

1966

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ENQUIRER

FEATURE 15¢

THE WORLD'S LIVELIEST PAPER

Vol. 21, No. 26, May 17, 1964

Washington Insiders Rocked



By Report of a
Fantastic Letter



LINK RUBY

& OSWALD

SHOCKED OFFICIALS HEAR:

**U.S. Justice Dept. Letter
Blocked Their Arrest Seven
Months Before JFK Slaying**

Washington Insiders Are Talking A

By JOHN HENSHAW — ENQUIRER Washington Bureau Chief
WASHINGTON — The hottest story making the rounds here is that the U.S. Justice Department prevented the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby BEFORE the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Oswald and the man who killed him, Ruby, were suspected of being partners in crime seven months before the President's death.

The incredible details of the story are so explosive that officials won't even answer "no comment" when queried about it. But the story being discussed by top-level government officials reveals:

1. That the Justice Department deliberately kept Oswald and Ruby out of jail before the assassination.
2. That Dallas cops suspected Oswald of being the gunman and Ruby the paymaster in a plot to murder former Major General Edwin A. Walker — seven months before the President was assassinated.
3. That the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was using Ruby to recruit commandos for raids against Castro's Cuba. To prevent this explosive information from being disclosed, the CIA asked the Justice Dept. to step in and stop the Dallas police from arresting Jack Ruby, as well as Oswald.

EXCLUSIVE

There is a suspicion among the American public that there is more to the story behind the assassination of President Kennedy and his slayer, Lee Oswald, than has been disclosed.

The ENQUIRER prints this article in the hope it will lead to the solution of the mystery surrounding these tragic events.

A top-secret document — a letter signed by a high official of the Justice Dept. — was sent in April 1963 from the Justice Dept. to Dallas Chief of Police Jesse E. Curry requesting the Dallas police NOT to arrest Oswald and Ruby in connection with the attempted slaying of General Walker.

After a sniper shot at, but missed, General Walker in Dallas, April 24, 1963, Dallas police suspected that Oswald was the sniper and Ruby the payoff man.

The cops were set to arrest the pair. But they never got the chance because of the heavy pressure brought to bear by the Justice Dept. And so Oswald and Ruby were allowed to remain free. And seven months later, on last November 22 in Dallas, Oswald was able to kill the President of the United States.

The top-secret document — a copy of it is reportedly in the hands of the Presidential commission investigating the assassination — bears a web of intrigue that involves the Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with the Justice Dept. and the Central Intelligence Agency.

It is politically explosive that the Presidential commission, headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, has even withheld it from one of its own members, Senator Richard Russell (D., Ga.).

It is feared that Senator Russell, who leads the South in the fight against the civil rights bill, might use the document as a weapon against the Justice Dept. and its chief, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, a leader in the fight for civil rights.



LEE OSWALD JACK RUBY

The document — requesting the cops not to arrest Ruby and Oswald — contradicts the FBI report on the assassination and the subsequent murder of Oswald.

According to the New York Times, the FBI report, which was turned over to the Justice Dept. on December 4 and then to the Presidential commission five days later, concludes "that there was no link between Oswald and Jack Ruby."

The Times added, in its issue of December 10: "Speculation that Oswald and Ruby knew each other, or in some way were part of a prior vendetta or association, is completely discounted in the report."

The ENQUIRER learned, however, that on the day Ruby killed Oswald, a man named Bill DeMar told reporters he saw Oswald in Ruby's Carousel night club. DeMar, under the stage name of Bill Crowe, was then master of ceremonies at the club.

RUBY &

SHOCKED OFFICIALS

Dallas Cops Linked Murder Try in April • U.S. Justice Dept. Blocked Their Arrest Months Before JFK

The ENQUIRER traced DeMar to an Evansville, Ind., night club and questioned him on April 11. He told our reporter that he had seen Oswald sitting in the Carousel on the night of November 21 — the night before Oswald assassinated President Kennedy.

DeMar said: "I gave the FBI a statement about seeing Oswald in the club and that was it. I told them the same thing I'm telling you."

"I signed it and have heard nothing more about the incident to this day."

And, on March 17, just three days after a jury voted the death penalty for Ruby, the Associated Press reported from Dallas:

"District Attorney Henry Wade has disclosed how prosecutors made the 'big decision' of the Jack Ruby murder trial."

The decision: They would not call witnesses who swore they saw Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald together before a sniper assassinated President Kennedy here.

