

Analysis of Vince Palamara's witness compilation:

"59 witnesses – Delay on Elm St."¹

by Andrew Mason

Final tally:

8 witnesses say that the limo stopped. (2, 25, 26, 33, 35, 39, 42, 50) but 4 of these need to be verified (2, 33, 42, 50).

19 witnesses say the Limousine or motorcade slowed but say it did not stop or did not say that the limo definitely stopped. (10, 11, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 34, 37, 38, 41, 46, 47, 51, 52, 53, 57, 58, 59)

20 witnesses gave statements that are ambiguous about whether the limo actually came to a complete stop or do not mention the speed of the limo or motorcade at all. (3, 8, 9, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 40, 43, 44, 48, 49, 54, 56)

12 witnesses are excluded because statements are inaccurate, unverified, taken long after the events, other concerns about veracity (1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 15, 16, 31, 36, 45, 55)

The colour coding is as follows:

Red – witness says President's limo stopped

Green – witness says President's limo slowed and that it did not stop, or either does not say it stopped or is not sure if it stopped.

Orange – ambiguous as to limo speed or does not mention speed of limo

Blue – excluded due to unreliability of quote

¹ The compilation deals with witnesses to the JFK assassination who reported on the speed of the President's limousine at the time the shots were fired: <http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/59wit.htm>

Here are the colour coded statements as written by Vince Palamara **with my commentary in bold and in square brackets []**:

1) Houston Chronicle Reporter Bo Byers (rode in White House Press Bus)---twice stated that the Presidential Limousine "**almost came to a stop**, a dead stop"; in fact, he has had nightmares about this. [C-SPAN, 11/20/93, "Journalists Remember The Kennedy Assassination"; see also the 1/94 "Fourth Decade": article by Sheldon Inkol]; **]; [not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported] [original source not provided] [needs to be verified in any event]**

2) ABC Reporter Bob Clark (rode in the National Press Pool Car)---Reported on the air that **the limousine stopped** on Elm Street during the shooting [WFAA/ABC, 11/22/63]; **[assuming this is a actually what he said in the interview, this would be a statement that the limousine stopped taken shortly after the events and by an independent third party. However, it should be verified.]**

3) UPI White House Reporter Merriman Smith (rode in the same car as Clark, above)---"The President's car, possibly as much as 150 or 200 yards ahead, **seemed to falter briefly**" [UPI story, 11/23/63, as reported in "Four Days", UPI, p. 32]; **];[ambiguous description – not clear whether stopped or slowed]**

4) DPD motorcycle officer James W. Courson (one of two mid-motorcade motorcycles)---"**The limousine came to a stop** and Mrs. Kennedy was on the back. I noticed that as I came around the corner at Elm. Then the Secret Service agent [Clint Hill] helped push her back into the car, and the motorcade took off at a high rate of speed." ["No More Silence" by Larry Sneed (1998), p. 129]; **[not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported] [original source not provided]**

5) DPD motorcycle officer Bobby Joe Dale (one of two rear mid-motorcade motorcycles)---"After the shots were fired, the **whole motorcade came to a stop**. I stood and looked through the plaza, noticed there was commotion, and saw people running around his [JFK's] car. It started to move, then it slowed again; that's when I saw Mrs. Kennedy coming back on the trunk and another guy [Clint Hill] pushing her back into the car." ["No More Silence" by Larry Sneed (1998), p. 134]; **[not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported] [original source not provided]**

6) Clemon Earl Johnson---"You could **see it [the limo] speed up and then stop**, then speed up, and you could see it stop while they [sic; Clint Hill] threw Mrs. Kennedy back up in the car. Then they just left out of there like a bat of the eye and were just gone." ["No More Silence" by Larry Sneed (1998), p. 80]; **[not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported] [original source not provided]**

7) Malcolm Summers---"Then there was **some hesitation in the caravan** itself, **a momentary halt**, to give the Secret Service man [Clint Hill] a chance to catch up with the car and jump on. It seems to me that it started back up by the time he got to the car "[*"No More Silence"* by Larry Sneed (1998), p. 104]; **[not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported] [original source not provided]**

