

December 8, 1963

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Information concerning article
published December 8, 1963,
Dallas Times Herald.

Sir:

J. T. Dean

On December 7, 1963, at approximately 1:30 P.M., I received a telephone call at my home from a person identifying himself as Darwin Payne, representative of the Dallas Times Herald.

Mr. Payne stated his reason for calling was to verify statements made by me to the Radio and Television News Media on November 24, 1963 shortly after the assassination of Lee Harvey Oswald (accused assassinator of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.)

Mr. Payne then asked several questions pertaining to that interview of November 24, 1963. Mr. Payne's questions seemed to be verbatim of the interview in question.

I will quote them as near as possible as they were asked, in their sequence and also my answers, which were nearly always in the affirmative or negative.

Mr. Payne: - "Were you at the Armored Car when the shot was fired?"

Answer: - "Yes."

Payne: - "Did you see the person that fired the shot at the time it was fired?"

Answer: - "No."

Payne: - "Did you see the person that fired the shot shortly after it was fired?"

Answer: - "Yes."

Payne: - "Where? Was he inside the jail office and on the floor at that time?"

Answer: - "Yes - he was on the floor and being restrained and handcuffed by several plainclothes officers."

Payne: - "Did you recognize the subject at that time as a person you knew by sight?"

Answer: - "Yes."

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Payne: - "Did you or had you seen this person prior to this time in or around the City Hall?"

Answer: - "No."

Payne: - "And you didn't see this person enter from the Main Street ramp?"

Answer: - "Definitely not."

Payne: - "Did you see anything at the time of the shooting?"

I assumed by this question that he meant a flash from the gunfire and I asked him was this what he meant and he said yes. I then advised him that I saw smoke from the blast, and I ran immediately to the scene to control the crowd.

This terminated his questions and I asked Mr. Payne the reason for him calling as all this was old news. He then stated he was just verifying this interview and that he didn't really know what the Times Herald was going to do with this information.

I made myself very clear to Mr. Payne that I had not seen Ruby at anytime before the shooting in or around the City Hall.

On Sunday when I arrived at my home I noticed the subject article and read same with much interest and reached the conclusion that this article possibly had evolved from the telephone conversation on the previous day.

I immediately called an acquaintance and friend that is employed by the Times Herald to ascertain the identity of the reporter and this person stated that he did not know who had written the article. I then noticed the name of a reporter in the same edition, Mr. Bob Kenley, and I called him, identified myself and asked him if he could advise me who had written the article. Mr. Kenley stated that he didn't know for sure and related several names of persons that would have been on duty and mentioned the name of this Darwin Payne. I recognized this as the person that had called me.

I then called Mr. Payne at his home, telephone WH 6-5892, and asked him if he had written the article and he stated that he did.

The following are questions and answers I asked of Mr. Payne during this telephone conversation.

Question: - "Why did you print that I had seen Ruby enter the basement?"

Mr. Payne then answered: - "Well, I thought that you had seen him."

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Question: - "What led you to believe this?"

Answer: - "This was stated in your previous interview." (Relating to the original interview of November 24, 1963.)

I then stated to Mr. Payne that I had never made such a statement to him or anyone to substantiate this conclusion. Mr. Payne then stated that he had read to me my original interview and I had confirmed all the statements in the article and that he could prove them. I advised him again that I had not, and then asked him where he had obtained a copy of my interview.

Mr. Payne then seemed to evade this question and asked me to let him call the person that had given him this assignment and that he would have him call me. I again asked him from whom he had received the assignment and he evaded again and then stated that he had not written the story, that he had only verified my previous interview. This was contradictory to his original statement, that he had written the story. He then asked me not to call the City Editor as he would contact him and advise him that I was protesting the article.

After asking him the third time Mr. Payne then stated Mr. Ken Smart (As I recollect, had assigned him the job.)

I then asked Mr. Payne if he didn't think such a statement on my part would jeopardize my job. He answered, "I imagine it would." I then thanked Mr. Payne and terminated the conversation.

At this time I contacted Captain C. E. Talbert and advised him that the article was relative to my conversation the previous day. Captain Talbert suggested I call Chief Fisher at home.

I tried to call Chief Fisher, also Chief Batchelor, and Chief Curry. I made no contact with anyone of these Chiefs. This was approximately 10:30 A.M.

I then called the Chief's offices downtown in an effort to locate one of them. Captain C. A. Jones answered and when I identified myself he (Captain Jones) advised me to come downtown, that he wanted to talk to me. I asked him was it regarding the article in the paper and he stated yes.

At no time during my conversations with Mr. Payne or anyone from the Times Herald was there any verbal abuse or altercation.

Respectfully submitted,

P. TREVORE DEAN
SERGEANT OF POLICE
PATROL DIVISION

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