

Affidavit of Leonard D. Saslaw, Ph.D.

1. My name is Leonard D. Saslaw. I am making this affidavit based upon my personal knowledge and observations.
2. I received my Master's Degree in Biochemistry from George Washington University in 1954 and my Ph.D. in Chemistry from Georgetown University in 1963. I am a drug and food biochemist by profession.
3. I was employed at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) in Washington, DC from 1959 through 1964 in the Biochemistry Branch.
4. In November, 1963, I was a GS-11 at AFIP specializing in food chemistry. My immediate supervisor was Dr. Vaman Waravdekar, the Chief of the Biochemistry Branch.
5. One day, during the week in November, 1963 that immediately followed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, I was in the AFIP lunchroom and overheard a conversation at the adjoining table between Dr. Pierre Finck and two other officers with whom he was eating lunch. Although I was not acquainted with Pierre Finck personally, I knew who he was, as the AFIP staff was fairly small and most of its members were known to me by sight. I do not recall the names of the other two officers. On this occasion during the last week in November, 1963 when I had lunch at the table adjoining Dr. Finck, I had been told that he was one of the doctors who had participated in the autopsy on President Kennedy. Because the assassination was of such interest to the nation as well as myself, I paid close attention to his conversation.
6. I clearly heard Dr. Finck, who was speaking sufficiently loudly for his words easily to be overheard, complain that he had been unable to locate the handwritten notes that he had taken during the autopsy on President Kennedy. Dr. Finck elaborated to his companions, with considerable irritation, that immediately after washing-up following the autopsy, he looked for his notes and could not find them anywhere. He further recounted that others who were present at the autopsy also had helped him search for his notes, to no avail.
7. Dr. Finck concluded his story by angrily stating that he had to reconstruct his notes from memory shortly after the autopsy.
8. I immediately reported my information to my supervisor, Dr. Waravdekar. I did so because it troubled me that a medical doctor's

000944

original observations of such an important event, made and recorded contemporaneously, were missing without explanation and had to be reconstructed. As a scientist, I know that data recorded from memory is not as likely to be as accurate, or as complete, as data recorded contemporaneously.

- 9. Since the time of my overhearing this conversation, I have never read anything about Dr. Finck's missing notes in any accounts of the autopsy and I have therefore never heard of any further explanation as to what may have happened. I have no further information regarding this subject.

Leonard D. Saslaw
 Leonard D. Saslaw, Ph.D.

Subscribed and sworn to me before this 15 day of May, 1996.

Carl H. Patton

Notary Public

My commission expires on Notary Public District of Columbia
 My Commission Expires: June 30, 1999

CARL H. PATTON