

RIISING AGAINST DALLAS POLICE

T 15

St. Louis Post Dispatch - 11/26



Source: KM VOL-2 #72

By RICHARD DUDMAN
A Staff Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch

DALLAS, Tex., Nov. 26—Re-
sentment is rising against the
Dallas Police Department over
what many consider a series of
blunders culminating in the fatal
shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald
Sunday.

The second shooting has jolted
many Dallas citizens out of the
stunned shock caused by the as-
sassination of President John F.
Kennedy last Friday.

The comment "It could have
happened in any city," is giving
way to the question "What is
wrong in Dallas that lets these
things happen here?"

Groping for Answers

Criticism is aimed mainly at
the Police Department, but the
operations of the Secret Service
and the Federal Bureau of In-
vestigation are being questioned
as the people of Dallas grope
for answers.

All three agencies are being
blamed for the fact that no
search was made of the Texas
Textbook Depository Building
before the presidential motor-
cade passed it. The assassin
shot the President from the de-
serted sixth floor of the ware-
house.

The window the killer had
chosen was a perfect vantage
point. It faced the parade route
overlooking a downward curve
of the roadway so that a passing
automobile would be moving di-
rectly away and thus would pre-
sent an easier target.

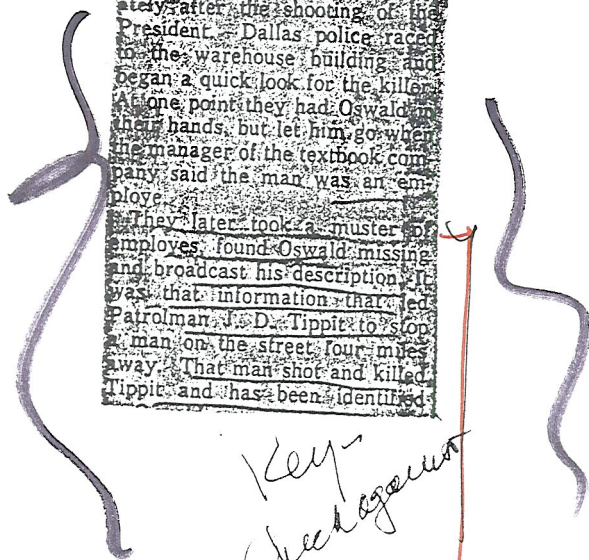
Angle of Window

The level and angle of the
window were such that the as-
sassin could have aimed a gun
at Mr. Kennedy's head from a
point 10 feet behind the sill, safe
from the sight of anyone close
to the building.

Officials have excused the
failure to search the building in
advance by saying it would have
been physically impossible to
search and secure every building
along the route. With the bene-
fit of hindsight, however, many
are saying the textbook building
was unusually suited to the as-
sassin's purpose and should have
been searched if no other build-
ing was searched.

A second major blunder, as

many here see it, came immedi-
ately after the shooting of the
President. Dallas police raced
to the warehouse building and
began a quick look for the killer.
At one point they had Oswald in
their hands, but let him go when
the manager of the textbook com-
pany said the man was an em-
ployee.
They later took a muster of
employees, found Oswald missing
and broadcast his description. It
was that information that led
Patrolman J. D. Tippit to stop
a man on the street four miles
away. That man shot and killed
Tippit and has been identified



Key-
Check against
files

Explanation why
Oswald was
early suspect
Does not work

as Oswald.

Building Not Sealed

The question here is why did
police not seal the building imme-
diately when they thought the
killer of the President was in-
side? One explanation has been
that the first search had to be a
quick one and that any employe
of the place could easily be traced
afterward if necessary.

Another, which seemed to some
to be the only explanation, was
that the officers were so unset-
tled by the shooting that they
neglected to follow normal po-
lice practice.

A criticism expressed by a
leading Texas criminal lawyer in
Houston, that the Dallas au-
thorities might jeopardize their
case by questioning Oswald at
length without letting him have
legal counsel, seemed to carry
little weight in Dallas.

In Accordance With Law

Percy Foreman, president of
the National Association of De-
fense Lawyers in Criminal Cases,
questioned the procedure here,
but few Dallas residents seemed
impressed. Several Dallas law-
yers, questioned on this point,
said the interrogation was fully
in accordance with Texas law.

Two lawyers began a discus-
sion by saying, "Of course, he
has a right to counsel, but here
in Texas

The crowning blunder, in the
opinion of many here, was Chief
of Police Jesse E. Curry's at-
tempt to transfer Oswald from
the City Hall to the county jail
in daylight in accordance with
a widely publicized schedule.

Fixture at Police Station
Compounding that blunder, po-
lice on duty in the City Hall
basement permitted the hoodlum
operator of a strip-tease joint,
known as a pistol-carrying braw-
ler with a police record, to mingle
with the crowd that awaited
Oswald's emergence from the
jail. Apparently he escaped notice
because he had become a
fixture as a police station
hanger-on.

The result was the second
shooting, witnessed by millions
on television, in which Jack
Ruby fatally wounded the man
who was accused of killing the
President but had not confessed
or been convicted of the crime.

Yesterday, when Ruby, in turn,
was transferred skillfully to the
county jail, slouched in the back
seat of an unmarked automobile
and without any prior announce-
ment, the sentiment heard over
and over again in Dallas was
that the gate had been locked
after the horse was stolen.

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Groping for Answers

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All three agencies are being blamed for the fact that no search was made of the Texas Textbook Depository Building before the presidential motorcade passed it. The assassin shot the President from the deserted sixth floor of the warehouse.

The window the killer had chosen was a perfect vantage point. It faced the parade route overlooking a downward curve of the roadway so that a passing automobile would be moving directly away and thus would present an easier target.

Angle of Window

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Officials have excused the failure to search the building in advance by saying it would have been physically impossible to search and secure every building along the route. With the benefit of hindsight, however, many are saying the textbook building was unusually suited to the assassin's purpose and should have been searched if no other building was searched.

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Another, which seemed to some to be the only explanation, was that the officers were so unsettled by the shooting that they neglected to follow normal police practice.

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Compounding that blunder, police on duty in the City Hall basement permitted the hoodlum operator of a strip-tease joint, known as a pistol-carrying brawler with a police record, to mingle with the crowd that awaited Oswald's emergence from the jail. Apparently he escaped notice because he had become a fixture as a police station hanger-on.

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