

MEMO RE BRONSON FILM

11/29/78

To: David Lifton, Paul Hoch, Bob Ranftel

From: Pat Lambert

Has it occurred to anyone else that the "figures" in the Bronson pictures could be innocent bystanders up there to eat their lunch and watch the motorcade?

At least three TSBD employees (Norman, Jarman and Williams) were on upper floors before, during and after the shooting. One of them (Williams) said he ate his lunch on the sixth floor. That much is in the record but what we're looking for here is what isn't in the record. The truth is any number of TSBD people could have been at that window when Bronson took his pictures, and then moved on before the motorcade arrived. This would include those men working on the floor that morning who were familiar with the location and would have felt comfortable there. The same is true of the order fillers whose work would have taken them there often, as well as blacks working elsewhere in the building who might have felt especially welcome on that floor because other blacks were working there.

For anyone who did go to the sixth floor, the sniper's nest seems the logical place for them to end up since it is the window closest to the corner where the motorcade passed. That doesn't mean they stayed there--no one was nailed to the floor. They could have moved to another window, another floor, gone downstairs or left the building altogether before the action began.

The time span here is narrow but not impossible. As I recall, only three witnesses saw the man presumed to be the shooter before the fact: Fischer, Edwards and Brennan. Fischer and Edwards (who were together) saw him only seconds before the first car appeared. Brennan arrived during the epileptic seizure and saw the man at the window sometime after that incident.

If two guys from the building were hanging around that window eating lunch and waiting for the motorcade just a few minutes before the shooting, that fact would be extremely damaging to the theory that Oswald or anyone else actually used the location as a shooter's hideaway. It might also explain why there is evidence that the sniper's nest was really set up after the shots were fired (i.e., the location of the boxes changing in the photographs, plus the Mooneyham testimony). If the location was occupied by others until just before the motorcade arrived, there would have been little time to arrange things beforehand.

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I realize the notion that the Bronson figures are TSBD employees sounds prosaic and slightly disloyal to the cause. To assert they are gunmen or conspirators of some ilk is more dramatic, certainly more satisfying, and may in fact be the case. But the innocent bystander possibility is supported by some evidence (the chicken bones and lunch sack seen at the sniper's nest by the first man on the scene--Deputy Sheriff Mooney--and others who arrived there early), and to deny it is to overlook the complexity of what went on inside the building that day.

I am attaching a portion of my SS491 ms, the part about Williams and the chicken lunch. If one of the people in the Bronson pictures is Williams, the other person could be Danny Arce. Although Williams claims he was alone on the sixth floor and Arce says he was outside when the motorcade passed, there is substantial evidence linking these two men and testimony suggesting they might have been together upstairs at some point before the motorcade arrived.

In going through my files last night I found a picture that I got from David years ago which shows two black men on the steps of the TSBD--they appear to be leaving the building--and one of them is wearing what looks like a red cardigan sweater buttoned in front. It's my understanding one of the Bronson figures is wearing red. I cannot identify either of these men. I'm sending this picture along to Bob.

*Pat*