

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/17/75

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JAMES M. CHANEY, Patrolman, Dallas Police Department, badge #469, advised he resides at 2728 Oates Drive, Dallas, Texas, telephone #327-2860. CHANEY stated he has been employed by the Dallas Police Department for the past 29 years.

CHANEY advised that on November 22, 1963, he was one of four Dallas Motorcycle Officers assigned to accompany the automobile of President JOHN F. KENNEDY during a motorcade in downtown Dallas on that date. CHANEY stated that his position was the motorcycle to the President's right. The motorcycle to CHANEY's right was ridden by Motorcycle Officer D. L. JACKSON. On the motorcycle on President KENNEDY's left was Motorcycle Officer BOBBY J. HARGIS.

CHANEY stated the officers assigned to closely accompany the President's automobile in the motorcade received instructions from the United States Secret Service as to how they should position themselves adjacent to the President's automobile during the motorcade. CHANEY said the officers were instructed to ride just off the rear wheels on the presidential vehicle. They were instructed not to block the vision of the President unless a crowd surged toward the presidential car. CHANEY stated during the motorcade, he and his fellow officers worked up and down behind the President's car, depending on the closeness of the crowd.

CHANEY stated the motorcade started at Love Field at approximately 12:00 noon on November 22, 1963. All officers assigned to the motorcade were under the direct command of Captain P. W. LAWRENCE. CHANEY stated Captain LAWRENCE actually made the assignments the different officers were to occupy. There was an automobile with Chief JESS CURRY, Sheriff BILL DECKER and Secret Service Agent in Charge FORREST SORRELS directly in front of President KENNEDY's

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automobile. CHANEY stated there were approximately four Motorcycle Officers located in front of Chief CURRY's car. These officers were approximately 100 feet in front of the said car.

CHANEY stated during the motorcade no problems were experienced at any time with the crowd until the motorcade reached The Texas School Book Depository at the corner of Elm and Houston Streets in downtown Dallas. The motorcade arrived at the School Book Depository at approximately 12:30 p.m. CHANEY said after the President's car started downhill on Elm Street after making a left turn off Houston Street and shortly after the car had passed the School Book Depository, CHANEY heard a noise which sounded like one of the motorcycles close to the President's car had backfired. CHANEY said he glanced to his left at the two motorcycles on the opposite side of the President's car, at which time CHANEY said he thought, "That was a hell of a thing to happen." CHANEY said by this he meant any popping noise such as that would make any of the officers think something worse possibly had happened. Within a few seconds after CHANEY heard the first noise, he heard a noise again and turned to his right to try to determine what the noise was and where it was coming from. CHANEY said again the noise sounded like a backfire from one of the motorcycles, but since the noise was coming from behind him, he was sure it was not one of the other motorcycles making the noise. CHANEY said he immediately reached the conclusion the noise was not coming from the immediate area of the President's car. CHANEY said he then looked straight ahead to avoid colliding with the curb and presidential car and then looked at the President just as he heard a third noise. CHANEY said while he was looking at President KENNEDY, he saw his head "explode."

CHANEY said he was positive that all the noises he heard were coming from behind his motorcycle and none

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of these noises came from the side or the front of the position in which CHANEY was located. CHANEY said the noises were fairly evenly spaced. CHANEY said there was no doubt that the third noise he heard was aimed in the direction of President KENNEDY.

CHANEY said the motorcade hesitated momentarily after the President was shot, during which time a Secret Service Agent ran up and climbed onto the back of the presidential car. This Secret Service Agent ran from the Secret Service car directly behind the presidential car.

CHANEY said he immediately rode up to the car occupied by Chief CURRY and someone in the car asked how bad it was in the President's car and CHANEY told them "bad." Someone in the car then gave orders for CHANEY to lead them immediately to Parkland Hospital. CHANEY said he cleared other motorcycles from in front of Chief CURRY's car and he led the way to Parkland Hospital. Upon arrival at Parkland Hospital, CHANEY ran inside the hospital and ordered a stretcher to be brought outside, not knowing that two stretchers would be needed, one for Governor JOHN B. CONNALLY. CHANEY said that he then participated in other activities at Parkland Hospital in carrying out his duties as an officer.

CHANEY advised that in making the turn off Main Street onto Houston Street prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY and while the motorcade proceeded along Houston Street to Elm Street, he noted nothing of a suspicious nature as the motorcade approached the School Book Depository.