.e. CO2 kinds of files. But it provided places as to how and where it should be filed, provided how to maintain those files. Administrative files, a hundred or so: topics under which to file things along with guidelines of what kinds of things should be filed.

Q:(Wray) In receiving information about individuals that might be potential threats, do you recall any information coming from military agencies: ONI, Army Intelligence, etc.?

A: I don't recall specifics but I'm sure we did get information from them. Particularly any parts of government that did investigative work. I'm sure the military did have its investigations. I'm sure we

got....We had correspondence through the Signal Corps because the Signal Corps supported us in a mechanical way; physical things we used for protection--not guns or vehicles. They set up the telephone system for big foreign trips.

Q:(Wray) You have talked about the White House Detail. In preparing for a presidential trip would agents make use of military personnel to assist?

A: They used Signal Corps people. [Bouck gave example of telephone system when the President traveled.] But I don't think the military was involved except when they were in parades. But a lot of police were. In order to canvass buildings for the Inauguration they bring in police on the East Coast.

Q:(Wray) Who did liaison? White House Detail? Was there any liaison with the military?

A: The advance men and White House Detail. They would oversee. They would indoctrinate...used the police force. They were part of the indoctrination: handling crowds, streets, windows, roofs. Where they could, they had the police check buildings and make arrangements with the building owner. If the crowds were large, no city has enough police. Use people on the scene except in D.C. at the Inauguration. They are borrowed from other cities. During World War II, a couple of times troops kept crowds back around the Capitol.

Q:(Zimmerman) In Dallas for the motorcade: you would not have necessarily called on the 112th Military Group stationed in San Antonio?

A: No.

Q:(Zimmerman) Have you heard of a man named Ed Coyle, who was the military intelligence officer? Or Robert Jones?

A: No. I wouldn't have known them. Liaison with the military or police would be done through the White House Detail.

Q:(Zimmerman) So you would say it would be highly extraordinary for the Secret Service to ask any military entity to assist.

A: I don't think it ever happened. I don't recall it. I don't think we ever had it. I don't recall that kind of situation in that period. Only the day after Pearl Harbor. But for normal presidential functions, I don't recall that except for ceremonial occasions.

Q:(Zimmerman) If the President came to a military base?

A: Yes. They would be there. Also, he traveled on military aircraft. The military frequently had air facilities close to a city and the military would be involved there.

[Wray left the room.]

Q: (Horne) I have some specific documents. But first, White House communications: Did anyone ever give you any tape recordings of Air Force One...recordings to keep?

A: No. I do think before I was at PRS that some recordings were done on the President's telephones before 1957.

Q:(Zimmerman) On Air Force One while the President was in the motorcade: One of the pilots at Love Field was listening on the Charlie Net. We were hoping to find another recording besides the Dallas Police dictabelt that might have recorded the shots.

A: The Signal Corps. They talk locally and contact Washington. That was consistent equipment on Air Force Two.

Q:(Zimmerman) Would the recording come through the earphones [of the pilots at Love Field]?

A: I haven't the slightest idea. I don't personally know it was there. I heard it was there. I heard the President had talked to the White House or some General. I think we were using the walkie-talkie at times. I know they had that sort of equipment. They set up similar equipment for the Detail if they were going to stay.

Q:(Zimmerman) Signal Corps equipment? Where is their office? Where would their tapes be stored?

A: They had offices at the Executive Office Building, but they didn't store anything. They found what was wanted. McNally was the Colonel at the WHCA [Bouck gave an example].

Q:(Horne) Was Col. McNally Army?

A: He was in the Secret Service before the war. After World War II, he was Army, he knew people at the White House.

Q:(Horne) [hands a document to Bouck] This is a receipt...Dr. Burkley on November 27, 1963, regarding receiving two bone fragments. One from the FBI and one from Bouck. Please read the second paragraph.

