

Reopen The Warren Commission

This week we continue with the testimony of the Forgetful Flatfoot. Harry N. Olsen was in a yard on 8th Street in Oak Cliff shortly after the assassination at a spot undetermined by the Commission. According to other things Olsen said this spot might have been six blocks from Thornton Expressway. At a spot six blocks from Thornton west on 8th Street, the elevation is such that a man in the yard could have seen Oswald on any of five streets if Oswald crossed 8th St. headed from his rooming house in the direction of Ruby's apartment. Oswald apparently chose Patton. From Olsen's likely location Oswald could have been observed on Patton, Denver, Lake Cliff, Starr or Lansing streets.

This week we try to throw a little light upon the three hour discussion Olsen had with Ruby on Friday night. Because of his bad memory, Olsen could not recall specifically any of the things that were said. We point out the lack of thoroughness by the Commission in asking questions of Olsen concerning his possible connection with Mrs. Bertha Cheek. Mrs. Cheek will be written about on a later installment. The sudden departure of Olsen for the better climate of California is a matter of importance this week.

SPECTER. Did you go any place else?

OLSEN. We went to a garage.

SPECTER. Where was that garage located?

OLSEN. Jackson and Field.

SPECTER. What was the purpose of going to a garage at Jackson and Field?

OLSEN. We knew the man who worked there.

SPECTER. What was his name?

OLSEN. Johnny is all I know him by.

SPECTER. What sort of work did he do at that garage?

OLSEN. He was an attendant.

SPECTER. Why did you want to go see him?

OLSEN. To talk.

SPECTER. For any special purpose?

OLSEN. No, sir.

SPECTER. Do you recollect about what time you arrived at that garage?

OLSEN. Oh, 12, approximately.

SPECTER. Did you see Johnny when you were there?

OLSEN. Yes, sir.

SPECTER. Did you see anybody else while you were at that garage?

OLSEN. Yes, sir.

SPECTER. Who else did you see?

OLSEN. Jack Ruby.

SPECTER. Did you see anybody else besides Johnny and Jack Ruby?

OLSEN. Not that I remember; no.

SPECTER. Now, before seeing Ruby at the garage on that Friday night, when had you seen him most recently before that time?

OLSEN. It could have been a few days or a week.

SPECTER. Do you recall where it was that you saw him prior to this Friday night?

OLSEN. Oh, it was probably outside of his club.

SPECTER. Do you recall the specific instance, or are you just saying what you think probably occurred?

OLSEN. I am just saying what probably occurred,

because I don't remember when I saw him before that.

SPECTER. Do you have any recollection what your conversation was with Mr. Ruby when you saw him prior to this Friday night?

OLSEN. No, sir.

SPECTER. How long did you talk to Mr. Ruby on this Friday night?

OLSEN. Two or three hours.

SPECTER. Who else was present at the time of the conversation?

OLSEN. Kay.

SPECTER. And anybody else?

OLSEN. Johnny.

SPECTER. Was there anybody besides Johnny and Kay and Jack Ruby?

OLSEN. Not that I remember.

SPECTER. Tell me as specifically as you can recall exactly what it was that Ruby said and what it was that you and Kay and Johnny said in reply to him.

OLSEN. We were all upset about the President's assassination, and we were just talking about how we hated it, that it was a tragedy.

SPECTER. Did Jack Ruby say something to that effect?

OLSEN. Yes; very strongly.

SPECTER. Do you recall what his exact words were, by any chance?

OLSEN. I believe he said something to the effect that "It's too bad that a peon," or a person like Oswald, "could do something like that," referring to shooting the President and the officer, Officer Tippit.

SPECTER. Did he say anything more about Oswald at that time?

OLSEN. He cursed him.

SPECTER. What specific language did he use?

OLSEN. S.o.b.

SPECTER. Was there any other specific curse that you recollect Ruby used in describing Oswald?

OLSEN. He could have said something else, but I remember that. I'm sure that he did say something else, but I don't remember what it was.

SPECTER. Did he say anything at that time about whether or not he knew Oswald?

OLSEN. No, sir.

