

# Dallas Prosecutor's News Conference

Following is the transcript of a conference held Sunday by District Attorney Henry Wade of Dallas County on the evidence against Lee H. Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, as recorded by NBC-TV:

MR. WADE: The purpose of this news conference is to detail some of the evidence against Oswald for the assassination of the President. This evidence was gathered by—largely by—the Dallas police who did an excellent job on this, with the help of some of the Federal agents.

And I am going through the evidence piece by piece for you. No. 1. (Some of this you already know; some of it you won't; I don't think that all of you do know). First, there was a number of witnesses that saw the person with the gun on the sixth floor of the bookstore building the window—detailing the window—where he was looking out.

Inside this window the police found a row of books, cases, boxes, hiding someone sitting in the window, from people on the same floor looking in, on the window were some boxes where, in the little circle around the window, by the bookcases, some boxes were, apparently the person was sitting, because he was seen from that particular window.

On this box that the defendant was sitting on, his palm print was found and was identified as his. The three ejected shells were found right by the box. The shells were of an odd caliber of the type and later determined, the gun that was found on the floor.

## Says Photos Were Found

The gun was hidden on this same floor behind some boxes and bookcases. It, as I think you know, has been identified as having been purchased last March by Oswald, from a mail-order house, through an assumed name named Hidell, mailed to a post office box here in Dallas. On his person was a pocketbook. In his pocketbook was an identification card with the same name as the post office box on it.

Pictures were found of the defendant with this gun and a pistol on his—in his holster.

Immediately that morning it was unusual, but that morning—a neighbor brought Oswald from Irving, Tex. He usually brought him on Monday morning, I think, but this day he went home one day

earlier on Thursday night, and came back to— with this fellow — and when he came back he had a package under his arm that he said was window curtains, I believe, or window shades. The wife had said he had the gun the night before, and it was missing that morning after he left. He got out around 8 o'clock and went to the building behind some cars and went to work.

## Description Sent Out

A police officer, immediately after the assassination, ran in the building and saw this man in a corner and tried to arrest him; but the manager of the building said he was an employe and it was all right. Every other employe was located but this defendant of the company. A description and name of him went out by police to look for him.

The next we hear of him is on a bus where he got on a bus at Lamar Street, told the bus driver the President had been shot, the President. (He) told the lady—all this was verified by statements—told the lady on the bus that the President had been shot. He said, 'How did he know.' He said a man back there told him. The defendant said, 'Yes, he's been shot' and laughed very loud.

REPORTER: This was to a lady?

MR. WADE: A lady. He then—the bus, he asked the bus driver to stop, got off at a stop, caught a taxicab driver, Darryl Click—I don't have his exact place and went to his home in Oak Cliff, changed his clothes hurriedly, and left.

As he left, three witnesses saw a police officer—officer [J. D.] Tippet motion to him or say something to him. He walked up to the car. Officer Tippet stepped out of the car and started around it. He shot him three times and killed him.

Q. Was this in front of the boarding house? A. No, it's not in front of the boarding house.

Q. Where was it? A. I don't have it exact. It's more than a block. It's a block or two.

Q. Was he on foot when Tippet saw him?

A. Yes, he was on foot. And apparently headed for the Texas Theater. He then walked across a vacant lot. Witnesses saw him eject the shells from a revolver and place — reload — the gun. Someone saw him go in the Texas Theater. A search was made of that later by a num-

ber of police officers. At the time an officer of the Dallas police spotted him and asked him to come out. He struck at the officer, put the gun against his head and snapped it, but did not—the bullet did not—go off. We have the snapped bullet there. Officers — officers apprehended him at that time.

Q. Was that an attempted suicide, sir? A. Against the officer's head.

Q. Do you know why the gun . . .

Q. Which officer? A. MacDonald was his name.

Q. Why didn't it go off?

A. It snapped. It was a misfire. Then officers subdued him—some six officers—subdued him there in the theater, and he was brought to the police station here.

## Questioned on Pistol

Q. Mr. Wade, why didn't the gun fire? A. It misfired, being on the—the shell didn't explode. We have where it hit it, but it didn't explode. It didn't fire the shell.

Q. There was one officer who said that he pulled the trigger, but he managed to put his thumb in the part before the firing pin. It didn't . . . A. Well . . . Q. . . . strike the—the bullet didn't explode. Is that . . . ? A. I don't know whether it's that or not. I know he didn't snap the gun is all I know about it.

