

KILLER HAD 6 DAYS TO PLOT AMBUSH

Early Data Indicated Route
of Kennedy Motorcade

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DALLAS, Dec. 4—A potential assassin had nearly a week to plot against the life of President Kennedy.

The President's motorcade route was not made firm until Nov. 19, three days before the fatal ride. However, anyone with a knowledge of Dallas could have determined from previously published information that the logical route would take the President past the Texas State Book Depository, which provided a perfect vantage point for the rifleman.

No evidence has been shown to indicate that the assassin used, or even needed, the six days of plotting available to him. In fact, quirks of fate and strange coincidences seem to have contributed far more toward setting the circumstances of the murder.

Ten days before the President's visit, the choice of a luncheon site lay between the Trade Mart, which was finally chosen, and the Women's Building at Fair Park in another part of the city.

On Nov. 13 the Secret Service checked the facilities for security and convenience.

On Nov. 14, a Dallas newspaper reported that "a final security report on the two possible sites for the luncheon has been forwarded to Washington and a decision on the location is expected Thursday night

[Nov. 14] or Friday."

Expected Site Reported

On Nov. 15, the newspaper said that "the new Trade Mart on Stemmons Freeway is expected to be the site if Secret Service agents approve it."

On Nov. 16, six days before the Presidential visit, Secret Service approval of the Trade Mart was published. At the same time, approval of a motorcade through downtown Dallas during the noon hour was published. The route itself was not published until Nov. 22.

The Dallas Times Herald noted on Nov. 16 that the Trade Mart was on Stemmons Freeway and that "the Presidential party apparently will loop through the downtown area, probably on Main Street, en route from Dallas Love Field."

Anybody interested could easily conclude that the motorcade, in leaving the downtown area for the Trade Mart, probably would turn at the Book Depository Building and head for Stemmons Freeway.

"This was the logical route," a police official acknowledged today. There were other ways to get to the Trade Mart but they would not fit the design of giving the President maximum public exposure in downtown Dallas.

The President was bidding for crowds and therefore was not avoiding the business district and high buildings. The Trade Mart was chosen and approved by the Secret Service in plenty of time to make security arrangements.

These arrangements were made at the place of greatest concern, the Trade Mart Building. If there had been weeks to prepare, the arrangements would not have been materially different.

"You can't clean out buildings without troops, even if you wanted to," one security agent said.