

After the guests had exited from the Trade Mart, Stevenson and Batchelor decided to go to Parkland Hospital to check on the situation. They were approached by Dr. Luther Holcomb, Executive Secretary of the Greater Dallas Council of Churches, who stated he was a personal friend of Governor Connelly and his family and, if possible, he would like to go to the hospital and contact the family to do what he could to render spiritual comfort. Dr. Holcomb accompanied Batchelor and Stevenson to the hospital.

Upon the arrival of Batchelor and Stevenson at the hospital, they found that Mr. Lawson of the Secret Service had arranged a convoy of people from the White House Staff and White House press to accompany the body of the President to Love Field. He had a motorcycle escort, but had no radio communication in the event of difficulty on the way. He asked if Batchelor and Stevenson would take him and lead the cars to Love Field. They agreed to do this.

Mr. Lawson and a member of the White House Staff rode in the car with Batchelor and Stevenson. Enroute to Love Field, Mr. Lawson became concerned because a bus which was supposed to contain members of the White House press did not leave with the group. Batchelor radiod a motorcycle officer who was at the rear of the cars to return to the hospital and await the departure of the bus.

The group arrived at Love Field where the President's body was placed aboard the plane by members of the Secret Service. Batchelor and Stevenson were advised at this time that Federal District Judge Sarah T. Hughes was on her way to Love Field to administer the oath of office to President Johnson. Arrangements were made for her admission to the field, with officers securing the driveway.

Batchelor and Stevenson left the field after the departure of the presidential plane. They returned to Parkland Hospital to survey the situation and to see if any further assistance or security was needed. They found the first floor of the hospital emergency area normal and no further emergency measures needed. The State Police had taken over the security of Governor Connelly who was still in the hospital.

Before Batchelor and Stevenson left the Trade Mart, they were advised that Police Officer J. D. Tippit, in attempting to question a suspect in the 400 block of East Tenth Street a short time after the President had been shot, had been slain, and that a suspect had been arrested and was in custody. This was verified by Stevenson by radio. Batchelor and Stevenson returned to Police Headquarters, arriving at about 4:30 p.m.