Q. You would say it was a misfire? A. It didn't fire.

Q. Let's get the story again.

Q. What other evidence is there? A. Let's see . . . His fingerprints were found on the gun, have I said that?

Q. Which gun? A. On the rifle.

Q. You didn't say that.

## Paraffin Test Obtained

Q. What about the paraffin tests? A. Yes, I've got paraffin tests that showed he had recently fired a gun—it was on both hands.

Q. On both hands? A. Both hands.

Q. Recently fired a rifle. Q. A gun. A. A gun.

Q. The rifle fingerprints were his, were Oswald's? A. Yes.

Q. Were there any fingerprints . . . ? A. Palm prints rather than fingerprints.

Q. Were there any fingerprints at the window?

Q. Palm prints on the what? A. Yes, on . . .

Q. On the rifle? A. Yes sir.

Q. Where are they on the rifle?

A. Under—on part of the metal—under the gun.

## Never Admitted Guilt

Q. Did he still . . . ever say anything about it, admit anything at all?

A. He never did admit any of the killing. I didn't—you ask me this—I didn't do any of the interrogation.

Q. You have not listed it

then as part of the evidence?

A. No, it's not listed.

Q. Did he display any animosity towards the President, in any conversation with any officers?

A. He was bitter toward all of the officers that examined him is what I've been told.

Q. Do you think he deserved . . . ?

Q. Let's finish the . . .

A. We have—that's about all.

Q. How about his . . .

Q. Ballistics . . .

made A. Well I said this was the gun that . . .

Q. Killed the President? A. Yes.

Q. You talked with the F.B.I. (Federal Bureau of Investigation) this morning. Did you leave the rest with the F.B.I.? A. I won't go. I'm not at liberty—to go into the F.B.I. report.

Mailed to Dallas

Q. Did you say the gun was mailed to a post office box in Dallas in March, March of this year?

Q. Was he living in Dallas then? A. Yes. I presume he was. He got it there.

Q. I see.

Q. Previously he lived in New Orleans.

Q. He said he'd only been here two months.

Q. Mr. Wade . . .

A. He came to Fort Worth sometime in the fall of . . . And then moved here a while and apparently went to New Orleans for a while and came back. And when the period to that is, I'm not sure.

Q. Mr. Wade, what was the evidence that we were told was startling evidence, that could not be told to the press . . . ?

Q. Saturday morning.

Q. Saturday morning. They said it came in Saturday morning, and it could not be revealed. It was . . .

A. I don't know. That wasn't me that said that, I don't think.

Q. Have you given us everything? A. I've given you everything that I . . .

Q. Do you know that he has been recognized as a patron of Ruby's nightclub here? A. I don't know that.

Q. Do you know of any connection between Mr. Ruby and the . . . the assassin?

A. I know of none.

Knows Nothing About It

Q. Are you investigating reports that he may have been slain because Ruby might have feared he would have been implicated in something?

A. The police are making investigation of that murder. I don't know anything about

that. The investigation and charges have been filed. It will be presented to the grand jury on Ruby, immediately within the next week; and it'll probably be tried around the middle of January.

Q. Did the District Attorney's office follow the police investigation of the assassination of the President, before sending again to Washington? A. Before.

Q. Do you think it was unusual for Jack Ruby to be in that crowd? A. I won't pass on that—unusual to be in that crowd?

Q. There are reports that he had planned to . . . I haven't been here since last night, so I don't know anything about it.

Q. Mr. Wade, how do you feel about not being able to try Oswald as the killer of the President?

A. Well, we will try Ruby, and ask the death penalty on him, about the same time.

Inquiry to Go On

Q. Well, how about Oswald? A. I don't want to go into the whys or wherefores on anything.

Q. Has your office closed the investigation into the death of President Kennedy?

Q. No sir. The investigation will continue on that with the basis, of course, that we have no concrete evidence that anyone assisted him in this. The investigation, I'm sure, will go on with reference to any possible accomplice or person that assisted him in it.

Q. Do you have any suspicions now that there were?

A. I have no concrete evidence or suspicious at present.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Would you be willing to say, in view of all this evidence, that it is now beyond a reasonable doubt at all that Oswald was the killer of President Kennedy?

A. I would say that without any doubt he is the killer—the law says beyond a reasonable doubt, to a moral certainty, which I have—there is no question that he was the killer of President Kennedy.

Q. That case is closed in your mind? A. As far as Oswald's concerned.