

Witnesses

Tell Fear

Of Death

By DOROTHY KILGALLEN

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While the nation waits for the report of the Warren Commission—the full story of the greatest tragedy this nation has suffered in a century—new and significant disclosures of events surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy have been obtained exclusively by this newspaper.

They are statements and affidavits. Presumably they will be incorporated in the voluminous report which President Johnson is now studying and which the entire civilized world is awaiting in moods varying from curiosity to cynicism to anticipated relief that this dreadful chapter in history can be closed with a sigh.

Chief Justice Earl Warren and his distinguished seven-man committee have taken exactly 10 months to complete their difficult task. They have questioned a host of confused and confusing witnesses.

The New Important Points

1 A woman who witnessed the killing of Officer J. D. Tippit was warned by police that her life would be in danger if she talked about the case to anyone. She gave what seemed to be a vivid description of the slayer—a description which did not fit Lee Harvey Oswald—but she made her statement after being promised that her name would not be revealed. She said:

"I'm not allowed to talk to anybody . . . might get killed on the way to work . . . see, they'll kill people that know something about that."

2 Another eyewitness to the shooting of Officer Tippit—Mrs. Helen Markham, who identified Oswald in a police lineup—also said she had been told not to talk by "several" FBI agents, two or three secret service men, and four or five Dallas detectives.

Mrs. Markham signed an affidavit for the Dallas police, and one for the secret service. She also talked on the telephone to Mark Lane, New York

attorney retained early in the case by Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald. Mr. Lane taped her statement to him, and at first was accused by the Warren Commission of refusing to give them a copy of the tape, but he furnished the commission with the tape more than two months ago and received an acknowledgement from J. Lee Rankin, general counsel to the commission.

Police Round Up Witnesses

3 On Nov. 23, the day after the assassination, the Dallas police obviously were rounding up as many witnesses as possible and getting them to

make statements and sign affidavits while the events were still clear in their minds.

One of these was Seymour Weitzman, a Dallas policeman, who was one of two searchers to discover the alleged assassination rifle in the Texas book depository building from which the shots were fired. He swore under oath:

"This rifle was a 7.65 Mauser bolt action equipped with a 4/13 scope, a thick black leather sling on it."

The Mauser seems to have been erased mysteriously from the case. The assassination weapon is now officially an Italian Carcano of another caliber. Lee Harvey Oswald owned a Carcano.

4 On Nov. 23, a cab driver named William Wayne Whaley signed an affidavit saying he had picked up a fare "who I now know to be Lee Harvey Oswald" a few minutes after the assassination and drove him a short distance—95 cents on the meter.

Yet on Nov. 24, Dist. Atty. Henry Wade of Dallas County held a press conference in which he told reporters:

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

William Wayne Whaley became Darryl Click almost as casually and rapidly as the Mauser became a Car-

cano.

Affidavit From Remote Witness

5. Also on Nov. 23, the police dilligently obtained an affidavit from Michael Ralph Paine, although his connection with the case was somewhat remote. He

was the estranged husband of Mrs. Ruth Paine, with whom Oswald and his wife and two children lived in Irving, a suburb of Dallas. Mr. Paine lived in an apartment in Grand Prairie, Tex.

He told the police he had been at work when he heard President Kennedy had been shot from the Texas Book Depository Building, volunteering.

"I knew that Lee Oswald worked there, and I immediately thought of him and wondered if I should call the FBI. I thought it unlikely that he shot the President, and that the FBI was fully aware of his presence there, and I did not want to contribute to his harassment which would be flkely to occur due to his known Marxist views."

Quite obviously, Oswald's "known Marxist views" did not attract the attention of the F.B.I. on that fatal day.

Mrs. Paine has been quoted as saying she notified the F.B.I. after she got Oswald his job in the book depository, but she believed he was working in the annex, not in the building along President Kennedy's parade route.

Mr. and Mrs. Paine reconciled soon after the tragedy.

Police Security Was Thorough

6. The official 20-page report to Chief of Police J. E. Curry by three high-ranking Dallas police officers

Officers... carefully... the Secret... and the F.B.I. worked... security measures... of President Kennedy's reception... with the... exception of covering Oswald.

The same report details how carefully and elaborately the Dallas police worked on security measures to protect Oswald's transfer from the police basement to the city jail with the terrible exception of Jack Ruby.