8) NBC reporter Robert MacNeil (rode in White House Press Bus)---"The President's driver **slammed on the brakes**---after the third shot " [*"The Way We Were, 1963: The Year Kennedy Was Shot"* by Robert MacNeil (1988), p. 193]; **[ambiguous description – not clear whether stopped or slowed]**

9) AP photographer Henry Burroughs (rode in Camera Car #2)---" we heard the shots and the **motorcade stopped.**" [letter, Burroughs to Palamara, dated 10/14/98]; **];[not clear whether President's limo was observed to have stopped or slowed. Burroughs was well back on Houston]**

10) DPD Earle Brown---" The first I noticed the [JFK's] car was when it stopped..after it made the turn and when the shots were fired, it stopped." [6 H 233];**[This quote is incomplete and misleading. He actually said, on further questioning, that he was not sure whether it actually stopped or just slowed:**

Mr. BROWN. After it made the turn and when the shots were fired, it stopped.

Mr. BALL. Did it come to a complete stop?

Mr. BROWN. That, I couldn't swear to.

Mr. BALL. It appeared to be slowed down some?

Mr. BROWN. Yes; slowed down.]

11) DPD motorcycle officer Bobby Hargis (one of the four Presidential motorcyclists)---" At that time [immediately before the head shot] **the Presidential car slowed down.** I heard somebody say 'Get going.' ***I felt blood hit me in the face and the Presidential car stopped almost immediately after that.***" [6 H 294]; This italicized "quote" is false. This is what Hargis actually said:

Mr. HARGIS. Yes: when President Kennedy straightened back up in the car the bullet hit him in the head, the one that killed him and it seemed like his head exploded, and I was splattered with blood and brain, and kind of a bloody water. It wasn't really blood. And at that time **the Presidential car slowed down.** I heard somebody say, "Get going," or "get going,"

Mr. STERN. Someone inside--

Mr. HARGIS. I don't know whether it was the Secret Service car, and I remembered seeing Officer Chaney. Chaney put his motor in first gear and accelerated up to the front to tell them to get everything out of the way, that he was coming through, and that is when the Presidential limousine shot off, and I stopped and got off my motorcycle and ran to the right-hand side of the street, behind the light pole.

"Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb and Perry Adams (1974), p. 71; 6/26/95 videotaped interview with Mark Oakes & Ian Griggs: "That guy (Greer) slowed down, maybe his orders was to slow down **slowed down almost to a stop.**" Like Posner, Hargis feels Greer gave Oswald the chance to kill Kennedy.]; **[latter report is not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported]**

12) DPD D.V. Harkness---" I saw the first shot and the President's car slow[ed] down to **almost a stop** I heard the first shot and saw the President's car almost come to a stop and some of the agents [were] piling on the car." [6 H 309];

13) DPD James Chaney (one of the four Presidential motorcyclists)---stated that the Presidential limousine stopped momentarily after the first shot (according to the testimony of Mark Lane; corroborated by the testimony of fellow DPD motorcycle officer Marion Baker: Chaney told him that " at the time, after the shooting, from the time the first shot rang out, the car stopped completely, pulled to the left and stopped Now I have heard several of them say that, Mr. Truly was standing out there, he said it stopped. Several officers said it stopped completely." [2 H 44-45 (Lane)---referring to Chaney's statement as reported in the "Houston Chronicle" dated 11/24/63; 3 H 266 (Baker)]; **[not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported] [Chaney did not give evidence to WC and original source for Chaney statement not provided.] [Baker was reporting hearsay. Baker did not say he saw the limo stop. He said other officers told him that it stopped]**

14) DPD motorcycle officer B.J. Martin (one of the four Presidential motorcyclists)---saw JFK's car stop " just for a moment." ["Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 71]; **[not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported] [In his WC testimony, Martin said it was moving the entire time. 6 H 291 :**

Mr. BALL. And then the block between Main and Elm, did the motorcade slow down?

