

1 been able to talk?

2 A I don't know.

3 Q Do you have an opinion?

4 A There are many factors influencing the ability
5 to talk or not to talk after a shot.

6 Q Did you have an occasion to dissect the track
7 of that particular bullet in the victim as
8 it lay on the autopsy table?

9 A I did not dissect the track in the neck.

10 Q Why?

11 A This leads us into the disclosure of medical
12 records.

13 MR. OSER:

14 Your Honor, I would like an answer from the
15 Colonel and I would ask The Court so
16 to direct.

17 THE COURT:

18 That is correct, you should answer, Doctor.

19 THE WITNESS:

20 We didn't remove the organs of the neck.

21 BY MR. OSER:

22 Q Why not, Doctor?

23 A For the reason that we were told to examine the
24 head wounds and that the --

25 Q Are you saying someone told you not to dissect

the track?

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THE COURT:

Let him finish his answer.

THE WITNESS:

I was told that the family wanted an examination of the head, as I recall, the head and chest, but the prosecutors in this autopsy didn't remove the organs of the neck, to my recollection.

BY MR. OSER:

Q You have said they did not, I want to know why didn't you as an autopsy pathologist attempt to ascertain the track through the body which you had on the autopsy table in trying to ascertain the cause or causes of death? Why?

A I had the cause of death.

Q Why did you not trace the track of the wound?

A As I recall I didn't remove these organs from the neck.

Q I didn't hear you.

A I examined the wounds but I didn't remove the organs of the neck.

Q You said you didn't do this; I am asking you why

1 didn't do this as a pathologist?

2 A From what I recall I looked at the trachea,
3 there was a tracheotomy wound the best I
4 can remember, but I didn't dissect or
5 remove these organs.

6 MR. OSER:

7 Your Honor, I would ask Your Honor to
8 direct the witness to answer my
9 question.

10 BY MR. OSER:

11 Q I will ask you the question one more time:
12 Why did you not dissect the track of the
13 bullet wound that you have described today
14 and you saw at the time of the autopsy at
15 the time you examined the body? Why? I
16 ask you to answer that question.

17 A As I recall I was told not to, but I don't
18 remember by whom.

19 Q You were told not to but you don't remember by
20 whom?

21 A Right.

22 Q Could it have been one of the Admirals or one
23 of the Generals in the room?

24 A I don't recall.

25 Q Do you have any particular reason why you cannot

recall at this time?

A Because we were told to examine the head and the chest cavity, and that doesn't include the removal of the organs of the neck.

Q You are one of the three autopsy specialists and pathologists at the time, and you saw what you described as an entrance wound in the neck area of the President of the United States who had just been assassinated, and you were only interested in the other wound but not interested in the track through his neck, is that what you are telling me?

A I was interested in the track and I had observed the conditions of bruising between the point of entry in the back of the neck and the point of exit at the front of the neck, which is entirely compatible with the bullet path.

Q But you were told not to go into the area of the neck, is that your testimony?

A From what I recall, yes, but I don't remember by whom.

Q Did you attempt to probe this wound in the back of the neck?