

worked there. He permitted to leave.⁽⁴⁾

On the sixth floor, at an open window overlooking Elm Street, police officers found the sniper's nest: concealed from the rest of the large storage room by cartons of books. An improvised gun-rest was at the window sill. On the floor were three empty rifle cartridges, the remains of a packaged fried-chicken lunch, and a soft-drink bottle. Near the door leading into a stairwell on the sixth floor, across the large room from the sniper's window, officers found a rifle, stuffed under some boxes.⁽⁴⁾

Normally, only employees would have access to the sixth floor of this building, or would know readily how to reach it. The whole floor is used as dead storage, and even employees infrequently go there.

These circumstances led police to conclude that all employees on duty that day should be examined immediately. All were soon located, except Lee Harvey Oswald. A description and arrest order were broadcast.

At 1:00 p.m., Mrs. Earlene Roberts, housekeeper of a rooming house at 1026 N. Beckley Avenue, saw Lee Harvey Oswald dash through the living room, into his own room, then leave the house in great haste, having changed jackets in his room. Oswald (using the alias, O. H. Lee) had lived alone in a small room at this rooming house for two months. The place is in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, less than a mile west of the scene of the assassination.

At 1:15 p.m., Officer J. D. Tippit, cruising in a police car near Oswald's Beckley Avenue rooming house, on the lookout for an assassin suspect whose description had been broadcast, saw Oswald. Mrs. Helen Markham, an eyewitness, said that Officer Tippit pulled his car to the curb. Oswald walked to the car and leaned in the window. Officer Tippit got out and walked around behind the car. Just as he stepped on the sidewalk facing Oswald, Tippit stopped. At that instant, Oswald fired three shots from a hand gun, at pointblank range, killing Officer Tippit instantly.

At 1:18 p.m., a passerby used the police radio in Tippit's squad car to notify police headquarters that an officer was lying there dead and that the assailant had run away. Squad cars converged on the place. Meanwhile, police were receiving numerous calls that a man was running wildly through the section (reloading his gun as he ran), cutting through parking lots, darting in and out of stores.

With such leads, police followed the trail to the Texas Theatre on West Jefferson Avenue, where the cashier reported that a man had run in a few moments before and was still inside.

On a poster ad at the theatre entrance was this motto:

"There are some things that only the people that do them understand."

Inside, an old film, *War Is Hell*, was on the screen. The theatre was almost deserted. Oswald sat alone, near the back. Officers converged on him. When one was in reach, Oswald leaped up, screaming, "This is it! It's all over now!"⁽³⁾ With one hand, he hit the officer in the face. With the other, he drew his gun and pulled the trigger. The firing pin fell on a loaded cartridge, but the gun did not fire. The officer wrenched the gun from Oswald's hand. Oswald fought violently, and suffered minor face bruises before he was subdued.

At 2:00 p.m., Oswald, under arrest, defiantly claiming innocence, and protesting "police brutality," arrived at Dallas police headquarters where he was later charged with the murder of Officer Tippit.

Just before midnight on Friday, November 22, Lee Harvey Oswald was formally charged with the murder of President Kennedy. The circumstantial and positive evidence against him—available at the time of this writing:

(1) On March 20, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald, using the alias A. Hidell, and a Dallas Post Office box number for an address, ordered a rifle (for \$12.78) from a mail order house in Chicago. FBI experts identified the handwriting on the gun