Mr. MARTIN. It slowed down just before we made the turn onto Elm Street.

Mr. BALL. Let's take the President's car-what do you think the speed of the President's car was as you made that turn from Houston onto Elm?

Mr. MARTIN. I believe the speed was about 4 or 5 miles an hour.

Mr. BALL. What was your speed?

Mr. MARTIN. Approximately the same-maybe a mile slower.

Mr. BALL. Were you able to maintain your position on the two-wheeler motorcycle?

Mr. MARTIN. Yes, sir ; I believe I did.

Mr. BALL. What is the minimum speed at which you can maintain the position of that motorcycle?

Mr. MARTIN. About 2 miles per hour, I would imagine.

Mr. BALL. Did the President's car pick up any speed from the corner Of Houston and Elm-we'll say half way down that hill?

Mr. MARTIN. No, sir ; I don't recall it picking up any speed in there.

Mr. BALL. They were going fairly slow?

Mr. MARTIN. It may have picked up, gradually picked up, but not enough that I could notice.]

15) DPD motorcycle officer Douglas L. Jackson (one of the four Presidential motorcyclists)---stated " **that the car just all but stopped** just a moment." ["Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 71]; ; **[not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported] [original source not provided]**

16) Texas Highway Patrolman Joe Henry Rich (drove LBJ's car)---stated that " the **motorcade came to a stop momentarily.**" ["Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 71]; **[not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported] [original source not provided] [Rich did not mention this in his statement Nov 28/63 18 H 800][at best it would be equivocal as it refers only to the 'motorcade']**

17) DPD J.W. Foster---stated that " immediately after President Kennedy was struck **the car in which he was riding pulled to the curb.**" [CD 897, pp. 20, 21; "Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 97]; **[Does not say car stopped. Foster may be confused by motorcycle pulling to curb rather than car]**

18) Secret Service Agent Sam Kinney (driver of the follow-up car behind JFK's limo)---indicates, via his report to Chief Rowley, that Greer hit the gas after the fatal head shot to JFK and after the President's slump to the left toward Jackie. [18 H 731-732]. From the HSCA's 2/26/78 interview of Kinney: **"He also remarked that 'when Greer (the driver of the Presidential limousine) looked back, his foot must have come off the accelerator'** Kinney observed that at the time of the first shot, the speed of the motorcade was '3 to 5 miles an hour.'" [RIF#180-10078-10493; author's interviews with Kinney, 1992-1994];**[it is implicit in this statement that the car slowed but did not completely stop as removing one's foot from the accelerator does not cause a vehicle to stop, especially when it is going down a hill]**

19) Secret Service Agent Clint Hill (follow-up car, rear of limo)---" I jumped from the follow-up car and ran toward the Presidential automobile. I heard a second firecracker-type noise SA Greer had, as I jumped onto the Presidential automobile, accelerated the Presidential automobile forward." [18 H 742; Nix film; "The Secret Service" and "Inside The Secret Service" videos from 1995]; **:[ambiguous description – not evident whether stopped or slowed]**

20) Secret Service Agent John Ready (follow-up car)---" I heard what sounded like fire crackers going off from my post on the right front running board. The **President's car slowed** " [18 H 750];

21) Secret Service Agent Glen Bennett (follow-up car)---after the fatal head shot "the President's car immediately kicked into high gear." [18 H 760; 24 H 541-

542]. During his 1/30/78 HSCA interview, Bennett said the follow-up car was moving at "10-12 m.p.h.", an indication of the pace of the motorcade on Elm Street [RIF#180-10082-10452]; **[does not deal with whether it slowed or stopped]**.