A: As I recall, this was not part of the autopsy material. This was turned in by somebody. We didn't

know what to do with it. Gave it to the Doctor. I had dealings with Dr. Burkley.

Q:(Horne) Do you remember seeing the bone fragment?

A: No. But I do recall it was turned over to the Secret Service. They sent it to me to give to Dr. Burkley.

Q:(Horne) Do you remember who gave it to you?

A: I would guess it came from the Chief's office.

Q:(Zimmerman) Would you make a receipt if you received something?

A: Depends on what it was. Package to give to Burkley. I would just do it.

Q:(Horne) Fragment would be a package?

A: Yes. Normally, I didn't look at autopsy material. I was too busy with other things.

Q:(Horne) Do you remember anyone mentioning x-raying or photographing the fragment?

A: Certainly not under any instructions I gave.

Q: (Horne) [hands a paper to Bouck] Here is the Stover receipt for photos and x-rays the night of the autopsy. On December 5, 1963, you signed a letter back to Stover correcting errors.

A: This I think was a document we used at the time I received the stuff. We made a cursory check against the list. A couple of references were not correct. So I made note of those.

Q:(Horne) You seem conscientious, sending this back.

A: Without going into the cans, mostly, we tried to account for each item. Documents were accurate.

Q:(Horne) We've talked to the Navy photographer and his student about the graphic camera/duplex, two sheets. Question: you counted these yourself and realized his numbers were off. Did you count before they were developed or after?

A: Before. Development took place later. Things that night came from the autopsy.

Q:(Horne) You dated December 5. You're positive...

A: Yes. That examination was done at the time when they were delivered. I knew I would surrender this material and I wanted correct items.

Q:(Horne) On the color film, you said one holder loaded on one side only. Duplex: one side empty?

A: As I recall, they are light colored wood. There's a partition in the middle and a slide to cover the film. One side had the film.

Q:(Horne) You described what was in the holder. Were there other pieces of film brought over that were extras?

A: I don't think there were scraps. I don't know how valuable they were but they looked like useful film.

Q:(Horne) Were there loose items?

A: Films were in holders.

Q:(Horne) Were there loose pieces of film?

A: I don't recall any loose pieces of film. Certainly no scraps of film.

Q:(Horne) FBI agents Siebert and O'Neill, on December 26, wrote report from night of the autopsy in which they listed 22 color photographs. In the Stover document you counted 21 sheets.

A: If I said 21, it's 21. I would have had the agents verify. I was fearful of taking this stuff at all. I knew there would be inquiries. I wanted to be sure.

Q:(Horne) We don't know why they wrote 22. If they knew there were 11 holders...It's possible...The holders were...

A: Light colored wood.

Q:(Horne)These 4 or 5 documents: Loose film pieces on the day films transferred to Mrs. Lincoln. As Burkley made an inventory: extra material is on it, i.e. 5 envelopes with extra film in addition to the original description. Described as unused, unexposed. Do you remember little pieces?

A: If in an envelope, I wouldn't have seen it.

Q:(Horne) I thought you were careful.

A: 100% accuracy in what we saw. Might have called it something different. Maybe something was in an envelope.

Q:(Horne) [Hands a letter to Bouck] George Burkley letter to Mrs. Lincoln with inventory. Did you help him with the inventory or did you watch?

A: There were 3: Burkley, me and 2 others. Verified each item. If there were any questions, they were resolved. All 4 people--Mrs. Lincoln was at Archives--concurred.

Q:(Horne) April 26, 1965: Bouck to Rowley: Inventory ASIC Miller and Edith Duncan. HSCA interviewer Purdy in 1977 reported that Bouck said we witnessed Burkley sign the document.

A: We were all in the room. Stuff was on the table. We put it in boxes.

Q:(Horne) Who went on the transfer?

A: Burkely and myself.

Q:(Horne) How careful was Mrs. Lincoln?

A: I don't think she even looked at it. I would trust Admiral Burkley.