Testimony from these witnesses would have made worldwide headlines. And, if jurors had believed the testimony, it would have provided a motive for the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Wade said FBI agents and other investigators provided him with a list of witnesses who insisted they had seen Ruby and Oswald together at various times.

The district attorney said he decided not to call these witnesses because he had doubts

about the accuracy of their statements."

And the New York Times, in an article from Dallas dated March 15, reported:

"Some law enforcement officials in Dallas continued to believe that a connection between Ruby and Oswald) was possible but, if so, that it was personal and did not necessarily involve the assassination."

The FBI became involved in the undercover maneuverings to stop the arrest of Oswald and Ruby shortly after the attempt to snuff out the life of Gen. Walker, who had been preaching ultraracism since he was relieved of his command in Germany.

Walker then resigned from the Army.



GEN. EDWIN A. WALKER

A high FBI official was asked by a top official in the Justice Dept. after it was notified by the CIA of the potentially volatile situation in Dallas to request Dallas police not to arrest Oswald or Ruby.

The FBI official refused to do it, saying it would be obstructing justice and therefore would be a crime.

The FBI man said he was made the request only if he was officially directed to do so in communication signed by a top official.

The FBI official then received a signed directive. He contacted Dallas police and urged them not to arrest Oswald and Ruby.

But the Dallas police will not arrest an official signed communication.

Thereupon the Justice Dept. sent the communication to Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry asking that Oswald and Ruby be kept strictly alone.

The department explained didn't want Oswald and Ruby arrested because of "reasons of state."

The Justice Dept. was made the request on behalf of the CIA. Because the CIA was deeply involved with Ruby — and probably Oswald, too!

CIA agents had been using Ruby to recruit men in the Dallas area to serve as commandos against Castro's government Cuba.

And they didn't dare let him be arrested and chance such information getting out.

There were also indications that Oswald himself might be

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about a Fantastic Story Calling...

OSWALD PALS

HEAR:

**Pair in
1963
After
Seven
Blazing**



EARL WARREN

been working both sides of the fence — as a double agent for both the Communists and the CIA.

So both Oswald and Ruby were left at liberty.

For the next few months Oswald took part in demonstrations in support of Castro, then went to Mexico City and tried to get a visa to visit Russia by way of Cuba.

Oswald's application for a visa was turned down.

Last October 3 he arrived back in Dallas. A week earlier it had been announced that President Kennedy would visit Dallas on November 22.

On October 14 Oswald got a room in a rooming house near the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas. The next day he

got a job at the depository as an order filler.

And it was from a sixth-floor window of that depository that Oswald last November 22, fired the shots that killed President Kennedy and wounded Texas Governor John Connally.

Oswald escaped and was captured an hour and a half later, but not before he had shot Dallas policeman J.D. Tippitt to death.

Two days later, as a stunned world watched on television, Jack Ruby dashed up and shot Oswald to death as police were leading the handcuffed Oswald through a basement corridor of City Hall.

Ruby, the Dallas night club owner, went on trial for that killing on March 4. He was convicted of "murder with malice" on March 14.

But after the assassination of President Kennedy and the killing of Oswald the investigations came.

And no satisfying careers were really found, except that evidence was overwhelming that the President had been killed by Oswald.

The same Oswald who had gone to Russia in 1958, pledged allegiance to the Soviet Union and tried to become a Russian citizen.

The Russians supposedly, for whatever reason, turned him down and he finally came back to America with his Russian-born wife, Marina, and their baby daughter in June 1962.

From then on he tried to get mixed up in left-wing activities, ordering all kinds of Communist literature and eventually becoming a loud supporter of Castro's Cuba.

He and his family lived first in Fort Worth, Tex., and then moved to Dallas.

In addition to the apartment he had with his wife and child he rented a room under the name of "A. Hidell."

On March 20, 1963, he received a rifle under that name from a small-order firm located in Chicago.

On April 10 a sniper fired a rifle bullet through a window of the Dallas home of Gen. Walker.

Gen. Walker was working at his desk on his income tax returns.

The bullet missed his head by scant inches, went through a 9-inch wall and came out in another room.

Dallas police investigation showed that the sniper shot from an alley 120 feet from the Walker home, using a fence to steady the rifle.

Dallas police also had the report of a witness who was near



KFK'S LAST RIDE: President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy ride in the rear seat of an open limousine in Dallas last November 22, just before the Chief Executive was assassinated.

the Walker home at the time of the slaying.