22) Secret Service Agent "Lem" Johns (V.P. follow-up car)---" I felt that if there was danger [it was] due to **the slow speed of the automobile.**" [18 H 774]. During his 8/8/78 HSCA interview, Johns said that **"Our car was moving very slowly"**, a further indication of the pace of the motorcade on Elm Street [RIF# 180-10074-10079; Altgens photo];

23) Secret Service Agent Winston Lawson (rode in the lead car)---" I think it [the lead car on Elm Street] was a little further ahead [of JFK's limo] than it had been in the motorcade, **because when I looked back we were further ahead.**" [4 H 352], an indication of the lag in the limo during the assassination.; **];[ambiguous description – not clear whether stopped or slowed]**

24) Secret Service Agent William "Tim" McIntyre (follow-up car)---"He stated that Greer, driver of the Presidential limousine, accelerated after the third shot." [RIF#180-10082-10454: 1/31/78 HSCA interview]; **[does not deal with whether it slowed or stopped]**.

25) Mrs. Earle ("Dearie") Cabell (rode in the Mayor's car)---the motorcade **"stopped dead still when the noise of the shot was heard."** [7 H 487]; [That is not exactly what she said. She said that the motorcade stopped after **the third shot**:

Mrs. CABELL. I did not know, because I did not see a hand or a head or a human form behind it. It was in just a fleeting second that I jerked my head up and I saw something in that window, and I turned around to say to Earle, "Earle, it is a shot", and before I got the words out, just as I got the words out, he said, "Oh, no; it must have been a-" the second two shots rang out. **After that**, there is a certain amount of confusion in my mind, I was acutely aware of the odor of gunpowder. **I was aware that the motorcade stopped dead still.** There was no question about that.

"Accessories After the Fact" by Sylvia Meagher (1967), p. 4; "Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 71];

26) Phil Willis---" The [Presidential] party had come to **a temporary halt** before proceeding on to the underpass." [7 H 497]; "Crossfire" by Jim Marrs (1989), p. 24]; **[the quote is from his WC evidence]**

27) Mrs. Phil (Marilyn) Willis---after the fatal head shot, "she stated the **Presidential limousine paused momentarily** and then sped away under the Triple Underpass." [FBI report dated 6/19/64; "Photographic Whitewash" by

Harold Weisberg (1967), p. 179];**[ambiguous description – not clear whether stopped or slowed]**

28) Mrs. John (Nellie) Connally (rode in JFK's limo)---JFK's car did not accelerate until after the fatal head shot. [4 H 147; WR 50; "Best Evidence" by David Lifton (1988), p. 122]; **];[does not say whether the limo slowed or stopped.**

29) Texas Governor John Connally (rode in JFK's limo and himself a victim of the assassination)---" After the third shot, I heard Roy Kellerman tell the driver, 'Bill, get out of line.' And then I saw him move, and I assumed he was moving a button or something on the panel of the automobile, and he said 'Get us to a hospital quick' at about this time, we began to pull out of the cavalcade, out of line." [4 H 133; WR50; "Crossfire" by Jim Marrs (1989), p. 13];**[does not say whether the limo slowed or stopped.**

30) Dallas Morning News reporter Robert Baskin (rode in the National Press Pool Car)---stated that " **the motorcade ground to a halt.**" ["Dallas Morning News", 11/23/63, p. 2; "Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 71];**[not clear whether he is referring specifically to the President's car or just to cars around the press car][statement would need to be verified]**

31) Dallas Morning News reporter Mary Woodward (Pillsworth)---" Instead of speeding up the car, **the car came to a halt.**"; she saw the President's car come to a halt after the first shot. Then, after hearing two more shots, close together, the car sped up. [2 H 43 (Lane); DMN, 11/23/63; 24 H 520; "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" 1988]. **[Quote is from Lane, not WC] [Not a statement close to events] [not independently taken or reported] [original source not provided][conflict with earlier statement – her DMN article 11/23/63]** She spoke forcefully about the car **almost coming to a stop** and the lack of proper reaction by the Secret Service in 1993. [C-SPAN, 11/20/93, "Journalists Remember The Kennedy Assassination"; see also the 1/94 "Fourth Decade": article by Sheldon Inkol]; **[latter statement taken decades afterward][Needs verification];**