SPECTER. Did he say anything at that time about whether or not he knew Officer J. D. Tippit?

OLSEN. It seems that he did know Officer Tippit.

SPECTER. Why do you say, "It seemed that he did know Officer Tippit"?

A man named Haudee, who ran the gambling concession for Ruby testified that J. D. Tippit was a frequent visitor to the club. The gambler also testified there was a motorcycle policeman who was very close to Ruby. He said there was a very special relationship between the two policemen and Jack Ruby. The Commission seems not to have tried to even identify the motorcycle policeman.

OLSEN. I believe he said that Tippit had been to his club.

SPECTER. Recollect as specifically as you can exactly what he said about that, if you can, Mr. Olsen.

OLSEN. Something about Oswald shooting the President and Officer Tippit and leaving the wife and children, and he kept referring to Jacqueline.

SPECTER. Well, how about what you were referring to concerning Ruby's knowing Officer Tippit? What exactly did Ruby say at that time, to the best of your ability to recollect, about any relationship or acquaintanceship be-

tween Jack Ruby and J. D. Tippit?

OLSEN. Well, I just don't remember if there was anything specifically said about that.

SPECTER. What did you say to Ruby during that conversation?

OLSEN. I said it was a tragedy that this happened.

SPECTER. What did Johnny say to Ruby at that time?

OLSEN. And he said, yes; it sure was.

SPECTER. Do you remember anything specifically that Kay said at that time?

OLSEN. No. It was a shame that it happened.

SPECTER. Do you recall whether or not Kay said something to the effect that "In England they would have Oswald by his toes and drag him through the street"?

OLSEN. No, sir; I don't.

Some testimony omitted here.

SPECTER. Did Ruby mention anything about the Weissman advertisement that appeared in the Dallas papers earlier that day?

OLSEN. Yes, sir.

SPECTER. What did he say about that?

OLSEN. He said they should be open.

SPECTER. What Weissman advertisement had appeared earlier that day?

OLSEN. Just the usual ad in the paper about them being open.

SPECTER. Was there any advertisement in the paper that day containing derogatory statements about President Kennedy?

OLSEN. There was something in the paper, I believe, about somebody carrying banners in one part of town.

SPECTER. What kind of banners were those?

OLSEN. I believe they were about President Kennedy, and what they said, I don't remember what it was.

SPECTER. Do you remember Ruby's comment about that, or whether he made one?

OLSEN. I believe he did say something about that.

SPECTER. Do you recall what it was?

OLSEN. He said that it wasn't right, and "I just wonder how they feel about it now."

The Weissman advertisement sure did not register with these people.

This officer's memory is the worst we have read. We will find a witness who will compare favorably with him when we print an installment on Mrs. Bertha Cheek.

SPECTER. Have you told me everything you can remember about that conversation among you and Ruby and Kay and Johnny that night in the garage?

OLSEN. Between who?

SPECTER. Ruby, Kay, Johnny, and you at the garage the Friday night or early Saturday morning of the assassination.

OLSEN. I can't think of anything else. It was a conversation about what had happened to the President and Officer Tippit, and everyone was very upset about it.

SPECTER. What time, to the best of your ability or recollection, did that conversation end?

OLSEN. Two or three in the morning.

SPECTER. What did you do after that?

OLSEN. I took Kay home.

SPECTER. Did you see anybody else on Saturday besides Kay?

OLSEN. Yes, sir.

SPECTER. Who else did you see?

OLSEN. I saw Ruby Saturday night.

Attorney Melvin Belli was searching all over Dallas for this officer who had seen Ruby on both Friday and Saturday night, but Olsen was not to be found.

SPECTER. Where was it that you saw Ruby?

OLSEN. In front of his club.

SPECTER. The Carousel Club?

OLSEN. Yes, sir.

SPECTER. At what time was that?

OLSEN. Oh, 10 or 11 at night.

SPECTER. Did you speak to him?

OLSEN. No, sir.

SPECTER. What was the circumstances under which you saw him?

OLSEN. We were driving by and he was standing outside and we waved.

SPECTER. Did he see you and wave at you?

