

I also ask you to assume that all crew members in the flight crew compartment survived; that one had spranged ankles as a result of being tangled in the rudder pedals and that, after the aircraft came to a stop, but all of those in the crew compartment area survived. There was one crew member in the troop compartment who stood up, according to reports, and was thrown forward at the time of impact and he did not survive. He was unrestrained and standing at the time of impact.

I want you also to assume that after the crash landing, helicopters arrived at the scene within five minutes and the surviving attendants were able to evacuate the minor children including Michael Schneider in the troop compartment within a period between 30 to 45 minutes.

I want you also to assume that the pediatrician in the troop compartment remained conscious throughout the landing, was not injured. He was braced between seats. He assisted in the evacuation of infants who he observed to be still buckled in their seats, rearward facing seats, after the troop compartment came to a stop and were not apparently injured except for the one I mentioned with the cord around his neck who may have been strangled by the cord.

Also assume that the persons who assisted in the removal of the infants from the troop compartment found all but one of the infants still strapped in their seats except

1 for one who was under the seat and who somehow slid under the  
2 seat who was alive and who, when picked up, woke up and cried.

3 I want you also to assume that other crew members  
4 who helped with the offload or evacuation of these infants  
5 observed them and did not observe any apparent injury and  
6 that most of them were awake, crying in a fussy way or indicat-  
7 ing other signs of alertness -- again except for the one with  
8 the cord around his neck.

9 I want you to assume that most of the surviving  
10 infants were taken to the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital  
11 which one of the witnesses, a pediatric nurse, had testified  
12 was the best one in Saigon and that was where she would want  
13 to go if she had to be treated.

14 Assume that Michael Schneider was among those who  
15 went to the hospital and after being examined was one of those  
16 who did not require hospitalization and was sent back to the  
17 To Am Nursery where he had previously resided for a couple of  
18 days prior to the accident.

19 I want you also to assume that a pediatric nurse  
20 at the To Am Nursery observed these children, and Michael  
21 Schneider was among them, although we don't know that he was  
22 specifically observed, but assume he was among those observed  
23 not to have any serious or abnormal problems when they were  
24 brought back to the nursery, and that on the next day, April  
25 5th, a large number of these children, including Michael

1 Schneider, were placed on a Pan American special charter  
2 flight from Saigon to San Francisco where he was evacuated  
3 to the United States and arrived at the hospital, at the  
4 Presidio, an Army medical hospital and was examined there  
5 on the following morning, April 6th, and was found to be  
6 active and alert and his neurological signs were reported  
7 as normal.

8 I want you to assume that on the Pan American  
9 charter flight there were more than 300 children, perhaps  
10 140 of them, those who had been on this accident airplane and  
11 another 150 or so who had been from other sources and that  
12 they were all reported to be cranky and upset.

13 Now, considering those facts as well as the medical  
14 records you have reviewed and the medical reports and indica-  
15 tions you have seen in the records of the hospitals you  
16 looked at regarding Michael Schneider; considering your back-  
17 ground and your knowledge of aerospace medicine and the effec-  
18 of both decompression descent and G-forces, do you have any  
19 opinion within reasonable medical certainty as to whether  
20 the decompression descent and ultimate landing circumstances  
21 were the proximate causes of any of Michael Schneider's  
22 medical conditions that you observed and the reports that  
23 you reviewed?

24 A Yes, I do.

25 THE COURT: Before you answer this, just a moment,

1 Doctor.

2 MR. LEWIS: Objection.

3 THE COURT: Do you have an extensive statement?

4 MR. LEWIS: I have a few things that I heard  
5 differently than he did.

6 THE COURT: Let us excuse the jury for our after-  
7 noon recess. We will be back at 3:35.

8 (Jury leaves.)

9 MR. LEWIS: May we have the witness excused please?

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 MR. DUBUC: Did the reporter get the answer: Yes,  
12 I have an opinion?

13 THE REPORTER: Yes.

14 MR. DUBUC: That is where we are. He hasn't given  
15 an opinion.

16 THE WITNESS: Where do I go?

17 THE COURT: There is a chair outside. Stay close  
18 by.

19 (Witness temporarily excused.)

20 MR. LEWIS: May I stand here, Your Honor?

21 THE COURT: Come to the podium for the reporter's  
22 benefit more than mine.

23 MR. LEWIS: If the court will give me a minute to  
24 gather my point together?

25 THE COURT: Certainly.

1                   MR. LEWIS: Your Honor, it was hardly a fair,  
2 straight statement considering all of the elements that have  
3 come before this jury. It is hard to know where precisely  
4 to start, but I will make a stab at it.

5                   THE COURT: Before you start, would you be protected  
6 by asking the question on cross-examination if this, that  
7 and the other fact were different?

8                   MR. LEWIS: Entirely.

9                   THE COURT: Well, you will be privileged to do that

10                  MR. LEWIS: Thank you, sir.

11                  THE COURT: We will take a recess until 3:35.

12                  (Recess.)

13                  THE COURT: Please bring back the jury.

14                  (Jury enters.)

15                  THE COURT: You may be seated, Dr. Gibbons.

16                  Whereupon,

17                    DR. HARRY GIBBONS

18                  resumed the stand and testified further as follows:

19                  THE COURT: Mr. Dubuc.

20                    DIRECT EXAMINATION (Resumed)

21                  BY MR. DUBUC:

22                  Q     Doctor, before the recess started, I asked you to  
23 assume certain facts in a question and you recall the facts  
24 as I recited them?

25                  A     Yes, sir.

1 Q I will ask you if you have an opinion based upon  
2 those facts to a reasonable medical certainty as to whether  
3 or not any of the conditions of the decompression, descent  
4 and the circumstances in the airplane and the landing as  
5 described as to a reasonable medical certainty, in your opinion  
6 had any connection or were any proximate cause of any of the  
7 complaints or illnesses that were described in the medical  
8 records that you have reviewed with respect to Michael  
9 Schneider, and I don't believe I heard your answer. D

10 A I do have an opinion.

11 Q Would you state that opinion please?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 It is my opinion with a great deal of medical  
14 certainty, it had nothing to do with any of the things that  
15 Michael may have. It was a very safe decompression and a  
16 very safe level of hypoxia and the G-force is extremely mild.

17 Q I would like you to explain your opinion a little  
18 bit further if you would.

19 One of the considerations was the decompression  
20 at 24,300 feet and you had given us a little explanation of  
21 that in general before I asked the question.

22 Could you explain for us the reason for your opinion  
23 as it relates to the decompression aspects of the accident?

24 A Yes, sir, as I mentioned before, 30,000 is the  
25 critical altitude for serious decompression sickness. Now,

1       decompression sickness is manifested in four ways. Number  
2       one, the bends in which a person has pain in the joints.  
3       Diver's bends are familiar to us where they most certainly  
4       have pain in their knees or their hips or their lower extrem-  
5       ities. In aviators it occurs more frequently, flight decom-  
6       pression occurs more frequently in the shoulders, arms and  
7       hands.

8                Regardless, when it does occur, it is usually  
9       about 30,000 feet and does not occur unless there is exposure  
10      for some time.

11                Other types of bends are, there is a type of skin  
12      manifestation which can be itching, burning, actually a  
13      mottling of the skin that is very mild and doesn't occur very  
14      often.

15                There is a type of decompression sickness called  
16      the chokes in which there is dry hacking cough usually  
17      associated with pain on breathing and there is also neuro-  
18      circulatory collapse, but again these occur almost always  
19      above 30,000 feet unless there is, of course, prolonged  
20      exposure to altitude or strenuous exercise.

21                For example, in one series they didn't even report  
22      symptoms below 26,000 feet, and then they go from mild  
23      decompression sickness on up to the mid-thirty ranges. With  
24      severe or strenuous exercise, it is possible to bring on the  
25      bends at levels as low as 17- or 18,000 feet, but again that

1 takes a great deal of exercise.

2 For example, the courses which I started for  
3 enabling general aviation pilots to go into altitude chambers,  
4 that is the average, private pilot so he can learn about  
5 hypoxia, decompression sickness and these other factors,  
6 in one report the people who attended just the chamber in  
7 Oklahoma City, they had about 4,700-plus cases and not one  
8 single case involved gas decompression in the people. They  
9 were decompressed to either 25,000 feet or to 29,000 feet  
10 and kept there for a matter of minutes and brought down again,  
11 and again out of about 5,000 cases, not one single case of  
12 decompression sickness.