32) AP photographer James Altgens---"He said the President's car was proceeding at about ten miles per hour at the time [of the shooting] Altgens stated the driver of the Presidential limousine apparently realized what had happened and speeded up toward the Stemmons Expressway." [FBI report dated 6/5/64; "Photographic Whitewash" by Harold Weisberg (1967), p. 203] "The car's driver realized what had happened and almost if by reflex speeded up toward the Stemmons Expressway." [AP dispatch, 11/22/63; "Cover-Up" by Stewart Galanor (1998), Document 28]; **[does not deal with whether it slowed or stopped].**

33) Alan Smith---" the car was ten feet from me when a bullet hit the President in the forehead the **car went about five feet and stopped.**" ["Chicago Tribune",

11/23/63, p. 9; "Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 71]; **[Chicago Tribune quote needs to be verified]**

34) Mrs. Ruth M. Smith---confirmed that the Presidential limousine had come to a stop. [CD 206, p. 9; "Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 97]; That is not what Ruth Smith said. She said:

"The car seemed to slow or perhaps stop after the first shot and then just after the third shot a Secret Service man from the second car ran up to the rear of the President's car and threw himself into the rear seat. The car immediately sped away."

[The fact that she says slow or "perhaps stop" means she was not sure. So this is a statement that the car slowed but not a statement that the car definitely stopped]

35) TSBD Supervisor Roy Truly---after the first shot " I saw **the President's car swerve to the left and stop** somewheres down in the area [it stopped] for a second or two or something like that I just saw it stop." [3 H 221, 266]; The complete quote is: 3 H 226:

Mr. TRULY. I heard an explosion, which I thought was a toy cannon or a loud firecracker from west of the building. Nothing happened at this first explosion. Everything was frozen. And immediately after two more explosions, which I realized that I thought was a gun, a rifle of some kind.

The President's-I saw the **President's car swerve to the left and stop somewheres down in this area**. It is misleading here. And that is the last I saw of his car, because this crowd, when the third shot rang out-there was a large crowd all along this abutment here, this little wall, and there was some around us in front-they began screaming and falling to the ground. And the people in front of myself and Mr. Campbell surged back, either in terror or panic. They must have seen this thing. I became separated from Mr. Campbell. They just practically bore me back to the first step on the entrance of our building.

Mr. BELIN. When you saw the President's car seem to stop, how long did it appear to stop?

Mr. TRULY. **It would be hard to say over a second or two or something like that. I didn't see- I just saw it stop.** I don't know. I didn't see it start up.

36) L.P. Terry---" The **parade** stopped right in front of the building [TSBD]." ["Crossfire" by Jim Marrs (1989), p. 26];]; **[not a statement close to events][not clear that L.P. Terry was a witness – not mentioned in any other reports][Does not refer to specifically the limo stopping] [not independently taken or reported]**

37) Ochus V. Campbell---after hearing shots, "he then observed the car bearing President Kennedy **to slow down, a near stop**, and a motorcycle policeman rushed up. Immediately following this, he observed the car rush away from the scene." [22 H 845];

38) Peggy Joyce Hawkins---she was on the front steps of the TSBD and "estimated that the President's car was less than 50 feet away from her when he was shot, that the car slowed down **almost coming to a full stop**." ["Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 97]; **The quote is from Peggy Hawkins' statement 3/26/64 to the FBI: CD897. i.e. Newcomb and Adams is not the original source.**

39) Billy Lovelady---"I recall that following the shooting, I ran toward the spot where **President Kennedy's car had stopped**." [22 H 662];

40) An unnamed witness---from his vantage point in the courthouse building, stated that **"The cavalcade stopped there** and there was bedlam." ["Dallas Times Herald", 11/24/63; "Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 97]; **[not able to determine that the witness has not already been included since there is no name]. [Does not refer to the limo stopping just the "cavalcade" (motorcade, presumably)]**

41) Postal Inspector Harry Holmes (from the Post Office Annex, while viewing through binoculars)---"**The car almost came to a stop**, and Mrs. Kennedy pulled loose of him and crawled out over the turtleback of this Presidential car." [7 H 291].**[this is from his original statement taken April 2, 1964]**