Q:(Horne) There was interest in these materials from the time of deed of gift October 1966. It looks like Mr. Fox and you were asked to write memos in 1967. There's a joint report signed by you, Kellerman, Duncan, Kelley, February 1967. It describes chain of custody. Most of it is clear. One thing is not. Mr. Fox did black and white prints. Who directed him to do black and white prints?

A: Me. From Dr. Burkley's orders. I sent Fox along to oversee developing done by Naval Medical Corps.... I forgot. Fox did make some prints. I thought he had it all done at the lab.

Q:(Horne) So the Secret Service lab did black and white.

A: They could do color. I'd forgotten about prints. I don't recall why. Somebody asked for them. I would have to have given him the film.

Q:(Horne) This is specific. These were put back in the safe on the 27th. When you got them from

Kellerman you put them in your safe.

A: Yes. I stayed late. I counted the items again. Cleared out the top drawer of the cabinet. Made sure the cans were upright.

Q:(Horne) Were you aware that Secret Service photographers had any standing with the Navy lab? The Navy photo lab at Anacostia? Or was it a unique event?

A: Berkley wanted copies. Berkley suggested Navy. I made the arrangements.

END OF SIDE A TAPE 2

SIDE B TAPE 2

Q:(Horne) So you are sure you made the arrangements. You told Fox where to go.

A: That's right. He was only obeying instructions.

Q:(Horne) You made a statement interesting to us. Before you read the document, you said you thought the photographs would have been developed at the Navy Hospital lab. Do you know why they weren't sent to Bethesda for developing?

A: No. Somebody...probably Burkely...I wouldn't have known any of those places offhand. I had never done that before. I asked Burkley. He gave me an address and name. He said he would call them.

Q:(Zimmerman) Would Chief Rowley have participated in giving you instructions?

A: Any time the Chief's office was interested...we kept the Chief advised. Once in a while, for example, on the bone: That came over from Rowley's office and he sent it here.

Q:(Horne) The bone fragment came from Rowley?

A: It seems to me that that was the channel through which we got it. Somebody brought it.

Q:(Zimmerman) Was that extraordinary...that something came through his office?

A: No. That was common. Throughout the Secret Service in those days almost all formal correspondence was prepared in the name of the Chief. Letters, purchase, came to his office first.

Everything was highly centralized. On routine matters I could deal with Rowley on the phone. On important decisions the Chief would be involved.

Q:(Horne) We recently found out from John Stringer's [Navy civilian autopsy photographer] trainee, McDonald, and Stringer...Both said there was a big photo lab at Bethesda and the photographer would normally develop all his own work at the lab including color. The photographs had to be developed by the photographer himself to do it right, lighting, etc.

Stringer said, "They took my film from me. I couldn't develop my own work like I normally did at Bethesda."

A: I don't recall that alternative ever came up. It was handled quite independently. I think it was Burkley. It was only negatives. Our lab was not that good. He suggested the Navy. I wouldn't have known where to send them. I probably would have sent them to a commercial lab.

Q:(Horne) [Shows document, November 26, 1963--has Bouck's name but no signature.]

A: I'd forgotten all about this. I remember the piece broken off the casket.

Q:(Horne) Do you remember seeing it now?

A: Yes. I prepared it. I didn't sign it. I do remember the items on the list. I don't remember getting it from Burkley. I think it's my document.

Q:(Horne) This receipt for items from Burkley giving it to Bouck. They all seem to be pieces of paper. Do you remember the physical items?

A: I don't recall if I saw the items. I know about the type of items but I don't remember actually seeing the items. I don't think I had custody of them. I may have. These are familiar to me. Why, I don't remember. It was customary in those days to leave one's records behind when one left one's work. I have no records. I haven't seen these documents since I left.

Q:(Zimmerman) You left them in your office.

A: They were inventoried and signed over to my replacement. Briefcase cleaned out. Badge, gun. Scrap paper out of your pocket.