13 Q You mentioned time again?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Could you amplify that a little bit more with  
16 respect to these particular facts as they might have affected  
17 Michael Schneider and the descent of this particular airplane  
18 with the assumed facts I gave you?

19 A With the facts you gave me, with a descent within  
20 a very short period of time, it is highly unlikely for any  
21 decompression sickness to occur because one of the factors  
22 that goes with getting to altitude is staying there to bring  
23 on symptoms of decompression sickness, and it is extremely  
24 remote to occur with, as he says, its being initiated imme-  
25 diately after decompression.

1 Q You said highly unlikely. Is your opinion with  
2 respect to decompression sickness, these altitudes and these  
3 times to a reasonable medical certainty?

4 A Definitely.

5 Q There is also some defensive testimony with respect  
6 to ear injuries as a result of the decompression itself at  
7 24,300 feet.

8 Could you comment on that for us?

9 A Yes, there is, I believe, agreement that unless  
10 someone has actually something plugging up the eustachian  
11 tube, the air will escape. There may be a problem getting  
12 some air back in as one comes down from altitude, but even  
13 with severe, very severe decompression, the air still escapes  
14 readily from the middle ear.

15 For example, in Sweeney's work, they did decompre-  
16 sion from 8- to 39,000 feet in only 9/100 of a second and  
17 there were slight twinges of pain in the diaphragmatic area  
18 in the upper abdomen in the very rapid decompression in this  
19 large range, but no problem with the ears.

20 Q How about with respect to the descent itself,  
21 considering the facts I gave you including the facts of the  
22 time of the descent and the fact that the descent was not  
23 directly from 24,300 feet, but from time to time the airplane  
24 would either level out and climb slightly and then continue  
25 to the descent; could you give us your opinion on that with

1 respect to the potential for ear injury?

2 A The flight path of leveling off or a slight going  
3 up before going down more, is far less likely to produce ear  
4 trauma or ear pain than a descent of continuation.

5 Q Why is that again, Doctor?

6 A Because the middle ear has a chance to ventilate  
7 and get some air back in behind the eardrum.

8 Q There has been some testimony with respect to the  
9 fact that Michael Schneider experienced some dehydration and  
10 diarrhea and subsequently a few weeks later, pneumonia,  
11 say a week or a week and a half after the decompression and  
12 two weeks after the decompression.

13 Are any of these, diarrhea, dehydration or acute  
14 pneumonia medical problems which, in your experience, have  
15 been related to decompression?

16 A Definitely not.

17 Dr. Gillies in the "Textbook of Aviation Physiology"  
18 reports on a half million decompressions in England -- there  
19 have probably been millions in this country and I have never  
20 heard of pneumonia being related to that. I don't see how  
21 it could occur as a result of a decompression.

22 Q Then you mentioned the hypoxia factor. Could you  
23 expand your opinion and explain a little bit specifically  
24 with respect to the facts I have given you as they might have  
25 affected Michael Schneider at the altitude and times that I

1 provided you in the assumed facts, as to the reason for your  
2 opinion that the hypoxia aspect of decompression had no  
3 resulting or proximate relationship to his medical condition  
4 today?

5 A The altitudes we were talking about were well within  
6 the limits of the time of useful consciousness, let alone  
7 consciousness. That is, not only would a pilot be able to  
8 navigate without supplementary oxygen at descent from that  
9 altitude, but a person would not likely to become unconscious  
10 but even if they did, there have been a number of people,  
11 including myself, unconscious in altitude chambers doing  
12 various tests I hope with full recovery.

13 Q When you say full recovery, can you expand on that?

14 A Are you talking about some momentary period of  
15 unconsciousness?

16 THE COURT: Be careful about leading.

17 BY MR. DUBUC:

18 Q You said with full recovery.

19 A Was that after unconsciousness?

20 A Even where there have been cases of unconsciousness  
21 at higher altitude for longer periods such as a decompression  
22 in commercial United States airliners, even if there have  
23 been cases of unconsciousness, there is full recovery and  
24 even in some cases after a prolonged period of unconsciousness

25 Q What would you refer to as a long period of

1 unconsciousness?

2 A In some cases actually a coma for hours with full  
3 recovery after that.

4 Q All right, sir.

5 Are you aware of any studies of treatises with  
6 respect to testing of both adults and to some extent young  
7 animals, particularly monkeys, which pertain to this factor  
8 of hypoxia and partial or unconsciousness?

9 A There is a great deal of research being done relating  
10 to hypoxia because it is so important to life to have oxygen  
11 and have it get to the cells. I mentioned earlier one of  
12 the persons I talked to was Donald E. Meyers. He had done  
13 a great deal of research on asphyxia and hypoxia. To dif-  
14 ferentiate the two, asphyxia --

15 MR. LEWIS: If he wants to cite any of the written  
16 works of Dr. Meyers, fine. But as to a conversation with  
17 Dr. Meyers, unless he is going to come here, I object because  
18 I can't cross-examine.

19 THE COURT: Sustained.

20 BY MR. DUBUC:

21 Q If you can restrict whatever you are referring to  
22 as to studies or documented reviews of studies that have been  
23 published either by Dr. Meyers or others, would you do it  
24 that way?

25 A Dr. Meyers, who is in Perenatal Physiology at the

1 National Institutes of Health has published regarding  
2 asphyxia and hypoxia and has shown -- with both fetal monkeys  
3 and other sheep -- other animals including sheep -- that  
4 prolonged periods of hypoxia with very much reduced amounts  
5 of oxygen in the blood stream, for example, 12 minutes with  
6 complete lack of oxygen to the brain -- Dr. Meyers has  
7 shown complete recovery with these fetal animals and with  
8 longer periods thereafter with hypoxia, that is partial  
9 limitation of the oxygen up to 25 minutes.

10 Q Thank you.

11 Does the human body have certain protective mechan-  
12 isms, built-in protective physiological mechanisms which  
13 respond to a situation of hypoxia?

14 A Without the built-in mechanisms, we would probably  
15 pass out at lower altitudes, but anyone exposed to hypoxia  
16 has certain things that happen immediately.

17 For example, the first breath that a person takes  
18 in a hypoxic situation, some of the blood going through the  
19 lungs doesn't get quite enough oxygen, and as soon as that  
20 blood travels to some little chemical receptors in the body,  
21 it does a number of things.

22 First of all, the body is told through the brain  
23 to breathe deeper and faster and just that alone markedly  
24 increases the amount of oxygen to the brain.

25 Besides breathing deeper and faster, automatically,

1 it is something we don't have to think about because the  
2 body takes care of that, other things take place here.

3 There is slightly increased blood pressure in the lungs and  
4 slightly increased blood pressure throughout the body and  
5 the heart beats faster to move the oxygen that is there  
6 around faster to keep the oxygen level up more so that we  
7 can handle the stress of hypoxia.

8 Those are some of the -- those are the basic ones.

9 Q In connection with the tests you have participated  
10 in, and I think you mentioned many, many, tell us again on  
11 chamber tests, how many of those you worked with on experimen-  
12 tation and also testing?

13 A I personally accompanied hundreds of pilots as they  
14 went into altitude chambers when I first initiated the course  
15 in my region as Region Flight Surgeon. Now it has gone  
16 nationwide. I still every year or every other year since --  
17 I guess it has been four or five times in eight years --  
18 take a group of Utah pilots to the chamber where in either  
19 Williams Air Force Base in Arizona or I take a group to  
20 Colorado and go into the chamber, the record made at the  
21 chamber by the FAA who did the very first test while I was  
22 there, they kept good records on 4,700 plus.

23 They have taken them to 25- and 29,000 feet plus  
24 where they remove the mask for a short period of time to  
25 experience hypoxia.

1 Q Do the age brackets of these people, were they  
2 the same, were they all military pilots in their mid-twenties  
3 or did their ages vary?

4 A This group goes from 16 to the 70s or 80s. One  
5 fellow not listed in the report is a fellow I accompanied  
6 in the altitude chamber in New Mexico who has seen two,  
7 but they go from 60 to 82.

8 Hitchcock's work which is also available, goes  
9 from the 15 to 60 range.

10 Q Are there any changes that take place physiological  
11 in the body as we grow older which have any effect or any  
12 relevance to the resistance to hypoxia?