42) Peggy Burney---she stated that **JFK's car had come to a stop**. ["Dallas Times Herald", 11/24/63; "Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 97; interestingly, during the 11/20/93 C-SPAN "Journalists Remember" conference, Vivian Castleberry of the Dallas Times Herald made the claim that her first cousin, Peggy Burney, was Abraham Zapruder's assistant "and was next to him when he shot his famous film. She called and said, 'Vivian, today I saw the President die.'!"---See Sheldon Inkol's article on this conference in the January 1994 "Fourth Decade"]; **[statement in Dallas paper needs to be verified. Assuming it is verified, should be included as a "stop" witness.] [No statement made to FBI, Sheriff or Dallas Police or to WC]**

43) David Broeder--"The President's car **paused momentarily**, then on orders from a Secret Service agent, spurted ahead." ["Washington Evening Star", 11/23/63, p. 8];**[ambiguous statement. Report needs to be verified]**

44) Sam Holland---stated that the Presidential limousine **slowed down** on Elm Street. [taped interview with Holland conducted in April, 1965]; **[what is the source? Source to be verified.] [Could be referring to slowing down as it turned the corner]**

45) Maurice Orr---**noted that the motorcade stopped.** [Arch Kimbrough, Mary Ferrell, and Sue Fitch, "Chronology", unpublished manuscript; see also "Conspiracy" by Anthony Summers, pages 20 & 23];**[no original source – cannot be verified] [in any event, it is not necessarily a statement that the President's limo stopped]**

46) Mrs. Herman (Billy P.) Clay---"When I heard the second and third shots I knew someone was shooting at the President. I did not know if the President had been hit, but I knew something was wrong. At this point **the car President Kennedy was in slowed** and I, along with others, moved toward the President's car. As we neared the car it sped off." [22 H 641];

47) Mrs. Rose Clark---"She noted that the President's automobile **came almost to a halt following the three shots**, before it picked up speed and drove away." [24 H 533];

48) Hugh Betzner---"I looked down the street and I could see the President's car and another one and **they looked like the cars were stopped** then the President's car sped on under the underpass." [19 H 467]; **[this statement is equivocal. If he was sure they were stopped he would not have said that they "looked like" they were stopped.]**

49) John Chism---after the shots he saw **"the motorcade beginning to speed up."** ["Crossfire" by Jim Marrs (1989), p. 29]; **];[no original source – cannot be verified][does not say that the car slowed or stopped.]**

50) Bill Newman---after the fatal head shot "the car momentarily stopped and the driver seemed to have a radio or phone up to his ear and he seemed to be waiting on some word. Some Secret Service men reached into their car and came out with some sort of machine gun. Then the cars roared off "; "I've maintained that they stopped. I still say they did. **It was only a momentary stop**, but" ["Crossfire" by Jim Marrs (1989), p. 70; "Murder From Within" by Fred Newcomb & Perry Adams (1974), p. 96] "I believe Kennedy's car came to a full stop after the final shot." ["JFK: Breaking The Silence" by Bill Sloan (1993), p. 169] "I believe it was the passenger in the front seat [Roy Kellerman]---there were two men in the front seat---**had a telephone or something to his ear and the car momentarily stopped.** Now everywhere that you read about it, you don't read anything about the car stopping. **And when I say "stopped" I mean very momentarily, like they hit the brakes** and just a few seconds passed and then they floorboarded [sic] and accelerated on." [11/20/97 videotaped interview with Bill Law, Mark Row, & Ian Griggs, as transcribed in "November Patriots" by Connie Kritzer & Larry Hancock (1998), p. 362] "One of the two men in the front seat of the car had a telephone in his hand, and as I was looking back at the car covering my son, **I can remember seeing the tail lights of the car, and just for a moment they hesitated and stopped**, and then they floorboarded [sic] the car and shot off." ["No More Silence" by Larry Sneed (1998), p. 96]; **[None of**

these statements are particularly reliable or near to the events. He never mentions the car slowing or stopping in any of his early statements. But the fact that he is reported to have said much the same thing to different authors much later indicates a likelihood that he has a belief that the car stopped]

