

by stories and maps published in both major newspapers. The route was lined by cheering, friendly people.

After passing through downtown Dallas, the motorcade made a left turn from Houston Street on to Elm Street. The Texas School Book Depository Building is at that corner, to the right of the passing motorcade. An assassin waited at an open window on the sixth floor of that seven-story building. He was armed with a 6.5 mm., old model, Italian-made, bolt-action rifle, a 4-power scope-sight mounted on the receiver. Presumably, at that second, he was looking directly down on the President, but did not fire. The presidential car moved about 100 yards down Elm Street away from the building. Mrs. Connally turned in her seat and said:

"Mr. President, you can't say Dallas doesn't love you!"⁽³⁾

A split-second later — 12:30 p.m. — the assassin fired three shots in quick succession. The first shot apparently hit President Kennedy in the neck. He clutched himself and partially rose, as the second shot struck him in the head, inflicting the mortal wound.

As Governor Connally turned to see what had happened, the third shot from the assassin's gun struck him in the back, traversed the chest area without entering the body cavity, splintered a rib, emerged, struck the Governor's right wrist, ricocheted, and lodged in the Governor's left thigh. Had the Governor not turned, the bullet would probably have pierced his heart.

The motorcade momentarily slowed down, almost to a halt, before a Secret Service agent in the President's car gave orders over the car radio to proceed to the nearest hospital. The lead car lunged forward at high speed, swung onto Stemmons Freeway a few yards ahead, and rushed to City-County Hospital, known as Parkland Memorial, the President's car following close, the remainder of the motorcade trailing. On the way, they passed the Trade Mart, where a crowd was

waiting to hear the President make a luncheon speech.

The President's car arrived at the hospital at 12:35, five minutes after the shooting. The Governor, still conscious, helped move himself to a stretcher. He was taken to one emergency room, the President to another. Two priests, who had been watching the parade on television, rushed to Parkland and were admitted shortly after the President's arrival. They administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church. At 1:30 p.m., it was officially announced that the President was dead.

Vice President Johnson left almost immediately for the airport. At 2:05 p.m., Mrs. Kennedy followed in a hearse bearing the body of the President. The body, in a bronze casket, was put on the presidential plane at Love Field. On the plane, before take-off, Federal Judge Sarah T. Hughes administered the presidential oath of office to Lyndon B. Johnson.

At 2:47 p.m., Air Force 1 left Love Field for Andrews Air Force Base near Washington. Air Force 1 is the special presidential plane, a big silver-blue-and-white jet.

At Parkland Hospital, Governor Connally remained on the critical list while undergoing surgery for four hours. He responded well and was expected to be released from the hospital within 14 days, without significant residual effects from his wounds.

At the scene of the crime several spectators had looked up in time to see the murder weapon projecting from a window. The building was quickly surrounded by armed officers. Others, with guns drawn, searched inside. Employees of the Texas School Book Depository were on their lunch hour, most of them outside watching the parade. One of the police officers who searched inside the building was accompanied by R. S. Truly, a supervisor of the book depository firm. They encountered Lee Harvey Oswald, walking toward an entrance, to leave the building. The officer asked who he was. Mr. Truly said Oswald