The witness told them shortly after the attempt on Walker's life that he saw two men, not sure, run to an auto and make their getaway.

And within a few days after the shot was fired Dallas police felt they had a complete case. Then came the fantastic series of maneuvers cloaked in secrecy which kept Oswald — the man who was to assassinate President Kennedy — a free man.

After the slaying, President Johnson appointed a seven-member commission, headed by Justice Warren, to inquire into the assassination.

Then, just after the commission began work, it was reported by United Press International on December 5 that Oswald's wife, Marina, had informed the FBI that her husband told her excitedly in April 1963 that he tried to kill Gen. Walker.

The FBI declined to comment



OFFICER J.D. TIPPITT

on this news but said its investigation was continuing.

The New York Times reported, in a story datelined from Dallas on December 7, that "evidence developed this week showed that if the rifle used to kill President Kennedy was fired April 10 to fire into the home here of Edwin A. Walker."

On February 4, the day after Marina Oswald's first appearance before the Warren commission, Chief Justice Warren told reporters that Marina's testimony "may not be released in your lifetime."

The Chief Justice said that the testimony would be preserved for the public but that it may be suppressed for decades. He finished his statement to the news with: "I say this seriously."

J. Lee Rankin, general counsel to the Warren commission, also talked to reporters on that day. He said that Mrs. Oswald's testimony dealt with her husband's activities in the U.S. after he returned from Russia. Rankin also said that Mrs. Oswald offered the commission some "new evidence."

Later that same day Warren refused to confirm Rankin's reference to "new evidence."

Two fantastic turns in the Oswald-Ruby mystery were front-paged in the New York Journal-American of Sunday, February 24.

First, the paper revealed that one of the men who put the finger on accused assassin Oswald also had been shot.

The man, Warren Reynolds, said he saw Oswald running away, putting new shells into a pistol as he fled, after Officer Tippitt was shot to death.

Then, in January, Reynolds was closing up his office when

he was shot in the temple with a bullet fired from a .22-caliber rifle.

The Journal-American said that "a local desperado named Garner was picked up by the police after the shooting but was cleared."

And this resulted in the second startling revelation: Garner's girl, Betty (Mooney) McDonald, took a lie detector test that helped to clear him. And this name Betty McDonald had worked as a stripper in Jack Ruby's Carousel.

In early February, Betty was arrested for engaging in a public brawl with a roommate — and a week later she hanged herself in her cell.

Another person who has added to the deepening mystery of the Ruby-Oswald link is Mark Lane, a former New York Assemblyman, who claims to represent Oswald.

According to the New York Times of Thursday, March 3, Lane gave sensational evidence in Washington to the Warren commission.

The Times said that Lane, who has frequently challenged the view that Oswald was guilty of shooting Kennedy, had told the commission he'd heard of a secret meeting in a Dallas night club eight days before the President was killed.

Lane told the commission that at the secret meeting November 14 were J.D. Tippitt, the Dallas patrolman who was slain while trying to arrest Oswald; Bernard Weissman, a New York resident who had placed an anti-Kennedy advertisement in a Dallas newspaper the day the President was shot, and a third person.

The mystery deepened even further when Lane would not state publicly who this third person was.

But the commission knows the identity of the Mystery Man because Lane told it to them after the hearing room was cleared of newsmen and spectators.

Lane had said that the secret November 14 meeting was held in Ruby's Carousel Club, and when the public hearing of the commission resumed, Justice Warren asked a question headed with dynamite:

"Mr. Lane, what was the PURPOSE of this meeting in Dallas?"

But the purpose remains a secret, because Lane answered that his information did not include what they were talking about.

But, Lane said, Tippitt, Weissman and the Mystery Man

(Continued on next page)

Teenager Wants Cops to Kill Him, So He Murders

By LOUIS MANSON

Sixteen-year-old Charles Morris stood at a window of his home with a rifle and looked out.

The first person he saw was Kenneth Beebe, 18, who was digging a ditch near Morris. Morris had never seen Beebe before in his life. But he aimed a rifle at him — and shot him to death.

And when police came for Morris he told them:

"I killed him because I wanted to die. I knew if I killed someone the police would have to come and get me — and I wanted to be killed myself."

Police asked him: "If you wanted to die why didn't you just shoot yourself?"

Morris replied: "I knew I'd never have the nerve."

"This was easier. I just wanted the police to kill me."