13 A Both the hypoxia and decompression sickness, it  
14 is felt that there is a definite increased limitation as we  
15 get older.

16 For example, in decompression sickness, there is a  
17 ten-fold increase from about age 18 to 30 in the amount of  
18 problems people have. Just in that ten-year span, there is  
19 an increase in problems with the symptoms of decompression  
20 sickness, with hypoxia.

21 Unfortunately as we get older, we develop arterio-  
22 sclerosis which is somewhat of a block in some cases in  
23 getting the oxygen to the cells, particularly the cells of  
24 the heart, at least that is what we worry about most, and  
25 the brain, and our lungs may be less compliant. A person

1 who smokes is going to be, in my opinion, less capable of  
2 handling the stresses of latitude.

3 Q How about factors such as size or weight? Does  
4 that have any effect?

5 A Weight, per se, is a very heavy factor since the  
6 fatty tissues of the body dissolve more nitrogen than just  
7 the plain muscle tissues and over a large series of people,  
8 the individuals most likely to have problems are those that  
9 are obese.

10 Q With respect to the testing that you observed of  
11 the range of ages, could you give us some comparison as to,  
12 let us say, centering on such things as to weight and age,  
13 as to the ability, considering those two factors of a person  
14 to withstand or operate productively in connection with an  
15 hypoxic situation?

16 A With the flights I participated in or observed or  
17 organized, I didn't see that difference. It takes thousands  
18 of subjects to do a complete series.

19 Adler, for example, who reviewed thousands and  
20 thousands of cases, he and others have reported this increase  
21 by age.

22 Q Do you have an opinion as to whether or not children  
23 of a younger age would respond better or the same or worse  
24 to hypoxia than say an adult at age 30?

25 A It is my opinion that children will tolerate

1 hypoxia much better.

2 Q Are there any other factors you took into considera-  
3 tion, other than those we have already mentioned?

4 A Just the fact that we have what I would call a  
5 cleaner system, more compliant lungs and less obstacles to  
6 keep you from getting oxygen from the air to the cells of  
7 the body.

8 Q Okay.

9 In rendering your opinion, I asked you to consider  
10 certain G-forces and in rendering your opinion, I would like  
11 you to amplify that portion which would pertain to considering  
12 the G-forces described, the location of Michael Schneider  
13 and the other infants in the troop compartments and the  
14 rearward facing seats, as well as the distances that I de-  
15 scribed those components traveled; would you tell us the  
16 reasons for your opinion with respect to that aspect of the  
17 assumptions that I made?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 First of all, it was obviously low Gs because  
20 people were able to brace themselves in aisles and without  
21 restraint at all. It was a deceleration in the semi-liquid  
22 top water system in a rice paddy which is the ideal type of  
23 break used on many deceleration tests where actual research  
24 is done. And the fact that they were in rear-facing seats  
25 markedly enhances the likelihood of their survival and without

1 any particular problems at all.

2 For example, the ideal aircraft accident as taught  
3 by the "Aviation Crash Research Course" I attended some years  
4 ago, the ideal accident was one in which the wheels, the  
5 tail and the wings are all torn off, absorbing all that  
6 energy. There is a tremendous amount of energy at that much  
7 speed with anything with that weight. The ideal crash is  
8 one in which the forces are dissipated in pulling off the  
9 various parts of the airplane and leaving the occupants,  
10 in this case the troop compartment, untouched.

11 Q And in rendering that opinion, you took into con-  
12 sideration that the troop compartment traveled with some  
13 tracks, some indication of travel in the --

14 A A considerable distance. I think I mentioned that.

15 Q Okay.

16 MR. DUBUC: Just give me a moment, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 BY MR. DUBUC:

19 Q With respect to the rearward facing seats and  
20 what you have told us as to the literature that you have  
21 reviewed and also from your own experience in the testing  
22 that you told us about in Oklahoma City, would you explain  
23 a little bit more your opinion with respect to what and how  
24 the G-forces on the assumptions that I gave you would react  
25 on a seat with a child in a seat rearward facing?

1       A    I think it can best be described in one of the  
2 summation paragraphs in "Aerospace Medicine" by Col. John  
3 Paul Stapp who subjected himself to tremendous forces in a  
4 forward facing seat. He said the answer is a rearward facing  
5 seat properly anchored with a headrest above the head, with  
6 the back against the back of the seat for distribution of  
7 forces. I am paraphrasing slightly.

8               This is the dean of air crash specialist who  
9 summed up everybody's experience with the fact that a rear-  
10 ward facing seat is the answer because it distributes force.

11       Q    What do you mean when you say distributes force?

12       A    I mean, I compare that again to the shoulder harness  
13 or seatbelt. You have so much weight in your body that is  
14 going to be subject to 30 Gs that multiplies the weight by  
15 30 times. That distributes the weight just over the shoulder  
16 harness or the seatbelt, whereas if it is in the rearward  
17 facing seat, we have the entire surface of the neck, back  
18 and head to absorb that energy. It is just distributed  
19 over a large area. It is one of the basic principles of  
20 crash survival.

21       Q    It is distributed over an area.

22               You are talking about the area of the seat back  
23 itself?

24       A    Yes, sir. I am speaking of the body against the  
25 seat back.

1 Q Okay, I see.

2 MR. DUBUC: You may cross-examine.

3 THE COURT: Mr. Lewis.

4 CROSS-EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. LEWIS:

6 Q What is the effect of a pancake kind of situation  
7 where somebody sitting in a seat is banged hard that way  
8 (indicating)?

9 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

10 THE COURT: Overruled.

11 THE WITNESS: Would you care to state how hard  
12 "that way"?

13 BY MR. LEWIS:

14 Q Hard enough to break the airplane that they are  
15 in into about 10,000 small pieces and four big pieces.

16 THE COURT: There is an objection to that and it  
17 is sustained.

18 BY MR. LEWIS:

19 Q Are you familiar with the central nervous system  
20 of the human body?

21 A Well, I have studied it. When I speak of the  
22 central nervous system, I refer to the brain, the medulla and  
23 the spinal column if that is what you are referring to.

24 Q Do you know what the brain stem is?

25 A Yes, sir.

1 Q Have you ever seen a closed head injury with a  
2 very minor accident in the sense of a bang?

3 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

4 THE COURT: Overruled.

5 BY MR. LEWIS:

6 Q One can have a very serious brain injury without  
7 any damage to the exterior of the head at all? Is that true?

8 A Yes, sir, that is true.

9 As a matter of fact, there was a case in Utah  
10 some time ago of a person hitting her head on the back on  
11 a tree limb causing her death.

12 Q How many people were killed in this accident?

13 A Over a hundred.

14 Q Do you know how many?

15 A I can give you an exact figure if I can refer to  
16 my notes.

17 Q Right now I'm interested in your memory right now,  
18 then we will go to your notes.

19 A I believe it is 155.

20 Q Do you know where the persons were located that  
21 were killed?

22 A The majority of them were in the cargo area.

23 Q Do you know how many of them were in the troop  
24 compartment?

25 A There was one that I was aware of, one of the infan-

1 and at least one crew member and I think one adult woman.

2 Q Do you know whether there were two infants or not?

3 A I don't know for sure. I have heard of the one  
4 with the cord around the neck. I don't know the circumstances  
5 if there is another one.

6 Q In the hypothetical question that was asked, your  
7 opinion is based on the accuracy of the data given you?

8 A Well, I rendered an opinion on a large number of  
9 things. Could you elucidate on that please?

10 Q No. You gave an opinion on the ultimate question  
11 on whether the child was injured as a result of this accident.

12 Counsel went through a long list of things. He  
13 said assuming all of these things in my question to you,  
14 and your answer was based upon the accuracy of the assumptions  
15 you were asked to assume; isn't that true?

16 A Yes.

17 Q All right.

18 Now, were you aware that Lockheed had admitted that  
19 these babies had sustained an injury at the time of the  
20 explosive decompression?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q Let me read this to you, sir. Quote --

23 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

24 THE COURT: Sustained.

25 BY MR. LEWIS:

1 Q Would it make a difference in your opinion if you  
2 knew that Lockheed in an argument to this court involving  
3 a legal claim --

4 THE COURT: That is the same quotation.

5 MR. LEWIS: I wasn't going to quote it.

6 THE COURT: The objection was sustained not as to  
7 the form, but as to the substance.

8 MR. LEWIS: All right, sir.

9 THE COURT: So don't come at it some other way.

10 MR. LEWIS: All right, sir.

11 I want to abide by the Court's ruling.

12 THE COURT: Then do that.

13 MR. LEWIS: All right.

14 THE COURT: It shouldn't be hard. Just go to  
15 something else.

16 MR.. LEWIS: All right, sir.

17 BY MR. LEWIS:

18 Q Now, sir, how did you arrive at the G-forces in  
19 the crew compartment? Did you make any mechanical studies  
20 of it?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q Now I would like to show you some pictures and ask  
23 you some questions about the G-forces involved.

