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15

ALKINS
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SPRAGUE WITH JAMES ALKINS, AP Photographer

On January 13, 1968, Mr. RICHARD SPRAGUE interviewed JOHN ALKINS and Associated Press photographer in Dallas, Texas. JAMES ALKINS had taken several photographs which are extremely well known in the case of the assassination of President Kennedy. SPRAGUE discovered that ALKINS had taken four pictures which were never printed by the Warren Commission in either the exhibits or released in any other publication. These photographs will be sent by Mr. SPRAGUE to the office. ALKINS' story about his interview with the FBI on behalf of the Warren Commission is as follows:

ALKINS stated that in the Summer of 1964 he was visited by FBI agents who wanted to interview him as a witness of the assassination. ALKINS first inquired as to why it had taken them so long to come to get a statement. The FBI agents who were there to interview him explained that they had used his picture for their investigation and had identified every person shown in the picture, and had gone on to interview those persons identified in the famous picture taken by ALKINS at the time of the shot which caused President Kennedy to bring his hands up to his neck, but they said they had forgotten to interview the photographer and were just coming to that now. "Now" at that time was the Summer of 1964. ALKINS stated that as the motorcade approached Dealey Plaza he was standing at the corner of Houston and Maine Streets and before the motorcade had gotten very near Dealey Plaza, he witnessed a young boy of 19 years, have an epileptic seizure. This boy was near the reflecting pool which is parallel to Houston Street, between Elm and Maine Streets. ALKINS stated that he had heard the possibility of this being a diversionary tactic for the benefit of the conspirators to draw attention away from the grassy knoll, but he felt that this was incorrect because he said that the result of the epileptic seizure was only to have two policemen come over and hold the boy down until an ambulance could arrive. An ambulance did arrive and the boy was placed in the ambulance. Just about the time that the ambulance passed under the triple underpass on Elm Street, President Kennedy's car rounded the corner at Maine and Houston Streets.

Washington Citizens of Fort Worth
page on Altgens
Rebuttal

5 - Altgens

without limit, and it takes neither a Harvard law degree nor years in the FBI to recognize that this, above all, should have been done.

But the Commission didn't do it. It went even farther, it had Altgens identify himself on a photograph, at first by its nature, then its distortion to what it shows, and second, on such a small scale that in placing himself, he can only do so approximately. To confuse this even more, the Commission didn't use the photograph upon which he marked the point from which he took the picture. It translated his markings onto another photograph where 18 other identifications had been added, not counting the names of the streets lettered in.

As a consequence of the very small scale used, because it is an aerial photograph to begin with, not taken from directly overhead, in addition, and worst of all, shows about 16 times more area than is necessary or desirable in identifying Altgens, the presidential car and the Bank Depository, and the point at which Altgens saw the last bullet hit the President in the head. This, of course, only if an aerial photograph was desirable. If there was a legitimate need for using an aerial photograph, it should have been taken from directly overhead in order not to destroy perspective, it should have been of the appropriate size, it should have been used with other photographs, especially the Spruder photograph, which is never once referred to in Altgens' deposition.

Altgens was a veteran Associated Press photographic employee. He is a wise photo operator who also is a news photo editor and a photographer. (p.515) He had been employed by the Dallas bureau of the Associated Press for 26-1/2 years.

At the very beginning of his testimony, he volunteered the information that he was denied access to the overpass by uniformed police,