7. A reliable source close to the entire case has been informed that one of the commission members, government advisor John J. McCloy, was shown a photograph showing Oswald with a rifle in a sixth floor window of the book depository from which the assassination... were believed to have been fired. The photograph is said to have been taken by an amateur along the parade route just as the bullets were being fired, or a sec-

and afterwards. It probably will be incorporated in the Warren report as additional—and startling—evidence that Oswald was indeed the assassin.

Extracts From Interviews

Here are extracts from the actual, documentation—interviews, affidavits and special reports—that presumably appear in the Warren Commission report.

1. Interrogation of a woman (name withheld) who witnessed the slaying of officer J. D. Tippit and gave a description of his killer which did not fit that of Lee Harvey Oswald. Later, she told of threats from police not to talk about it:

Q.—Was he a short, kind of heavy-set man?

A.—Yes, he was short. Heavy.

Q.—He was kind of heavy?
A.—Yeah, he was kind of stocky-built. Stock build—whatever you call it.

Q.—You wouldn't say he was kind of thin? (Oswald was thin.)

A.—No, I wouldn't...
Later, the woman talked

about a visit by a policeman. "Some kind of policeman talked to me. You know, I don't know one from another."

Q.—Was it a plainclothesman?

A.—No, he wasn't plainclothes.

Q.—He had a police officer's uniform on?

A.—He had a blue-looking clothes on.

Q.—Cop?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Had a star badge?

A.—And I'm not supposed to be talking to anybody, because he said if I talked to anybody I might have to go to Washington.

Q.—So, the police said you'd get a lot of publicity and you'd better not do it?"

Might Get Killed On Way to Work

A.—Yeah, I'd better not, might get killed on the way to work.

Q.—Is that what the policeman said?

A.—Yes. See they'll kill people that know something about that. There's liable to be a whole lot of them.

A.—Who?

Q.—There might be a whole lot of Oswalds and things. You know, you don't know who you talk to, you just don't know. You have to be careful. You get killed.

Q.—That's what the police said too?

A.—Sure. They told me that I had to be careful.

2.—Telephone conversation between Mrs. Helen Markham, another witness to the shooting, and New York attorney Mark Lane, who was retained by Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald:

LANE: Would you say he (the killer of Officer Tippit) was stocky?

Mrs. Markham: He was short.

Lane: He was short. And was he a little bit on the heavy side?

Mrs. Markham: Uh, not too heavy.

Lane: Not too heavy, but slightly heavy?

Mrs. Markham: Uh, well, he was—no, he wasn't, didn't look too heavy.

Lane: He wasn't too heavy. And would you say that he had rather bushy kind of hair?

Mrs. Markham: Uh, yeah, just a little bushy, uh huh.

Lane: (Later in the inter-

Saw Oswald in Line

Lane (during interview): Did you ever have a chance to see Mr. Oswald when he was around? Did they bring you down to look at him?

Mrs. Markham: I saw him in the line.

Lane: Yes, and did he look anything like the man who shot the President?

Mrs. Markham: I identified him.

Lane: Yes, identified him as the man who did shoot. Did anyone bring him up to you as being as the man?

Mrs. Markham: No, they did not. (After.) They didn't do anything.

Lane: After in conversation with FBI agents tell you they had not to discuss the case?

Mrs. Markham: Yes.

Lane: They did? And did secret service agents tell you it's best not to discuss the case?

Mrs. Markham: Yes sir.

Lane: And did the Dallas detectives tell you it's best not to discuss the case?

Mrs. Markham: Yes sir.

Told Not to Discuss Case

(In further questioning, Mr. Lane brought out that "several" FBI agents, "two or three" secret service men and "four or five" Dallas detectives told her it was best not to discuss the case.)

3. The affidavit of Ptl. Seymour Weitzman of Dallas police, who found the alleged rifle with which President Kennedy was assassinated.

"I was working with Deputy S. Boone of the Sheriff's Department and helping in the search (for a weapon of the assassin). We were in the northwest corner of the sixth floor (of the Texas school book depository building) when Deputy Boone and myself

spotted the rifle about the same time.

"This rifle was a 7.65 Mauser bolt action equipped with a 4-13 scope, a thick leather brownish-black sling on it. The rifle was between some boxes near the stairway. The time the rifle was found was 1:22 p.m.

"Capt. Fritz took charge of the rifle and ejected one live round from the chamber."

(But the assassination weapon is now officially designated as an Italian 6.5 Carcano carbine, which Oswald owned a Carcano, which he had bought from a Chicago mail order house.)