24 A Yes, sir.

25 MR. DUBUC: I have no objection to his showing the

1 pictures, Your Honor, but I think the witness testifying  
2 based on assumed G-forces --

3 THE COURT: If you don't have an objection, don't  
4 make an argument.

5 MR. DUBUC: My objection is based on the assumed  
6 G-forces.

7 THE COURT: If he asks a question like that, it is  
8 time enough to object.

9 MR. DUBUC: May we have the number of the exhibit?

10 MR. LEWIS: Your Honor, we are displaying --

11 THE COURT: Are you showing this to the witness or  
12 to the jury?

13 MR. LEWIS: So that we can all see it.

14 THE COURT: Show it to the witness.

15 BY MR. LEWIS:

16 Q Mr. Witness, this is Exhibit 2DD that has been  
17 admitted in evidence. That is part of the wreckage of the  
18 C-5-A.

19 From your experience in accident investigations,  
20 sir, can you tell me whether or not substantial physical  
21 forces would be required to tear that part of the airplane  
22 off of the parts to which it was originally attached?

23 A Yes, sir, it would.

24 Q Really enormous forces, wouldn't it?

25 A Yes, sir.

1 MR. LEWIS: May I place this on the easel?

2 THE COURT: Show it to the witness.

3 BY MR. LEWIS:

4 Q Sir, this is Exhibit 27. This shows the C-5-A  
5 striking the ground the second time. This portion here  
6 (indicating) is the troop compartment and I ask you to  
7 assume, sir, that at the time of impact the impact had a  
8 kinetic energy force in excess of 1,000,500,000 (sic) foot  
9 pounds, and that the airplane disintegrated at the time of  
10 the second impact; and that the parts flew in different  
11 directions.

12 You are familiar with the distribution pattern?

13 A Yes.

14 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

15 THE COURT: Overruled.

16 BY MR. LEWIS:

17 Q And this troop compartment flew through the air  
18 for a distance of some roughly 400 yards and then struck  
19 again the ground coming down again and then sliding the  
20 distance farther than roughly 150 yards; would it be your  
21 testimony, sir, that the persons inside that troop compart-  
22 ment would not be subjected to a number of vertical Gs coming  
23 down like that (indicating)?

24 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

25 THE COURT: Overruled.

1                   THE WITNESS: It depends, from the material you  
2                   gave me, over what period of time it came to rest in the  
3                   rice paddies, in water, in mud, whatever, would determine  
4                   the extent of those forces.

5                   BY MR. LEWIS:

6                   Q       Part of it would be the height, wouldn't it?

7                   A       Yes, sir.

8                   Q       How high is it ordinarily off the ground?

9                   A       I believe two stories off the ground.

10                  Q       The bottom of it or the top of it?

11                  A       I'm not sure.

12                  Q       You don't know whether the bottom of it or the  
13                  top of it was two stories off the ground?

14                  A       I'm not even sure how far two stories is in feet,  
15                  so I'm not sure.

16                  Q       Then you don't know how far the drop was that the  
17                  troop compartment had to fall in order to strike the ground  
18                  to end up in its final condition, do you, sir?

19                  A       No, sir. All I know was the witnesses' statements  
20                  of being joggled around a bit, something similar to that.

21                  Q       Well, would it make any difference to you if you  
22                  learned that the troop compartment went through a series of  
23                  crashes: Bang! Crash-Crash-Crash-Crash like that (indicating  
24                  in a jerky motion before it came to rest? Would that make any  
25                  difference?

1 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

2 THE COURT: Overruled.

3 BY MR. LEWIS:

4 Q Would that make any difference?

5 A Sir, I would place a great deal of credence on  
6 what the people going through the Gs experienced especially  
7 those were not strapped down and were able to brace themselves  
8 through whatever occurred just by holding on.

9 Q What if a competent witness that was in the troop  
10 compartment said that's what happened? Wouldn't that  
11 indicate a series of jerks as opposed to a smooth decelera-  
12 tion?

13 A Yes, sir, it would. As a matter of fact, we dis-  
14 cussed this in my deposition. I mentioned that I doubled  
15 my estimated Gs to being three or four above the person just  
16 being able to hold on because you are going to have some  
17 jolts in any deceleration. It is not specifically set up  
18 on scientific equipment.

19 Q How many Gs would you say they were subjected to?

20 A As I mentioned in my deposition, I estimated it  
21 to be three or four, doubling what it appeared to be, but  
22 I did not estimate the Gs except the people were able to  
23 restrain themselves by holding on.

24 Q What if people were not able to restrain themselves  
25 when trapped between two seats and were thrown either over the

1 seat or around the seat and slammed up against the bulkhead  
2 ending up, upside down, fracturing a collar bone?

3           Would that be important to you or did you take that  
4 into consideration in trying to decide whether people were  
5 able to successfully hold on?

6           A    In explaining G-forces, if a person decelerates  
7 with the aircraft over the entire period of time, that is  
8 one thing, but if a person is loose and then decelerates over  
9 a short period of time after the aircraft comes to a stop,  
10 that markedly increases the Gs.

11           So if the person did not decelerate with the air-  
12 craft by holding on or being strapped to a seat, they could  
13 be subject to higher G-forces.

14           Q    What would the G-forces be under those circumstances?

15           A    It depends entirely over what distance they did  
16 come to a halt.

17           Q    Is there any way you can figure that?

18           A    No, sir.

19           Q    What if that person was braced between two seats,  
20 a female, an experienced air traveler, a nurse, braced  
21 between two seats and the movements of the vehicle were such  
22 that she was flung from between the seats either over the  
23 top or around the side from her secure position and up  
24 against the bulkhead upside down, fracturing her collar  
25 bone? That would be a lot more than three or four Gs,

1        wouldn't it?

2        A        Possibly it would. If it broke a bone, I would  
3        expect it to be more than that when she hit and came to a  
4        stop over a short period.

5        Q        How many Gs would it take to fracture the lung  
6        bone in a baby seated in a seat of a C-5-A under those cir-  
7        cumstances?

8                    MR. DUBUC: Objection.

9                    THE COURT: Overruled.

10                  THE WITNESS: I don't know. There have been --

11                  THE COURT: You have answered it.

12                  BY MR. LEWIS:

13        Q        Can you tell me how many Gs it would take to  
14        fracture a socket in a one-year old child seated in a seat,  
15        remaining in that seat in that fashion?

16                  THE COURT: Fracture what?

17                  MR. LEWIS: The socket, the hip joint.

18                  THE WITNESS: I thought you were going to say the  
19        socket of the eye because there has been some work on the  
20        head --

21                  THE COURT: Just answer the question.

22                  THE WITNESS: No, sir, I don't know.

23                  BY MR. LEWIS:

24        Q        That would indicate substantial G-forces if such  
25        fractures existed under such circumstances?

1 appears it will be three days plus the portion of another  
2 day at least.

3 Q Can you tell me how many hours so far?

4 A Today? This trip? Which, sir?

5 Q This trip, sir.

6 A Again, three and one-half days approximately.

7 Q And the 28 percent comes to how many dollars?

8 A For this year?

9 Q Yes.

10 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

11 THE COURT: Overruled.

12 THE WITNESS: I worked this out before I left home.  
13 I think it came out to \$6,000 or \$7,000. I don't remember  
14 the exact figure.

15 BY MR. LEWIS:

16 Q Now, am I correct, sir, that the problem of decom-  
17 pression is the difference in pressure?

18 In other words, the difference in pressure before  
19 the explosive decompression and after the explosive decom-  
20 pression?

