

# Pro-Communist Charged With Act

A sniper shot and killed President John F. Kennedy on the streets of Dallas Friday. A 24-year-old pro-Communist who once tried to defect to Russia was charged with the murder shortly before midnight.

Kennedy was shot about 12:20 p.m. Friday at the foot of Elm Street as the Presidential car entered the approach to the Triple Underpass. The President died in a sixth-floor surgery room at Parkland Hospital about 1 p.m., though doctors said there was no chance for him to live when he reached the hospital.

Within two hours, Vice-President Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as the nation's 36th President inside the presidential plane before departing for Washington.

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The gunman also shot Gov. John Connally, who was riding with the President.

## Four Hours in Surgery

Connally spent four hours on an operating table, but his condition was reported as "quite satisfactory" at midnight.

The assassin, firing from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building near the Triple Underpass sent a Mauser 6.5 rifle bullet smashing into the President's head.

An hour after the President died, police hauled the 24-year-old suspect, Lee Harvey Oswald, out of an Oak Cliff movie house.

He had worked for a short time at the depository, and police had encountered him while searching the building shortly after the assassination. They turned him loose when he was identified as an employe but put out a pickup order on him when he failed to report for a work roll call.

He also was accused of killing a Dallas policeman, J. D. Tippit, whose body was found during the vast manhunt for the President's assassin.

Oswald, who has an extensive pro-Communist background, four years ago renounced his American citizenship in Russia and tried to become a Russian citizen. Later, he returned to this country.

## Friendly Crowd Cheered Kennedy

Shockingly, the President was shot after driving the length of Main Street through a crowd termed the largest and friendliest of his 2-day

Texas visit. It was a good-natured crowd that surged out from the curbs almost against the swiftly moving presidential car. The protective bubble had been removed from the official convertible.

Mrs. Connally, who occupied one of the two jump seats in the car, turned to the President a few moments before and remarked, "You can't say Dallas wasn't friendly to you."

At Fort Worth, Kennedy had just delivered one of the most well-received speeches of his ca-

reer, and he was on his way to the Trade Mart to speak to 2,500 at a luncheon arranged by Dallas civic leaders. He looked tanned, happy and buoyant as the car turned into the approach to the underpass.

## Assassin Fires 3 Shots Into Car

At the moment the assassin, lurking on the sixth floor of the nearby Texas School Book Depository, pressed the trigger.

He fired at least three carefully measured shots into the car.

Kennedy had just turned to grin and wave to some spectators beside the road.

"He was waving," said Charles Brehm, 38, who was standing 15 feet away, "and the first shot hit him, and that awful look crossed his face."

Shot through the head, the President fell back across the rear seat of the car. Mrs. Kennedy screamed and then, softly crying, "Oh, no," moved over to cradle his bloody head.

Another bullet had caught Gov. Connally in the back beneath the shoulder blade. He slumped to the floor, and Mrs. Connally grabbed him.

## Pandemonium Erupts at Scene

One of the two Secret Service men in the front seat of the car grabbed the car telephone.

"Let's go straight to the nearest hospital," he called to the leading cars of the motorcade.

The scene behind them was pandemonium. Spectators were throwing themselves upon children to protect them. Uniformed police swarmed up the grassy parkway toward the schoolbook warehouse and up the railway embankment. Secret Service men quickly unholstered guns.

At 70 miles an hour the presidential car sped to Parkland. At the emergency entrance, Connally was able to lurch heavily toward the waiting stretcher. Mrs. Kennedy helped lift her husband onto the stretcher, and Secret Service men assisted her into the hospital. She looked stunned but showed no signs of hysteria.

## Massive Blood Transfusions Given

The President was taken first to a room off the

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Reference

When did he shoot 3 shots

emergency lobby, and Dr. Malcolm Perry, a resident surgeon, and Dr. Kemp Clark, head neurosurgeon, began massive blood transfusions. At least 8 or 10 other doctors were in attendance.

The doctors also performed a tracheotomy to aid the President to breathe.

Parkland doctors said later that it was apparent that President Kennedy was not alive when he was brought into the hospital. Kennedy had two wounds, one in the throat just below the Adam's apple and another in the back of his head, "a large gaping wound with considerable loss of tissue." "There was no spontaneous respiration," said

Dr. Tom Shires, chief surgeon, later. "He had dilated, fixed pupils. It was obvious that he had a lethal head wound.

"Technically, however, by using airways, vigorous resuscitation, intravenous tubes and all the usual supportive measures, we were able to raise a semblance of a heart beat.

Shires said it was a technicality over whether the President could be called dead instantly, dead on arrival or dead 30 minutes after the arrival.

"My staff reported that they never at any time had any hope for the President's life," he said.

Connally remained lucid right up to the moment that he went under anesthesia.

"Take care of Nellie (his wife)," he murmured to an aide who was with him at the hospital.

### **Bullet Strikes Connally in Back**

The bullet that hit Connally in the back went through his chest, taking out a part of the fifth rib and collapsing the lung. The bullet then went into his right wrist, causing a compound fracture, and then buried itself in his left thigh.

His doctor, Robert R. Shaw, professor of thoracic surgery at Southwestern Medical School, termed Connally's condition as satisfactory considering his injury.

"I have reason to believe Gov. Connally will recover without significant disability," he said and guessed that the healing process would take 10 to 14 days.

Doctors said it was a stroke of luck that Connally happened to turn after hearing the first shot. Otherwise, he would have taken his bullet in the heart.

### **Shooting Described by Woman**

Mrs. Markham said that Oswald walked over to the police car and leaned in the window to say something to Tippit. The officer then got out of the car to say something to Oswald.

"All of a sudden they stopped, looked at each

other and he pulled this gun and shot him down," said Mrs. Markham.

"I ran to the officer to see if I could help him," she said. "I was afraid he was going to kill me, too, but I knew I had to help that officer."

Oswald fled.

Mrs. Markham said Tippit tried to say something as he lay dying.

"But he never got it out. He knew I was there, though."

In a store-by-store search of the area, police found Oswald a few minutes later in the Texas Theater, where a movie called "War is Hell" was playing.

The officers entered from front and back and began to check the thin audience. Patrolman M. N. McDonald said that as he reached Oswald in the fifth seat of the third row from the rear, Oswald stood up and said, "This is it."

He tried to pull a gun from his belt, and McDonald charged him. In the scuffle, the trigger of the gun was pulled, but it did not fire. Several policemen seized Oswald and hauled him out of the theater. A gathering crowd began yelling, "Kill him! Kill him!"

McDonald said Oswald said, "It's all over now," when he rushed him.

### **Suspect Had Lived in Russia**

Oswald, member of a respected Fort Worth family, is a former Marine. Four years ago he turned up in Moscow, renounced his American citizenship and asked for Russian citizenship. The Russians refused. Oswald refused to stay in the Soviet Union as a resident alien and returned to the United States.

Homicide Capt. Will Fritz said Oswald had told him that he was pro-Castro. House Un-American Activities Committee records identify him as secretary of the New Orleans chapter of Fair Play for Cuba. Records also show that Oswald identified himself as a Marxist in a radio debate in New Orleans during the summer of 1962.

Word of the murder of the President swept rapidly through the city. All over town shocked and grieving people had gathered around radio sets to learn of his condition. The diners at the Trade Mart pushed aside their steaks and hunted radios after the first news.

### **Prayer Led by Rev. Holcomb**

At 1 p.m., Erik Jonsson, who was to preside, stepped to the microphone and announced, "There has been a mishap. We believe it is not serious at this time."

A few minutes later, Jonsson announced that the shooting had been more serious than at first reported.