And that's why he murdered a stranger.

It was a broken teenage romance that led to Morris' murder and suicide scheme in West-Lake, Mich.

He had been going with a 15-year-old girl and last October they ran off to Kentucky to try to get married.

But authorities caught up with them and brought them back. The girl's parents then refused to let their daughter see Morris again.

Morris brooded about it for several weeks. He later said:

"She's the only one who cared about me. There's no reason for me to live anymore."

Last November 6, while his stepfather was at work and his mother was out shopping, Morris turned from brooding to deadly action.



KILLER: Charles Morris, 16, killed a youth he had never seen before.

He took a .32 caliber deer rifle his stepfather had recently bought, loaded it and went to a window on the second-floor landing of the home. He later explained:

"Rather than cause anyone any trouble I decided I'd get myself taken care of."

"I was going to shoot somebody — anybody passing by on the road."

Morris didn't explain just how he thought no trouble would be caused by shooting an innocent man.

In any event, as he looked out the window of his home, he spotted Beebe.

Beebe was shoveling dirt from a shallow trench across the way. He was one of an eight-man crew, of which his father was foreman, digging a pipe trench

A Stranger

'I Did It Because I Didn't Have the Nerve to Shoot Myself,' He Says



VICTIM: Kenneth Beebe, 18, tried to run away after the first bullet hit him. The third shot killed him.

for a gas installation.

Beebe's father had gone for some extra equipment, while the other men had just gone for lunch. Young Beebe had eaten earlier and was all alone at the ditch.

Morris later said: "It could have been anyone who passed."

"But when I looked out the window and saw him over there, I just aimed the rifle and fired."

The shot hit Beebe in the left shoulder, knocking him down.

Terrified and unaware of where the shot had come from, Beebe staggered to his feet and

desperately tried to run away.

Said Morris: "I could see I had hit him but then he started to run."

"So I shot again, and then again. And he fell."

The second shot missed but the third broke Beebe's spine, pierced his lung and killed him.

Neighbors heard the shots and called police.

A dozen police raced to the scene and surrounded the Morris home.

They called to the boy to come out but he refused. So police crept through the base-

ment and upstairs.

They found Morris sitting in the kitchen — smoking a cigarette and drinking a glass of milk.

Morris then told police all about his weird reason for shooting Beebe and finally said:

"I did it because I didn't have the nerve to shoot myself."

"I just wanted to be part of the way that's all."

Last February 12 Morris pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

And on March 13 Judge Philip Pratt put him out of the way — but with a life sentence.

Washington Insiders Are Talking About Story Calling...

Jack Ruby and Lee Oswald Pals

(Continued from preceding page) spent more than two hours conferring.

According to the Times, Weissman had been asked by one reporter to comment on Lee's statement.

Weissman said that he had never met Tippitt or Ruby or Oswald.

And Weissman also said he had never been in Ruby's Carousel Club.

Then columnist Dorothy Kilgallen raised this "important question" in her nationally syndicated column on April 14.

"Why did Lee Harvey Oswald, presumably fleeing from the police after the assassination, approach Patrolman J.D. Tippitt's car — in broad daylight, with witnesses standing by — and shoot the policeman three times, although Officer Tippitt had not said a word to Oswald?"

"A man who knows he is



HENRY WADE

wanted by the authorities after a spectacular crime does not seek out a policeman, usually, unless he has decided to give himself up, and certainly Oswald was not doing that.

"By shooting Officer Tippitt, instead of trying to make himself inconspicuous, Oswald put himself in double jeopardy. His act almost guaranteed his arrest."

"Why?"

"A whodunit fan would infer that the policeman knew something about Oswald that was so dangerous he had to be silenced at any cost, even Oswald's chance of escape and freedom."

Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, pointed to still another possible explanation for the murder of Tippitt.

When Mrs. Oswald was asked, "Who killed Tippitt?" by Bob Considine of the Journal-American, she replied in his column of March 13:

"Nobody seems interested in how Lee got out of the Book Depository the day of the assassination. The place was surrounded by police, absolutely surrounded. Yet Lee walked right by them."

"You know how?"

"Because Tippitt took him out."

"Then the higher-ups in the conspiracy ordered somebody to kill Tippitt. Part of the master plan, the way I figure it. Marina's (Oswald's widow) part of it, too. CIA or one of those agencies."

Speculation that Oswald was not working alone was also voiced in a United Press International dispatch from London which was printed in the Newark, N.J., Star-Ledger on April 19.