21 A Yes, sir; that is correct.

22 Q And over four to five pounds per square inch  
23 difference is potentially very serious, isn't it?

24 A Not necessarily.

25 Q It is potentially very serious, isn't it, Doctor?

1 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

2 THE COURT: Overruled.

3 THE WITNESS: I said not necessarily.

4 BY MR. LEWIS:

5 Q Can it be dangerous?

6 A It can be; yes, sir.

7 Q And speed of the change is important, isn't it?

8 A Not very because it has been reported in a number  
9 of studies that although in some situations it appears the  
10 rate of descent is a factor, it is not always consistently  
11 worse with the studies performed at a faster rate of decom-  
12 pression according to Randel's "Textbook of Aerospace Medicine".

13 Q When I say speed, you could get a more serious  
14 injury at a lower altitude if it was a so-called explosive  
15 or a very quick, instantaneous decompression than you might  
16 at a higher altitude where it was a very leisurely change  
17 in altitude; isn't that true?

18 A Would you explain that again? I am not sure I  
19 followed your question.

20 Q Yes.

21 I am trying to say that if the so-called explosive  
22 or rapid decompression gets much of its potential problem  
23 from the difference in air pressure plus the quickness or  
24 speed of the change from one air pressure to the other air  
25 pressure, isn't that generally speaking the case?

1       A    That is the case if it exceeds a certain limit.

2       All that has been listed is two-tenths of a second for humans  
3       over a certain range. I mentioned Sweeney's work of decom-  
4       pressions from eight to thirty-five thousand feet in nine  
5       one-hundredths of a second or three times as fast without  
6       any problems at all, so it can be a factor, but it is not  
7       always a factor.

8       Q    Let me ask you if you would agree with this.

9            MR. DUBUC: Your Honor, if he is referring to some-  
10       thing, could he refer us to it?

11       MR. LEWIS: Yes, I am speaking of the accident  
12       report that we received from Lockheed of the decompression of  
13       C-141A, 16 January, 1967, which we were furnished by Lockheed.

14       I don't know that it has a number.

15       MR. DUBUC: Is there an exhibit number?

16       MR. LEWIS: Not that I know of.

17       THE COURT: Do you know what he is talking about?

18       MR. DUBUC: No.

19       THE COURT: Why don't you come up and look at it?

20       MR. LEWIS: I will show it to him. It was attached  
21       to their Answers to certain Interrogatories that we prepared.

22       THE COURT: Give him a moment to look at it.

23       MR. DUBUC: I have it, Your Honor.

24       THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Lewis.

25            BY MR. LEWIS:

1 Q Under the circumstances, sir, when the pressure  
2 differential across the lung walls exceeds four to five  
3 pounds per square inch, air sacs tend to rupture in the lungs  
4 is that your understanding?

5 A They tend to if the trachea or the airway is blocked  
6 only; other than that, the air escapes quite easily.

7 Q Then let me read you this whole sentence.

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q "One would be most concerned with the effects upon  
10 pulmonary air sacs since under even ideal conditions the  
11 air sacs tend to rupture when a pressure differential across  
12 the lung wall exceeds four to five pounds per square inch --

13 It says psi and I am reading it.

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q -- as apparently occurred in this incident."

16 I appreciate you can get different pressures. I  
17 am just trying to find the low range. And do you agree that  
18 if you are over four to five pounds per square inch, the  
19 air sacs tend to rupture in lungs?

20 MR. DUBUC: Note my objection. Counsel should at  
21 least indicate to the witness by giving him a copy or telling  
22 him the altitude involved in this.

23 THE COURT: Objection sustained as to that.

24 Give him the further dimensions.

1 MR. LEWIS: Yes, sir.

2 BY MR. LEWIS:

3 Q The altitude is thirty-four six.

4 THE COURT: 34,600?

5 MR. LEWIS: 34,606, yes.

6 BY MR. LEWIS:

7 Q I am talking about a pressure differential value.

8 A This is decompression value you are talking about?

9 Q Yes.

10 A What altitude did it start at?

11 Q 34,606.

12 A No, that would be the end altitude, sir.

13 What did it start at? What was the cabin altitude  
14 prior to the depressurization?

15 Q My question, Doctor, is involving in this instance  
16 an expression of an opinion by somebody that is writing on  
17 the subject as part of a report, and I'm trying to find out  
18 whether you agree that even under ideal conditions, air sacs  
19 in the lungs tend to rupture when the pressure differential  
20 across the lung wall exceeds 4 to 5 pounds psi --

21 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

22 THE COURT: The objection suggests rather reason-  
23 ably that it makes a difference, it makes the differential  
24 as a part of the effect, as a part of the function of the  
25 altitude at which the differential is experienced. The

1 question so states.

2 MR. LEWIS: It doesn't.

3 THE COURT: In this case it does at this moment.

4 So state it, if you will.

5 MR. DUBUC: I wonder if Mr. Lewis is going to ask  
6 the witness questions about the report that he feels make  
7 some difference, then perhaps Mr. Lewis will make a copy of  
8 it available to the witness or we will.

9 THE COURT: Do you have any objection to his seeing  
10 the copy?

11 MR. LEWIS: No. I am interested in the principle  
12 as opposed to the situation of this particular accident.  
13 I am interested in the dimensions of that principle.

14 THE COURT: All right.

1 BY MR. LEWIS:

2 Q Let me call your attention to the bottom of the  
3 first page.

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Let us start at the top. This is 2A, J. C. Gilly,  
6 isn't it?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q And it is a Lockheed document, isn't it?

9 A I don't see Lockheed on here, but I will take your  
10 word for it.

11 Q Well, would you look at the last page?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Who signed the document?

14 A It looks like C. L. Barrett, M.D.

15 Q What does it say under that?

16 A Medical Director.

17 MR. LEWIS: May I ask the Court to take judicial  
18 notice that he is Medical Director of Lockheed?

19 THE COURT: I don't know that judicially. It might  
20 be stipulated, certainly.

21 BY MR. LEWIS:

22 Q Assume, if you will--

23 MR. LEWIS: Would you stipulate that?

24 MR. DUBUC: Dr. Barrett is not presently Medical  
25 Director. He was at one time.

1 BY MR. LEWIS:

2 Q I want you to assume, sir, that at the time this  
3 report was written--would you do that for purposes of our  
4 question?

5 A Of course.

6 Q Would you assume that Dr. Barrett was Medical  
7 Director of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, or whatever  
8 its precise name is, the defendant in this case?

9 A Yes.

10 Q I want to call your attention to the last sentence  
11 on the first page.

12 Do you see where it says, "One would be most con-  
13 cerned with the effects upon the pulmonary air sac since under  
14 even ideal conditions, the air sacs tend to rupture when the  
15 pressure differential across the lung wall exceeds 4 to 5  
16 psi."

17 And "psi" stands for pounds per square inch?

18 A Yes.

19 Q As a principal of aerospace medicine, do you agree  
20 with that statement or not?

21 A I agree with it, with the trachea closed, and I  
22 explained that. Dr. Barrett has discussed this case before  
23 because as a matter of fact, of all the persons in the air-  
24 plane, one person did have injury and he is referring to  
25 closed trachea.

For example, Lockheed decompressed 800 people from 35,000 feet, 7 psi change, with no problems. It requires a closed trachea for the damage to occur that you are referring to.

Q Is there any finding in here that this man had a closed trachea? It may be here. I just don't notice it.

A I don't see any reference to it, but that is what he is referring to. .

Q      What I am just interested in--and it may not be true--is if as a general principle of aerospace medicine, air sacs tend to rupture at pressures like that?

MR. DUBUC: Objection.

THE COURT: Overruled.

THE WITNESS: I would like to explain that, as a principle, in aerospace medicine, I would like to go back to Gillies, not the one to whom this was written, who pointed out that as of 1965, with the fantastic number of experiences that were obtained until that time, that not one single air crash accident with much greater decompressions have resulted in lung injuries. This may have been the first in the history of the world. There is one case of the entire crew.

I am saying again that Lockheed themselves have on record over 800 decompressions made from 35,000 feet, approximately a 7 psi difference with no lung rupture. The lung can rupture if you have got the closed trachea. If you

1 have the closed trachea, the air cannot get out and the air  
2 sacs could rupture at 4 to 5 psi. I agree with that.

3 Q In this particular accident, the pressure was  
4 greater than 4 or 5 pounds per square inch, wasn't it?

5 A I assume so.

6 Q I am talking about the one we are litigating today.

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q What about the pressure in this accident?