51) Charles Brehm---"Brehm expressed his opinion that between the first and third shots, the President's car only seemed to move some 10 or 12 feet. It seemed to him that the automobile **almost came to a halt after the first shot**. After the third shot, the car in which the President was riding increased its speed and went under the freeway overpass and out of sight." [22 H 837-838];

52) Mary Moorman---"She recalls that the President's automobile was moving at the time she took the second picture, and when she heard the shots, and has the impression that the car **either stopped momentarily or hesitated** and then drove off in a hurry." [22 H 838-839];[this is an inaccurate quote. **[This indicates that by "hesitated" she meant something other than momentary stop.]**

53) Jean Hill---"The motorcade came to **almost a halt at the time** the shots rang out and I would say it [JFK's limo] was just approximately, if not---it couldn't have been in the same position, I'm sure it wasn't, but just a very, very short distance from where it had been. It [JFK's limo] was just almost stunned." [6 H 208-209; Hill's testimony on this matter was dramatized in the Oliver Stone movie "JFK" (1991): "The driver had stopped-I don't know what was wrong with that driver." See also "JFK: The Book of the Film" (1992), p. 122. Therein is referenced a March 1991 conversation with Jean Hill.]; **[quotes from movie scripts do not count]**

54) James Leon Simmons---"**The car stopped or almost stopped.**" [2/15/69 Clay Shaw trial testimony; "Forgive My Grief Vol. III" by Penn Jones, p. 53; "High Treason" by Groden & Livingstone (1990 Berkley Edition), p. 22];**[Statement is not taken from his Clay Shaw testimony. In that testimony he said:**

Q. What did the limousine do then?

A. It paused and then accelerated real fast after the motorcycle got out the way.

See:

<http://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=1287#relPageId=9&tab=page>

In any event, it is given long after the events and in his statement to the WC statement 22 H 833 there is no mention of vehicle speed] [In his interview in Lane's Rush to Judgment there is no mention of vehicle speed]

55) Norman Similas---"The Presidential limousine had passed me and **slowed down slightly.**" ["Liberty" Magazine, 7/15/64, p. 13; "Photographic Whitewash" by Harold Weisberg (1967), p. 233];**[original source not provided][if**

statement is from Weisberg (1967), it was taken long after events].
 [considerable doubt that Similas was an actual witness - see:
<http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/similas.htm>]

56) Presidential Aide Ken O'Donnell (rode in the follow-up car)---" If the Secret Service men in the front had reacted quicker to the first two shots at the President's car, if the driver had stepped on the gas before instead of after the fatal third shot was fired, would President Kennedy be alive today? [as quoted in Marrs' "Crossfire", p. 248, based off a passage from O'Donnell & Powers' book "Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye"] On page 40 of O'Donnell's book "Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye", the aide reports that "Greer had been remorseful all day, feeling that he could have saved President Kennedy's life by swerving the car or speeding suddenly after the first shots." Indeed, William E. Sale, an airman first class aircraft mechanic assigned to Carswell AFB and who was stationed at Love Field before, during, and after the assassination, stated that "when the agent who was driving JFK's car came back to Air Force One he was as white as a ghost and had to be helped back to the plane *[undated Sale letter, provided to the author by Martin Shackelford];**[Does not deal with whether car slowed or stopped]**

57) Presidential aide Dave Powers (rode in the follow-up car)---" At that time we **were traveling very slowly** At about the time of the third shot, the President's car accelerated sharply." [7 H 473-475]. On 11/22/88, Powers was interviewed by CBS' Charles Kuralt. Powers remarked about the remorse Greer felt about not speeding up in time to save JFK's life and agreed with Kuralt that, if Greer had sped up BEFORE the fatal head shot instead of afterwards, JFK might still be alive today [CBS, 11/22/88---this is a very dramatic and compelling short interview]. If that weren't enough, the ARRB's Tom Samoluk told me that, during the course of an interview he conducted in 1996 in which the Board was in the process of obtaining Powers' film, Powers said that he agreed with my take on the Secret Service!;