"Millions of Europeans refuse to believe that the assassination of John F. Kennedy was not part of a larger conspiracy that has still not been exposed," the dispatch said.

"The most respectable newspapers and radio and television stations in western Europe feed this viewpoint by giving prominence to reports that insist that the late President was slain as part of a left-wing or a right-wing plot."

"On both sides of the Iron Curtain, the belief is widespread that Lee Harvey Oswald was not a psychopath who acted alone.

Many think he was the agent of a ring which most definitely included Jack Ruby as one of the conspirators."

The UPI report also notes that Serge Groussard, "one of France's best known journalists," wrote from Dallas:

"Very probably Ruby killed him to shut his mouth forever, for Oswald could not have acted alone."

In the United States, the Warren commission continues to listen to testimony from the many people concerned in the case.

But the most fantastic revelation to come to the commission was the communication from the Justice Dept. to the Dallas Police Department.

If this document exists, the ENQUIRER feels it is the right of the American public to know of it.

In the Warren commission — and all other interested agencies and officials — keeping the lid on this shocking secret?

Only time will tell.

He Takes Nap & Is Trapped 8 Days in a Shaft

By MANUEL HERRERA
Evaristo Maldonado was
tired out. All he wanted was
to find a place where he could
take a long, uninterrupted
snoot.

And he found just the spot—
an unused brick shaft in a hos-
pital basement. So the 60-year-
old laborer crawled through the
opening and settled down for the
night.

Nobody interrupted him be-
cause nobody knew he was there.
Not even the two men who
came along early the next morn-
ing and bricked up the only
opening to Evaristo's makeshift
bedroom in the Juarez, Mexico,
hospital.

It was too dark inside for them
to see clearly and Evaristo had
crawled well inside the narrow
shaft to avoid being seen.

Evaristo slumbered on. There
was plenty of air coming through
a ventilation grille and Evaristo
had no problem with breathing.

But when he woke up, he soon
found he had a more urgent
problem. He couldn't get out.

He screamed but nobody heard
him even though the hospital's
doctors and nurses were work-
ing only 10 feet above him.

By the fourth day, the starving
Evaristo was eating the dirt he
managed to scratch out from
the walls. When that gave out, he
ate his own clothes.

For water, he sucked the sweat

from his hands and face.

He lost track of time in the
redemptive silence and the pitch
black made him go blind from
the effort of straining his eyes.

Evaristo might still have been
in the shaft if, on the eighth day,
Emilio Gomez and Julia Gus
hadn't gone into the cellar to
check the heating and ventila-
tion.

They found that one of the
shafts had been blocked by mis-
take. It took only a few minutes
to knock out the bricks.

Gomez shined a flashlight in-
side and its beams fell on the face
of Evaristo.

"It's a ghost," he screamed.
Their cries were heard by
hospital workers who ran down
to the basement and found Evar-
isto, now a 30-lb. bag of skin
and bones, crouching on all
fours.

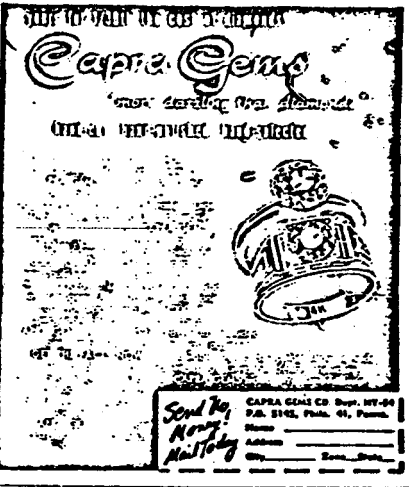
"I was tired," he moaned. "I
just wanted to rest."

Carefully the living skeleton
was carried upstairs and put to
bed after being given stimulants
and injections of liquid food.

Within a few days of his res-
cue — last November 2 — his
sight returned and he was on the
way to recovery.



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A Vicious Stranger Hurls Acid And Blinds a Blind Man's Dog

By THOMAS KNOWLES

Police are hunting for one of the cruellest of all people — someone who blinded the guide dog of a blind man by throwing acid into the animal's eyes.

And because the dog's owner, Luigi Molteni, 33, a telephone operator, cannot see, the police have no clue as to who might have done it.

It wasn't until a month after the dog, Prima, had been blinded that anyone noticed anything was wrong with her.