9 A I believe it was about 7 psi.

10 Q Let us take that.

11 What in your opinion would be the result if a baby  
12 was lying or sitting and being fed a bottle when the explo-  
13 sive decompression occurred? What would happen to the air  
14 sacs in his lungs?

15 A If they were swallowing at the very instant of the  
16 portion of the second that the decompression occurred, they  
17 could experience lung damage.

18 Q They would, wouldn't they, if the trachea was  
19 closed?

20 A Not "would", they could. I base this on the fact  
21 that so many accidents have occurred without any lung damage.

22 Q Do you know if a situation where babies were  
23 exposed to explosive decompression at 7 psi when they were  
24 drinking from their bottles, any of them?

25 A I don't know if they were drinking from bottles or

1 not, but there is the DC-10 accident of 1973, with a large  
2 number of people aboard, and at least three children aboard,  
3 but I don't know if they were drinking from a bottle or not.

4 Q Do you know if there were any babies two or three  
5 years of age on that airplane?

6 A I don't know their exact age.

7 Q Are you telling us that there were babies on the  
8 airplane?

9 A I said I don't know. I know there were children.  
10 I don't know their ages.

11 Q You don't know if there were babies on bottles or  
12 not; is that right?

13 A That is true. I do not know.

14 Q Is it fair to say, doctor, that you really don't  
15 know of your knowledge the "G" forces that the various people  
16 were subjected to in this accident by way of any mathematical  
17 computation?

18 A Only those that were presented in the hypothetical,  
19 and I did not do those computations.

20 Q Doctor, your official duties are in the ordinary  
21 sense far removed from aerospace medicine, aren't they?

22 A Not necessarily, sir.

23 Q Do you deal with decompression on a daily basis?

24 A Not on a daily basis; no, sir.

25 Q Do you deal with decompression on a regular basis?

1 A As a Director of Health and as Chairman of the  
2 Transportation Committee of the Emergency Medical Services,  
3 I have some responsibility to review our pressurized air  
4 ambulance operation where decompression can and has occurred,  
5 carrying infants therein, but in isolettes and the heli-  
6 copter area in these operations which I am supposed to assure  
7 the state are properly operated.

8 Q How much of your time is spent on that?

9 A That, per se, I have never figured out. But it is  
10 not a great deal on that alone.

11 Q Much of your time is spent on regular health  
12 department duties?

13 A The majority; of course.

14 Q You see to the inspection of restaurants?

15 A I don't inspect them. I see that it gets done.

16 Q I am not saying that it is not important. You see  
17 that it gets done?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And you sit on the Trash Dump Board?

20 A Which board?

21 Q Trash Dump Board?

22 A We don't like to call it that.

23 Q I understand.

24 A I sit on the Solid Landfill Waste Council.

25 Q I understand.

1           That meets frequently, doesn't it?

2           A    Once a month.

3           Q    You are responsible for that? That is important?

4           A    There are five of us that are responsible. I sit  
5       on the board. Unfortunately, I missed the last two meetings.  
6       I am going to do better next month.

7           Q    Most of your duties are along this line.

8                    You supervise the WIC program?

9           A    Yes; I supervise the WIC program.

10           Q    As a matter of fact, you were sued by Utahans  
11       Against Hunger for the administration of that program?

12           A    Yes, sir.

13           Q    In that situation, doctor, to be precise, the suit  
14       was brought because you required people to call in for an  
15       appointment rather than to follow the Federal regulations,  
16       didn't you?

17                    MR. DUBUC: Objection.

18                    THE COURT: Objection sustained.

19           MR. LEWIS: I wish to impeach the witness on the  
20       basis of a--

21           THE COURT: You better not do that until you are  
22       sure you can, and then you better come up here.

23                    [Whereupon, the following took place at the bench  
24       outside of the hearing of the jury:]

25           MR. LEWIS: I have a deposition here.

1 MR. DUBUC: He is entitled to impeach the credi-  
2 bility of the witness, but this is a civil suit.

3 THE COURT: What is your proffer?

4 MR. LEWIS: I proffer that the witness was the  
5 administrator in charge of a program called the WIC program,  
6 which is a Federal program for the providing of especially  
7 nutritious foods for pregnant women and their young infants.

8 In the deposition, I asked him details about this.  
9 He said he was sued because women did not wish to make an  
10 appointment to come in to apply for this program; they wished  
11 to be able to come in, walk in off the street, and make an  
12 application.

13 I asked him, and I have the complaint and the con-  
14 sent order, all the details, judge, and he made a misstate-  
15 ment of truth; I am sure he didn't mean to lie, but he did  
16 say--I asked him as talking about how the case was resolved;  
17 in other words, did it come out in his favor or not.

18 I asked him, Did you agree that they could walk in  
19 off the street, or did your telephone program prevail?

20 He replied, "No. As a matter of fact, what actuall  
21 occurred was that the Federal regulations, a change in  
22 Federal regulations required that they be able to walk in  
23 and make appointments on the telephone also."

24 The fact is that the Federal regulations that he  
25 cites did not occur after the imposition of this law suit,

1 but were in fact in force 11 months prior thereto..

2 THE COURT: As a matter of fact, I had the case.

3 MR. LEWIS: They had to be enjoined before they did  
4 it.

5 THE COURT: The case came from Utah. I don't think  
6 this has anything to do with his credibility.

7 The objection is sustained.

8 Let us go on.

9 MR. LEWIS: Shall I finish my proffer?

10 THE COURT: I don't think it is competent. Impeach-  
11 ment is much more prejudicial than it is probative of his  
12 integrity.

13 MR. DUBUC: Mr. Jones.

14 MR. JONES: Your Honor, we went through approximate-  
15 ly two and one-half hours of such questions as, do you run  
16 the garbage dump; and I would like to see if there is a  
17 proffer of any more of this collateral question.

18 THE COURT: It is more inflammatory than probative.

19 Objection sustained.

20 MR. LEWIS: I have a consent order.

21 THE COURT: I understand. It is just too far out.

22 [Whereupon, the following took place in open court:]

23 BY MR. LEWIS:

24 Q Doctor, would it make a difference in an airplane  
25 accident if children were fastened in their seats in such a

1 way that with the bouncing and thrusting of the airplane as  
2 it bounced and lurched across the ground that they could bang  
3 their heads together; could that be a mechanism of the  
4 accident?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Would you tell us what coup contracoup means?

7 A It is a little difficult to explain, but coup and  
8 contracoup, that is injury occurring other than where the  
9 impact occurs. And as I understand coup contracoup, coup  
10 contracoup--

11 Q Coup?

12 A As I understand coup contracoup, trauma can be  
13 placed at one point and reflect off the surface and occur at  
14 another place. It is almost a double reflection of forces.

15 Q Doesn't that mean that a shock wave actually passes  
16 through the brain and enters the head on the other side?

17 A If there is injury, contracoup injury, contracoup  
18 is the other side; yes, sir.

19 Q So that is an injury in which you get hit on one  
20 side of the head and the forces travel actually through the  
21 soft tissues and create an injury either inside or on the  
22 other side of the head?

23 A That is a good description.

24 Q So you can get a coup contracoup injury with no mark  
25 on the head at all, can't you?

1 A I assume so.

2 Q Now, coup contracoup injuries can occur with--let  
3 me back up.

4 The brain being part of the body would continue to  
5 move in an airplane until it finally comes to rest against  
6 something; is that true?

7 A It has slight movement within the cranial vault; ye.  
8 sir.

9 Q So even if the head was stationary and pressed  
10 against something, then if the brain in the head were moving  
11 at 310 miles an hour and that backrest suddenly stopped it,  
12 the brain would continue to move until it banged against the  
13 head, wouldn't it?

14 A Not quite. It is surrounded in fluid to give some  
15 protection.

16 Q But the brain continues to move at the speed of  
17 the airplane, which would be 310 miles an hour, until it  
18 stops by hitting against something; isn't that true?

19 MR. DUBUC: Note my objection.

20 THE COURT: That is overruled.

21 THE WITNESS: I would assume being encased in the  
22 fluid, it would come to a stop with the skull, with the rest  
23 of the body.

24 BY MR. LEWIS:

25 Q And it could be injured by striking against the

1 skull under those circumstances, couldn't it?

2 A I don't think so, not that sufficient force to  
3 injure, more to just provide movement.

4 Q You say 310 miles an hour wouldn't be enough?

5 A I didn't say that. I am saying that you are giving  
6 the brain too much movement. You are removing the protective  
7 covering of the fluid when you describe that.

