

**DECKER SAYS:**

# Police Did Everything Possible

DN-11/25  
Sheriff Bill Decker said Sunday "officers did everything humanly possible" to protect both President Kennedy and the Communist sympathizer accused of murdering him.

"It boils down to this: If somebody wants to commit a cold-blooded murder and you don't know he intends to do it, it is almost impossible to stop it."

**DECKER SAID** he and Police Chief Jesse Curry had taken elaborate precautions for transferring Lee Harvey Oswald from the city jail to the county jail.

"We knew there were people who would like to see Oswald dead, and we wanted to do everything we could to keep anyone from killing him."

Decker said the plan called for officers to place Oswald in an armored truck on a ramp inside City Hall.

"Unfortunately, there was no way they could back up the armored truck all the way to a jail door," Decker said. "That gave the gunman his chance."

**HAD THE ARMORED** truck reached the county jail, it would have entered the building on another ramp. Then a barred door would have dropped down behind the truck.

Police had kept a crowd behind a rope barrier across Houston Street from the county jail.

Referring to the assassination of President Kennedy, Decker said, "We had 20 Secret Service agents, 20 of the finest young men I've met in all my years in law enforcement, guarding President Kennedy."

"They weren't able to stop a sniper from killing him. If somebody wants to commit murder, it's virtually impossible to stop them," said the sheriff.