Molteni entered Prima, a 7-year-old German shepherd, in an international dog show at Turin, Italy, last October 27.

Instead of behaving in her usual well-trained manner, Prima didn't obey commands, nearly bumped into obstacles and barely saved her master from being run down by cars driven along a mock road.

A spectator joked loudly: "That guide dog looks as if it needs a guide dog for itself!" Officials of the show didn't think it was a laughing matter, however.

A veterinarian took one look at Prima, passed his hand in front of her eyes and said: "This dog is blind."

Molteni, who has been blind for six years, kept behind his dark glasses.

"She's been like this for a month," he said. "She's frightened and uncertain every time we come to the edge of a sidewalk, a busy street or some unexpected obstacle."

"But she's still managed to take me to the center of Milan from my home 21 miles away — and then back again."

"They walk together through crowded streets, travel together on buses and trains in the rush hour."

"How can she be blind?"

The surgeon told Molteni that Prima had been guiding him all that time from memory.

"She's been making her way from your home to work and back again for so long that she is able to make the trip from



AFTER SURGERY: Luigi stands by as eye specialist's assistant puts Prima after dog's left eye was operated on. A special muzzle kept her from scratching the eye.

section of danger spots she knew when she could see." "She's also aided by familiar sounds and smells and by recollection of danger spots she knew when she could see." At first, it was thought that



BLIND COMPANIONS: Blind man Luigi Molteni and his blind guide dog, Prima, together just before the dog was operated on. The dog's sight in her left eye was restored after an operation which took 5½ hours.

Prima had cataracts on both eyes.

Then an eye specialist examined her and found she had been blinded by sulfuric acid.

Last January 15, the specialist operated on Prima free of charge.

With the dog under anesthetic for 5½ hours, he removed the upper layer of the left eyeball, uncovering healthy tissue underneath.

When the operation was over and the effects of the anesthetic had worn off, Prima scrambled to her feet and staggered around the operating room peering at

things through her left eye.

Within five days, wearing a special muzzle to prevent her from scratching the eye, she was back on the job of guiding her master to and from work.

An operation on Prima's right eye is planned for later this summer.

Said Molteni: "I'd like to meet the person who threw the acid at Prima."

"I must hate either dogs or blind people."

"I would offer him my hand in friendship, because a person with that kind of twisted mind needs a friend."

Gripes to City About His Taxes — Should Be Higher, He Says



PROUD: LeRoy Neal, standing in front of his house, says it was a matter of pride for him to have his taxes as high as those of his neighbors. So he had his mind.

By STAN HAYES

LeRoy Neal argued bitterly when the tax on his home was increased.

But Neal's complaint shocked the tax board — because he insisted his tax was too low.

"My increase was only \$21 while my neighbors had to pay from \$35 to \$65 more a year," said Neal, 28.

"It isn't fair, because we're taxed according to the value of our homes. Since my house is worth as much as theirs, I should be taxed just as much."

"It's a matter of pride."

Last March 29 Neal appeared before the tax board's review in Lansing, Mich., and waited his turn to speak while dozens of angry citizens complained that their tax increases were too high.

When Neal stood up to speak, officials expected him to gripe about the \$21 increase over his previous year's tax of \$28.

But Neal gave them the surprise of their lives.

"I've got a nice, six-room house I've just improved with a recreation room with a sound-proof ceiling," he said.

"As a result, my house is worth at least as much as my neighbors' homes — and I ought to get a much bigger tax increase."

Board officials were shocked. "We just didn't know what to do," said County Tax Assessor Gerald Ernst.

"It was the first time any of us had ever heard a citizen complain his taxes were too low."

Neal was asked to think the matter over and come back a few days later, but he insisted that his mind was already made up.

"I'm being taxed at the rate of a house worth \$2,000, and that's an insult," Neal complained.

"Because my home is worth at least \$21,000."

When Neal kept complaining, board members finally examined the improvements that he made in his home.

Last March 29 they gave him what he wanted — they added another \$42 to his tax.

"Now I pay a tax of \$225 on my home — an increase of \$98 over last year," Neal said.

"But I'm a happy man. Because now all my neighbors know my home is worth just as much as theirs."

ENQUIRER
 Published by the Detroit Free Press
 1219 Broadway, Detroit, Mich.
 Phone: 462-1111
 Second-class postage paid at Detroit, Mich.
 Postmaster: Please send address changes to ENQUIRER, Detroit, Mich.
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 Printed in the U.S.A.