Q:(Horne) We just received this. On this receipt, for example, many papers are listed--reports from Parkland, copies of autopsy report. With regard to your comment about receiving a sheaf of papers the

night of the autopsy from Kellerman along with photos and x-rays--are you sure that sheaf of notes was the night of the autopsy or might it have been 3 or 4 days later?

A: It might have been this. Now that you bring it back I'm not quite sure how I knew this information whether they were delivered to me or what. I do recall the names of some of the items on there. I can't recall why I know it. At some time I did know this list. I know I was kind of amused by having a piece of the casket on the list.

Q:(Horne) Purdy interview -HSCA, 1977: He asked [Bouck] if anyone else saw the photos and x-rays after they were in your custody? Bouck had replied that there were 2 times when people had seen the photos and x-rays. One was Mr. Kelley and the other was according to Bouck, "possibly the general counsel or a staff attorney" from the Warren Commission. Do you remember that visit?

A: Yes. I remember the Warren Commission. Kelley brought him over I think.

Q:(Horne) Was it one person?

A: I was thinking it was a representative of the family. Now I realize it might have been a representative of the Warren Commission.

Q:(Horne) [Shows photos of Arlen Specter and James Rankin]

A: Not really. Should be a report from Kelley. He brought him over. I don't know if he wrote anything or not.

Q:(Horne) [Refers to Purdy] Prior to the transfer, Bouck said the materials had been only seen twice. He did not recall when they were seen but believes that Warren Commission representative or Kelley had seen them.

A: I'm sorry my memory isn't working better.

Q:(Horne) It helps to see the documents.

A: Oh yes. I thought it was Robert Kennedy. I won't be completely sure that a representative of Robert Kennedy didn't see it too. I might be mistaken.

Q:(Zimmerman) Were you assuming that when Mr. Burkley asked you to do something it was coming from the Kennedy family?

A: No...yes. It could be Kennedy's office. I would guess it came from the Chief's office because

Kelley was working in the Chief's office. Chief may not have been involved, but his liaison representative may have.

Q:(Horne) CIA staff prepared handwritten analysis of the Zapruder film.

A: I'm quite sure it never came to me. I would remember this if I'd seen it. I've often pondered about the Zapruder film....

Q:(Horne) It's fascinating. Someone at CIA retains working notes. Did they write a formal report?

A: Probably when I retired...everything I didn't think was official enough to turn over, I destroyed. Would have been interesting in hindsight now.

Q:(Horne) Do you recall anyone asking to let CIA analyze?

A: Not my copy. It was seen several times, but I was there. It was never out of my hands.

Q:(Horne) Anything you would like to tell us that we haven't touched on.

A: If you had asked about 30 years ago, I probably could have told you a lot of stuff. The old brain doesn't remember as well as it used to.

Q:(Golrick) We appreciate your coming in.

A: I was involved but only on the sidelines. I caught the fringes. Consequently, the stuff I have is disjointed, and it may not connect with others' recollections. Others were involved before and after.

Q:(Horne) Yes. White House Detail. Winston Lawson went to Bouck November 8 and asked for threats. Only 2 threats in Houston. White House Detail did the trip.

A: If it had been out of the country, it would have been PRS, but mostly in this country especially at campaign time the White House Detail handled it..

Q:(Horne) Did political advance...Bruno ask about threats?

A: Any requests I got came from White House Detail.

Q:(Horne) So the advance man was worried about politics. It wouldn't come to you.

A: They had contacts. They would go to White House Detail. Might end up with me third hand.

Q:(Zimmerman) You had an opportunity to view the Zapruder film. Do you remember what you thought the first time you saw it?

A: It was horrifying. I can't help think...it was suggested that we take the plastic dome along--let us have people on the running boards as we did much of the time. Maybe they could have pushed him down. It was that last shot. I think he would have survived without that shot. Any of those couple of things we could have done that day might have prevented the fatal shot.