8 Q You are familiar with the organization of the tissue  
9 in the baby's brain of a year-old child?

10 A Could you explain that?

11 MR. DUBUC: A year old?

12 THE COURT: That is a misstatement of the premise.

13 MR. LEWIS: We have evidence that the child was  
14 different ages. I have to start some place.

15 THE COURT: Start some place that is more nearly  
16 where it is.

17 BY MR. LEWIS:

18 Q Are you familiar with the organization of the brain  
19 in a child that is 12--excuse me--that is 18 months old?

20 A Can you explain "organization" just a little bit?

21 Q Yes.

22 How is it put together and how it differs from an  
23 adult's brain.

24 A I am not aware of differences except in size.

25 Q Is it your testimony that tissues of the brain are

1 the same texture and consistency in a child of 18 months of  
2 age as in an adult?

3 A I would assume the tissues would be very much the  
4 same. Except for the vascular system, I would expect the  
5 adult to have a little bit of arteriosclerosis in the vascular  
6 system.

7 Q Let us talk about the tie-downs.

8 Is there any difference in the structures that tie  
9 down the baby's brain at 18 months of age than in a mature  
10 person?

11 A I know of none.

12 Q Are you saying there aren't any or you just don't  
13 know of any?

14 A I don't know of any.

15 Q You would admit the possibility, though?

16 A I would rather not.

17 Q You don't know.

18 All right.

19 Now, the aircraft had certain seats that you  
20 mentioned that were pointing backwards. They were stressed  
21 for 20 "G's", weren't they?

22 A I assume that; but I don't know that to be a fact.

23 Q You testified to that on your deposition?

24 A I told you I thought they were because that was  
25 a military requirement; but I don't know for sure.

1 Q Your impression is that military requirements pro-  
2 vide that seats are supposed to be able to stand 20 "G's"  
3 before they break?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q All right.

6 And a child's head that was against the seat in a  
7 deceleration situation such as we are talking about here,  
8 there would be shock waves passing through the baby's brain  
9 in that deceleration; is that correct?

10 A I don't know that.

11 MR. LEWIS: May I have the deposition?

12 [Document handed to counsel.]

13 MR. LEWIS: Do you have an extra copy for him?

14 MR. DUBUC: I have only got one copy.

15 THE COURT: Why don't you stand up there and share  
16 it with him?

17 MR. DUBUC: Very well.

18 THE COURT: Do you have any markings in the margins?

19 MR. DUBUC: No.

20 MR. LEWIS: I don't.

21 THE COURT: Share your copy, Mr. Dubuc.

22 MR. DUBUC: What page?

23 MR. LEWIS: Starting on 220, and I am going to read  
24 several.

25 BY MR. LEWIS:

1           "Question: Now their brains, their little, tiny  
2           brains and their little heads would also bang against the  
3           sides of the skull where they had a skull, applying that  
4           same principle, wouldn't it?

5           "Answer: I am not sure under what circumstances  
6           you mean."

7           MR. DUBUC: Would you give us a line?

8           MR. LEWIS: I am sorry; I am now at line 13.

9           THE COURT: Page 220?

10          MR. LEWIS: 260.

11          THE COURT: You said 220.

12          MR. LEWIS: 260. I apologize.

13          MR. DUBUC: 260?

14          THE COURT: Yes.

15          MR. DUBUC: Two-six-zero?

16          THE COURT: Yes.

1 MR. LEWIS: And 261.

2 BY MR. LEWIS:

3 Q "Answer: I am not sure under what circumstances  
4 you mean, moving forward if they actually moved?

5 "Question: No. Let's suppose the head was still,  
6 let's suppose the head was against the back of the seat.  
7 What happens to the head when the airplane stops? Does it  
8 bang against the skull?

9 "Answer: It has its attachment through the spinal  
10 cord and so forth. I do not think it would move much, but  
11 there would be pressure on it.

12 "Question: Shock waves pass through it?

13 "Answer: Yes, sir."

14 Then you go on.

15 "And the effect would be that the brain would move  
16 at whatever speed it was that it was traveling through the air  
17 until it hit something that wouldn't allow it to move any  
18 further; isn't that true?"

19 And you said, "No, sir, I don't believe the brain  
20 would move at the same speed as the body."

21 That accurately states what you said, doesn't it?

22 A You said I went on with that. That was your  
23 question. I missed that when I went through the deposition  
24 because I meant to say it would move at the same speed as  
25 the body as I just said now.

1 Q You agree now that the brain moved until it hit  
2 something, it moved along with the body at the same speed?

3 A It moves with it and then it has the protective  
4 fluid around it to restrain it and give some protection.

5 Q How much protective fluid is there in a baby's  
6 brain 18 months of age?

7 A I don't know the exact amount. I don't even know  
8 the approximate amount.

9 Q Are you suggesting that there is enough to protect  
10 it under a situation where the airplane is traveling at  
11 300 miles an hour and flows abruptly?

12 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

13 THE COURT: Sustained.

14 "Abruptly" is not a word anybody can deal with.

15 BY MR. LEWIS:

16 Q Are you suggesting, sir, that this protective  
17 fluid provides substantial protection in an airplane accident  
18 of this sort?

19 A Yes, sir, with these decelerating forces over long  
20 distances, without question in my mind.

21 Q All right.

22 Are you knowledgeable in the difference between  
23 the eustachian tubes of children 18 months of age and younger  
24 and adults?

25 A Just what I have read and rewritten, that they are

1 shorter and more horizontal.

2 Q And you are not an expert in injuries to the brain;  
3 is that correct?

4 A That is right.

5 I am not a neurosurgeon, nor have I had research  
6 in injury to the brain per se.

7 Q Are you a neurologist?

8 A No, sir, I am not at all.

9 Q What is the fontanel?

10 A The fontanel is the space created by the lack of  
11 closure of the sutures or the seams in the head of a child.

12 Q Can you tell me what ages the fontanel -- how many  
13 fontanelles are there?

14 A There are two on top.

15 Q At what age do they commonly close? If there is  
16 a range, give me the range.

17 A I am not sure, between 1, 1 1/2 and two years. I  
18 am not sure.

19 Q At 18 months of age, would you expect a fontanel  
20 to be opened or closed?

21 A I am not sure at what age they close.

22 Q The little soft spot on the head if it is in fact  
23 open is what we are talking about as the fontanel?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q That makes the baby's brain more vulnerable to

1 damage?

2 A In a sense, but it also permits some expansion and  
3 some absorption. For a baby being born, it is a tremendous  
4 trauma to the head and yet it can handle those pressures.

5 Q How about blows like an airplane accident? Can  
6 you tell me whether that does not make a baby with an open  
7 fontanel more vulnerable to --

8 A It could be -- permit more absorption of energy.

9 Q You don't think that having an open fontanel doesn't  
10 make the baby more vulnerable to damage? Is that what you  
11 are saying?

12 A That is what I am saying.

13 Q Can it make it more vulnerable?

14 A A blow directly over that, if it were angular,  
15 would be more likely to damage brain tissue because there  
16 would be no skull there, but I am talking about a sharp object  
17 penetrating.

18 Q Only in the event of a sharp object would it make  
19 a baby's head more vulnerable?

20 A I didn't say "only." That is one instance where  
21 it could be more vulnerable.

22 Q Can it be more vulnerable under other circumstances  
23 other than sharp objects?

24 A I can't think of any. I don't know.

25 Q But as a general principle, you don't think that

1 that makes a great deal of difference?

2 A I said I think it can permit more energy absorption

3 MR. LEWIS: Indulge me just one moment, sir.

4 THE COURT: Surely.

5 BY MR. LEWIS:

6 Q Did you consider whether there were any burned  
7 babies in among the passengers in the troop compartment?

8 A What do you mean did I consider? I did not read  
9 of any burns in the troop compartment.

10 Q All right.

11 If you had had an accurate, confirmed description  
12 of floppiness or hypotonia following the explosive decom-  
13 pression, would that have any medical significance?