Cab Driver's Testimony

4. The day after President Kennedy was assassinated, taxicab driver William Wayne Whaley signed an affidavit swearing that he picked up Oswald a few minutes after the President was killed.

Mr. Whaley said he picked up Oswald at the Greyhound bus station and drove him to the 500 block of North Beckley Street.

"This boy was small, five feet eight inches, slender, had on a dark shirt with white spots of something on it. He had a bracelet on his left wrist. He looked like he was 25 or 26 years old.

"At approximately 2:15 p.m. this afternoon, I viewed a line-up of four men in this (Dallas) city hall, the number three man, who I now know as Lee Harvey Oswald, was the man who I carried from the Greyhound bus station to

the 500 block of North Beckley."

But the next day, Dallas County Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said in a press conference:

"The next we hear of him (Oswald) is when he got on a bus at Lerner Street (near the bus station) he told a lady all this was verified by statements told the lady on the bus that the President had been shot.

"He then... he asked the bus driver to stop and get

off, not a stop, causing a taxicab driver, Darryl Click — don't know the exact place — and went to his home in Oak Cliff, changed his clothes hurriedly, and left."

Police thus apparently tossed out taxicab driver Whaley's affidavit.

Mystery Object In a Blanket

5. An affidavit from Michael Ralph Paine, husband of Mrs. Ruth Paine, at whose home Lee Oswald and his wife were living in Irvine.

"Once, when I was at my wife's house, (the Paine's were separated at the time) I saw a heavy pipe-like object wrapped in a rough blanket tied with a string. This was in the garage. I picked the object up to get it out of the way of my power saw and thought it was tenting equipment.

"I was at work I heard the President was shot from the Texas school book depository building. I know that Lee Oswald worked there, and I immediately thought of him and wondered if he might have shot the President, and wondered if I should call the FBI.

"I thought it unlikely that he shot the President, and that the FBI was fully aware of his presence there, and I did not want to contribute to his harassment which would be likely to occur to his known Marxist views."

But the FBI apparently gave no thought to Oswald's presence in the school book building.

6. The 23-page police report submitted to Dallas Chief of Police J. E. Curry by Asst. Chief Charles Batchelor, Deputy Chief George L. Lumpkin and deputy chief M. W. Stevenson, giving a detailed account of how the police tried to protect the President, and what happened on the fateful day of Nov. 22, 1963.

Police were assigned to buildings along the presidential route, but not the school book depository building. Especially well covered was the Dallas Trade Mart, where a tenant apparently wished to display the flag. He said he was anti-Castro.

Vendors of "anti-

Kennedy placards were not allowed to walk their wares at the trade mart (they were later arrested when they got into a quarrel with bystanders after the President was shot).

After the shooting the school book depository was sealed off, as were surrounding parking lots.

A few minutes after police arrived at the building, Mr. Tully, the building manager, stated that he had some information that one of his employees that had been there until a few minutes earlier was now missing. The employee is not identified in the official police report.

Oswald Taken Into Custody

The report of the slaying of officer J. D. Tippit came in, and Oswald was taken into custody.

When they (Batchelor and Stevenson) arrived at the city hall, Stevenson went directly to the homicide bureau where he was advised that the suspect arrested in the slaying of Officer Tippit had been definitely identified as the one who had shot Officer Tippit, and from evidence being accumulated, it appeared he was possibly the suspect who had slain the President. (Note - It was 4:30 p.m.) "At approximately

ly 7 p.m., charges were filed against Lee H. Oswald for the murder of police officer J. D. Tippit.

"Shortly before midnight Stevenson was advised by homicide officers that sufficient evidence had been gathered that it was determined that Oswald was also responsible for the slaying of President Kennedy, that the evidence had been reviewed by Dist. Atty. Henry Wade and Asst. Dist. Atty. Bill Alexander, and charges were being preferred against Oswald in the death of President Kennedy."

"Prior to this time, Oswald had been shown several times to witnesses who placed him in the building at the time the President was slain, and also to witnesses as the slayer of Officer Tippit."

The witnesses are not identified in the report.

FBI Laboratory Gets Evidence

"At approximately 12:01 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 23, pertinent physical evidence in the case involving Oswald in the slaying of President Kennedy was turned over to Vince Drain of the FBI to be delivered in person to the FBI laboratory in Washington, D.C. for processing."

The report doesn't say what the "pertinent evidence" was.