Q:(Zimmerman) There has been speculation on various aspects of the Kennedy assassination. Some researchers have become interested in it because they viewed the Zapruder film and they saw President Kennedy's head go back instead of forward. Do you have any thought about that?

A: I've had a lot of thought about that and I read the Warren Commission report. I think in view of the information they had at that time and it hasn't changed much now. It's still pretty much the same. I think they drew the most logical conclusion almost across the board. They did a remarkable job of piecing all the pieces together. I've always thought that there was some kind of a conspiracy involved. With the killing of Ruby...the links disappeared. I think he had more incentive than just his own thinking.

Q:(Zimmerman) We've read Secret Service reports of the investigation. Inspector Kelley was still investigating in April and May 1964 in spite of the memo from the Chief saying as of December 9 the FBI was in charge of the investigation.

A: We were never completely satisfied that there wasn't more involved. The FBI talked to hundreds of people. But they just couldn't get a lead that was worth anything. They got hundreds of leads but they never could get one that they could trace to something else. Of course, his character was worse than they knew. They didn't know he had tried to shoot an army general. I think they should have put more emphasis on the fact that he was a defector, tried to denounce his own country, got another. Went into top levels. And who knows what. Hindsight's great.

Q:(Zimmerman) One area Inspector Kelley was working on...I don't know if you recognize these names: Father Machann from the Catholic community in Dallas who knew several Cubans--

a: Name's familiar.

Q:(Zimmerman) Or Sylvia Odio, also in Texas. One researcher claims that she was arranging gun deals and that Lee Harvey Oswald had attended events at her home and that General Edwin Walker had also attended some of these events. When you mention conspiracy, there are...some mention the

Cuban community. Some mention the Minutemen or gun running in Texas. Some mention the invasion of Cuba planned for the end of November, gun buying and gun stealing. Somehow the Kennedy assassination is caught up in all of this. Did you ever have any sense that the FBI followed up all the leads that you gave them?

A: We were not part of their investigation. So this is speculation. I thought they did quite a good job. I think they missed the boat a little bit on the assassin. 'Course, they didn't have anything very specific at that time. I think in view of his being a traitor being in trouble with the Marines, they should have given us that information but I don't think it would have made any difference in what happened because we would have found that there was nothing specific enough for us to do anything at that point. But then if they had known he had come to Dallas, or if they had known he had shot at a General, he would have come to the top of the list right off. But at the time of the assassination I think they were a little cautious on it but they didn't really have anything that indicated the President was...(?)

Q:(Zimmerman) Did you ever hear of a teletype sent from FBI headquarters on November 17, 1963, warning of a potential assassination attempt in Dallas?

A: Seems to me ...I didn't have any direct information on that but I heard that from somewhere.

Q:(Zimmerman) None of that was communicated to you.

A: No. That would be taken up by the Chief's office. It would only come to me if they did something significant in the way of locating somebody or investigating specific information.

Q:(Zimmerman) Did you have a chance to chat with Inspector Kelley?

A: Oh, yes. I talked to Kelley many times.

Q:(Zimmerman) Did he still want to continue investigating or did he feel that there was more to be done?

A: I think in the end he came to the conclusion that probably we did not know all the answers but there were no leads left at the time. There was always a thought that maybe with time somebody would find somebody or someone would talk but we never have.

Q:(Horne) President Kennedy not wanting people on the rear running boards of the Lincoln. That's in some of the documents from 1964. Did you ever hear the President say that himself or is it something you got second hand?

A: No. That's just what I got from other agents on the Detail. I never talked protection with the President.

Q:(Horne) That would be something you'd talk to White House Detail about? Gerald Behn?

A: More apt to have a staff meeting. For something specific he might mention that. It would be unlike him to have a discussion. He would make a decision with his own staff, probably head of the Detail.

Zimmerman: Thank you.

Bouck: I hope I've helped.

Zimmerman: If we have more questions, may we call you?

Bouck: Sure.