14 MR. DUBUC: Objection.

15 THE COURT: Overruled.

16 THE WITNESS: You are speaking I assume of a child?

17 MR. LEWIS: Yes, a baby.

18 THE WITNESS: A floppy child is usually considered  
19 to be one that is ill.

20 BY MR. LEWIS:

21 Q Wouldn't be one of the signs of hypoxia?

22 A It could be severe hypoxia; could be.

23 Q Thank you.

24 MR. LEWIS: That is all.

25 THE COURT: Any redirect?

1 MR. DUBUC: No.

2 THE COURT: You may be excused.

3 MR. LEWIS: Your Honor, will you indulge me for a  
4 minute?

5 THE COURT: Surely. Keep your seat.

6 MR. LEWIS: There was an item I meant to ask about  
7 and in my multitude of papers, I didn't see it.

8 THE COURT: Proceed.

9 BY MR. LEWIS:

10 Q You did consider Hugh W. Randel and his book on  
11 "Aerospace Medicine" as an authority in the field?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q I want to read you a part from page 68 under the  
14 heading of "Aerospace Medicine" and the chapter is called  
15 "Performance at Altitude."

16 MR. DUBUC: Will you indulge me a second, Your  
17 Honor?

18 THE COURT: Certainly.

19 MR. DUBUC: I have page 68.

20 Shall I share it with the witness?

21 THE WITNESS: Where did I get this (indicating)?  
22 Do I return it to someone?

23 BY MR. LEWIS:

24 Q Down in the middle of the second paragraph starting  
25 "In the distress phase which extends from -- " and I'm going

1 to give it in feet instead of meters if that is acceptable  
2 to everyone.

3 I will begin again.

4 "In the distress phase which extends from 14,764  
5 feet to 21,982 feet, compensatory mechanisms become progres-  
6 sively more inadequate. Deterioration in physical and  
7 mental performance is apparent and function reserves approach  
8 depletion. A critical phase extends from 21,982 feet to  
9 24,934 feet wherein compensatory mechanisms are enabled to  
10 maintain adequate oxygenation. Medical and physical incapacit  
11 leads to loss of comprehension, muscular weakness, uncon-  
12 sciousness, convulsions, cardiorespiratory failure and death."

13 You followed what I said?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q I appreciate that there is a great deal more in  
16 the book, but that does adequately describe the part that  
17 I read?

18 A I think it requires some explanation of the times  
19 involved, if I may.

20 Q All right, please.

21 A For example, on pages both fore and aft of page 65  
22 showing changes in arterio saturation at 29,000 feet where  
23 it takes a full minute for the saturation to drop down to a  
24 significant level of only 70 percent hemoglobin saturation --  
25 this is the same book I have been quoting which has at about

1 23,000 feet at the time of consciousness between 1, 2 and 3  
2 minutes.

3 Q How many minutes did you determine these children  
4 were above 10,000 feet from your examination of these records?

5 A I don't like to talk in terms of 10,000 feet  
6 because it is 14,000 feet where the oxygen masks drop in  
7 airliners and I will have to refer to my notes as to those  
8 times.

9 Q Please.

10 MR. DUBUC: Are you through with Randel?

11 MR. LEWIS: Yes, thank you.

12 THE WITNESS: Based on the MADAR report, they were  
13 down to 21,800 feet in approximately one minute and five  
14 seconds; in a minute and a half, 21,200.

15 Two minutes; 19,500. And at four minutes; 16,500.  
16 And below 14,000, in about four minutes and forty-six  
17 seconds -- four minutes, fifty-two seconds, I am sorry.

18 BY MR. LEWIS:

19 Q Can you read a MADAR tape?

20 A I read the print-outs since I found some errors  
21 listing those altitudes.

22 Q I understand. My information was data given to  
23 me by the Air Force.

24 A They goofed.

25 Q I know.

1 THE COURT: Let us discontinue this colloquy.

2 Do you have a question?

3 MR. LEWIS: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: Ask it.

5 BY MR. LEWIS:

6 Q Can you read the MADAR tape?

7 A I can read the print-out. I have never seen the  
8 actual tape per se, sir.

9 MR. LEWIS: May I show this to him?

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 BY MR. LEWIS:

12 Q This is D-43. If you look in the back you will  
13 find the MADAR tape.

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q It may not be within your area of expertise. Do  
16 you know how to read that?

17 THE COURT: You have asked him that three times  
18 now.

19 THE WITNESS: I have read this and I think I can  
20 find altitudes on it if that is your question.

21 BY MR. LEWIS:

22 Q That is exactly the question.

23 A Okay.

24 Q At what point did the airplane first go below  
25 10,000 feet?

1       A    I will refer to my notes and then find that on the  
2       MADAR if that is okay.

3       Q    Please.

4       A    The first time below 10,000; in seven minutes  
5       35 seconds. It was at 10,092 and shortly thereafter it went  
6       below 10,000.

7       Q    Did it rise again above 10,000 at a later period?

8       A    It went up to 10,869 -- five twenty-one five six.

9       Q    When was the last time it went back down below  
10      10,000 feet?

11      A    At five twenty-two nineteen which is nine minutes  
12      one second, it was at 9,800 feet.

13      Q    Five minutes?

14      A    No, nine minutes and one second.

15      Q    It finally went below 10,000 feet for the last  
16      time on its way down; is that correct?

17      A    Yes.

18      Q    Under Air Force regulations when you put your  
19      mask on, how long are you supposed to keep it on? At what  
20      altitude are you free to take it off?

21            MR. DUBUC: Objection.

22            THE COURT: Objection sustained.

23            He hasn't testified to Air Force regulations for  
24      masks.

25            BY MR. LEWIS:

1 Q Under FAA regulations, at what altitude after an  
2 explosive decompression is the --

3 A If you are a pilot, first of all --

4 Q As a pilot.

5 A You are not supposed to -- if you are going to be  
6 over 12,500 over 30 minutes, you should put it on and wear  
7 it above 14,000.

8 Q After an explosive decompression, when may you  
9 take it off according to FAA regulations?

10 A FAR doesn't address that. 91.32 mentions when  
11 to wear it, what altitude, but I don't know that it says  
12 anything about when you can take it off.

13 MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Any further redirect?

15 MR. DUBUC: I want to be sure we have the last  
16 part clear.

17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. DUBUC:

19 Q Do you understand the Federal Aviation Regulation  
20 you are referring to is FAR 91.32?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Do I understand your interpretation of that is --  
23 does that apply to general aviation?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Does that regulation indicate that you wear an

1       oxygen mask when you are flying between 12,500 and 14,000  
2       feet for 30 minutes or more?

3       A       Only if you are going to be there for 30 minutes  
4       or more; yes, sir.

5       Q       If you are there less than for 30 minutes, you  
6       don't need oxygen to go below 14,000 feet?

7       A       That is true.

8       Q       That is for someone operating an airplane who has  
9       to read instruments and function with the controls?

10      A       Yes, sir.

11      Q       Does that have any application to passengers who  
12      are not working or performing energy tasks?

13      A       No, sir.

14      Q       With respect to what Mr. Lewis asked you about the  
15      MADAR read-out; in connection with those altitudes and those  
16      times that you described, you had brought him down to I  
17      think you said 16,000 feet?

18      A       16,000 feet in two minutes forty-five seconds --  
19      16,313.

20      Q       Based upon your knowledge and information, at that  
21      altitude, would a passenger under ordinary circumstances  
22      following a decompression in the descent require oxygen  
23      in order to sustain himself normally?

24      A       No, sir.

25            MR. DUBUC: Your Honor, as long as Mr. Lewis has

1 brought it up, I would like to ask the Court to take judicial  
2 notice of an permit in evidence, or at least instruct to  
3 that extent, the Federal Aviation Regulation 91.32.

4 THE COURT: I certainly will take judicial notice  
5 of it and it will be received accordingly.

6 MR. DUBUC: I have no more questions.

7 MR. LEWIS: I have no more questions.

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 You may step down.

10 (Witness excused.)

11 THE COURT: We will adjourn now.

12 Did you have another witness ready?

13 MR. DUBUC: No.

14 THE COURT: Let the jury take a rest. You may  
15 all step into the jury room. In case I don't see you again,  
16 remember the rules and wait in there a few minutes.

17 (Jury leaves.)

18 THE COURT: Did you have something further, Mr.  
19 Dubuc?

20 You can be seated, gentlemen.

21 MR. DUBUC: The next witness would be either Mrs.  
22 Grant, she is here, or the reading of the deposition of the  
23 teacher, Mrs. Wallace. I have not heard from counsel whether  
24 she is here or not, and that testimony will take perhaps an  
25 hour or more.