OLSEN. Yes, sir.

SPECTER. What did you do from the time you got to Kays house until the time you saw Ruby standing in front of his club on that Saturday night?

OLSEN. Watched some television and listened to the radio a little bit.

SPECTER. Did you see or talk to anybody else in person or by telephone from the time you got to Kay's house until the time you saw Ruby that Saturday night?

OLSEN. No, sir; I don't guess we did.

SPECTER. What did you do after you saw Ruby in front of his club that Saturday night?

OLSEN. What did we do then?

SPECTER. What did you and Kay do then?

OLSEN. We drove by where the President was shot, we drove by there several times, and drove around town a little bit.

SPECTER. What time did you finish driving around town?

OLSEN. Oh, I guess 1 or 2.

SPECTER. In the morning?

OLSEN. Yes, sir.

SPECTER. Did you see anybody else you knew while you were driving around town?

OLSEN. We did, but I don't remember who it was.

SPECTER. Did you stop and talk to them?

OLSEN. Yes, sir. I don't remember who it was.

In the story published in early 1964 by Jack Ruby, he tells of talking to an off duty policeman for several hours on Saturday night. Ruby gallantly refused to give the name because the officer was married and going with a single girl. Olsen's bad memory leaves the identity undetermined.

SPECTER. Where did you go when you finished driving around town?

OLSEN. I took her home.

SPECTER. What time did you arrive at her home?

OLSEN. I would say 2 or 3 in the morning.

Some testimony omitted here.

SPECTER. When did you end your employment with the Dallas Police Department?

OLSEN. The latter part of December.

SPECTER. What was the reason for leaving the Dallas Police Department?

OLSEN. I wanted to come to California.

SPECTER. Nobody at the Dallas Police Department asked you to leave?

OLSEN. Yes, sir.

SPECTER. Who asked you to leave the Police Depart-

ment?

OLSEN. Chief Curry.

SPECTER. What was the reason for that?

OLSEN. I was out of sick time; in other words, you are allotted so much sick time a year, and he didn't want to extend me any more.

Olsen was out of sick leave, so he was fired! Lieutenant George Butler's Policeman's Union must be rather ineffective in Dallas.

SPECTER. Was that the only reason why he asked you to terminate your employment with the police department?

OLSEN. That was one of the reasons.

SPECTER. Was there any other reason?

(Long pause.)

OLSEN. I don't remember exactly what was said.

Possibly this man was fired for bad memory, but we doubt it. He seems to have a remarkably forgetful memory.

SPECTER. Was there any special reason why you went to California?

OLSEN. We heard the climate was nice out here.

We feel sure the climate in California was better than in Dallas during the late winter of 1963-64. The Ruby trial was held in Dallas in March of 1964.

SPECTER. Did you tell Bertha Cheek that Ruby was looking for a partner?

OLSEN. Well, who is Bertha Cheek?

SPECTER. You just don't recollect?

OLSEN. Did I tell Bertha Cheek that Ruby was looking for a partner?

SPECTER. Yes.

OLSEN. Not that I remember.

SPECTER. Did Ruby ever room at Bertha Cheek's apartment building?

OLSEN. Well, where is that?

SPECTER. Well, do you know of any Bertha Cheek who has an apartment building in Dallas?

OLSEN. Does she have the one on Gaston?

SPECTER. Did Ruby ever room at an apartment building on Gaston?

A police officer named Olson lived with Bertha Cheek, but Specter never thought of asking Harry N. Olsen if he was the same Officer living at Bertha Cheek's.

Some testimony omitted. We resume with:

SPECTER. Do you know Lieutenant Butler?

OLSEN. Yse, sir.

SPECTER. Did you see or talk to Lieutenant Butler from the assassination until the 24th of November?

OLSEN. No, sir; I don't believe so.

We will have an installment on Lt. Butler at a later date.

NOTICE: This editor took pictures at Parkland Hospital in Dallas on the day President Kennedy was murdered. From these pictures, we know there were at least two women taking pictures before the President's body left the hospital. We urge these women to get in touch with the editor of The Midlothian Mirror. The pictures you took might be very important.

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