58) Texas Senator Ralph Yarborough (rode in LBJ's car)---" When the noise of the shot was heard, the motorcade slowed to **what seemed to me a complete stop (though it could have been a near stop)** After the third shot was fired, but only after the third shot was fired, the cavalcade speeded up, gained speed rapidly, and roared away to the Parkland Hospital.";**[this is a quote from his WC affidavit – 7 H 440] " The cars all stopped.** I put in there [his affidavit], 'I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings but for the protection of future Presidents, they [the Secret Service] should be trained to take off when a shot is fired.' [7 H 439-440; **[this is not a quote from his WC affidavit – rather it is from Marrs]** "Crossfire" by Jim Marrs (1989), p. 482; see also "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" 1988: "The Secret Service in the car in front of us kind of casually looked around and were rather slow to react."]; **[quote from Marrs not a statement close to events]**
[not independently taken or reported][original statement not provided][the

statement attributed to witness by Marrs conflicts with original much earlier affidavit]

59) First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy (rode in the Presidential limousine)---"We could see a tunnel in front of us. **Everything was really slow then [immediately after shooting]** And just being down in the car with his head in my lap. And it just seemed an eternity And finally I remember a voice behind me, or something, and then I remember the people in the front seat, or somebody, finally knew something was wrong, and a voice yelling, which must have been Mr. Hill, "Get to the hospital," or maybe it was Mr. Kellerman, in the front seat. We were really slowing turning the corner [Houston&Elm] I remember a sensation of enormous speed, which must have been when we took off those poor men in the front" [5 H 179-181] Mary Gallagher reported in her book: "She mentioned one Secret Service man who had not acted during the crucial moment, and said bitterly to me, 'He might just as well have been Miss Shaw!'" ["My Life With Jacqueline Kennedy" by Mary Barelli Gallagher (1969), p. 342---Secret Service Agent Marty Venker and Jackie biographer C. David Heymann confirm that this unnamed agent was indeed Greer ("Confessions of an Ex-Secret Service Agent", p. 25; "A Woman Called Jackie", p. 401)] Jackie also told Gallagher that "You should get yourself a good driver so that nothing ever happens to you" [Ibid., p. 351] * William Manchester, who interviewed Greer, tells us what the driver told Jackie on 11/22/63 at Parkland Hospital: "Oh, Mrs. Kennedy, oh my God, oh my God. I didn't mean to do it[?!?!], I didn't hear[who, Kellerman?], I should have swerved the car[how about hitting the gas!], I couldn't help it[!]. Oh, Mrs. Kennedy, as soon as I saw it[?] I swerved. If only I'd seen it in time! Oh!" (Manchester, p.290). 59 witnesses (10 police officers, 7 Secret Service agents, 37 spectators, 2 Presidential aides, 1 Senator, Governor Connally, and Jackie Kennedy) and the Zapruder film document Secret Service agent William R. Greer's deceleration of the presidential limousine, as well as his two separate looks back at JFK during the assassination (Greer denied all of this to the Warren Commission-2HGREER[see his entire testimony]). By decelerating from an already slow 11.2 mph, Greer greatly endangered the President's life, and, as even Gerald Posner admitted, Greer contributed greatly to the success of the assassination. When we consider that Greer disobeyed a direct order from his superior, Roy Kellerman, to get out of line BEFORE the fatal shot struck the President's head, it is hard to give Agent Greer the benefit of the doubt. As ASAIC Roy H. Kellerman said: "Greer then looked in the back of the car. Maybe he didn't believe me"("The Death of a President" by William Manchester, p.160). Clearly, Greer was responsible, at fault, and felt remorse. In short, Greer had survivor's guilt.[Says **everything was slow but does not say that car stopped**].