

An Edward Lewis Production

# EXECUTIVE ACTION

---

## FACTS BEHIND THE MAKING OF THIS FILM

---

### Introduction

"EXECUTIVE ACTION" is a film of fiction—based on fact.

Ten years ago—on Friday, November 22, 1963, at 12:30 P.M.—President John F. Kennedy rode in an open limousine through the streets of Dallas. At a place known as Dealey Plaza, he was shot to death.

This event, which abruptly and severely altered the course of history, has been the source of intense and continuing controversy. The haunting questions still remain. "Who did it?" "Why did they do it?" "How was it done?"

The official answers have never satisfied a majority among us. A Gallup Poll on the Warren Report asked, "Do you think one man alone was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy or do you think others were involved?"

64% of those polled believed that others were involved.

This film dramatizes the story of how a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy could have taken place.

This background material came from many sources. Exhibits and testimony gathered by the Warren Commission, the FBI, the CIA, the State Department, the Secret Service, the Dallas Police Department and Sheriff's office. Newspaper and magazine articles. Radio and television tapes. Evidence uncovered by private investigators.

This does not purport to be a definite document on the assassination of JFK. It is solely a bibliography for the film which deals with only limited aspects of the event.

The dialogues in the film are, for the most part, fictional. However, substantial portions are based upon the documented material.

References to the Warren Commission Report (WCR) its testimony and exhibits, will be made by citing the number of the Volume (there are 26 in all) and the page number. For example, 19H102 would refer to Volume 19 of the Hearings' published record, page 102.

Further citations will use Commission Exhibit numbers (for example, CE 399) or Commission Document numbers (e.g. CD 7). Many of these documents are available in the Archives. Some are still classified. Only declassified evidence available to the public will be cited in these pages.

Additional source materials cited are available in public libraries and newspaper files.

Scenes in the motion picture based on historical facts are noted. Other scenes taken from actual films of events are noted as 'matters of historical record.'

## PRESIDENT JOHNSON DOUBTS WARREN REPORT CONCLUSION

David Wise, author of *The Politics Of Lying* made the following statement: "Three interviews were filmed for CBS at the LBJ ranch in Texas in September and October, 1969. When the third Johnson interview was shown on May 2, 1970, it included this message about thirty seconds into the program: 'Certain material has been deleted from this broadcast at President Johnson's request, made on the grounds of national security.' During the filming of the interview Johnson had expressed some misgivings about the Warren Commission's central finding that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, had killed President Kennedy. Johnson indicated to Cronkite that he still retained some doubts and that, possibly, a conspiracy had been involved.

Later Johnson apparently thought the better of these remarks, but he did not ask to delete them until several weeks had gone by. Cronkite, backed by Richard S. Salant, president of CBS News, opposed the deletion, arguing that the request had come too late. But they were overruled, possibly by CBS president Frank Stanton.

Cronkite, a newsmen of great integrity and high professional standards, had been unhappy from the start with Johnson's right to edit the tapes. In this case he felt that Johnson was misusing his right to make deletions, since it was difficult to see how, six years after the assassination, any 'national security' was involved." (1)

Leo Janos, former aide to President Johnson, now a correspondent for *Time Magazine*, said that Johnson told him in a conversation at the LBJ ranch a few months before he died, "I never believed Oswald acted alone." (2)

## PRESIDENT KENNEDY ARRIVES AT EL PASO, TEXAS

President Kennedy's arrival at El Paso Airport June 5, 1963 is a matter of historical record.

## THE MEN OF THE VIRGINIA "GROUP"

The characters of the group of men who assemble in a Virginia Mansion are fictitious, their personalities and professions in no way based upon actual living persons. Portions of their dialogue are based

upon supportive material which will be treated below.

## JFK'S ADMINISTRATION

President Kennedy's administration was regarded as a strong contender for reelection in 1964. His intention to review the Oil Depletion tax allowance with the plan to reduce it, his opposition to certain mergers under the anti-trust act, his intention to shut down domestic military bases and some overseas, his support of the Black Movement, his support of a Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and subsequent establishment thereof, and his intention to remove all U.S. forces from Vietnam are all matters of historical record. (3)

## PREVIOUS ASSASSINATIONS

Discussion of previous assassinations and attempted assassinations of President's Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, are all a matter of historical record.

## PROTECTION OF PRESIDENT AND OTHER HEADS OF STATE

Reference is made to the protection of President de Gaulle during his motorcades. These details are true as described by the Director of the French Secret Service. (4) The conditions of protection during the motorcade of President Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963 are indicated by the records of the U.S. Secret Service for that trip (5) and observed as vastly less secure than with the de Gaulle motorcade from the photograph supplied by the French Secret Service (right) when compared with the precautions and escorts as seen in the photograph of James Altgens, Associated Press, of the Presidential motorcade in Dallas.

## THE "INTELLIGENCE" COMMUNITY

The mood of the Central Intelligence Agency after the Bay of Pigs fiasco was bitter and, according to Roger Hilsman, Assistant Secretary of State, the President caused many changes to take place including the resignations of the Director and the Assistant Director of the CIA. (6) The characterization of the spy world is described according to the disclosures of former intelligence agents and others. (7)

## THE PRESIDENT GOES TO TEXAS

President Kennedy was extremely reluctant to go to Texas but was convinced he had to go in order to mend warring political factions within his own party, namely Governor Connally and Senator Yarborough, or risk losing the State in the 1964 elections (8). Kennedy went over the objections of his closest advisers. Connally disputed these accounts in an article, stating he objected to the trip (9).

## JFK MOTORCADE AND APPEARANCE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON

A matter of historical record. (10)

## LEE HARVEY OSWALD—BACKGROUND

The descriptions of Lee Harvey Oswald are all supported by documents which were published in the record of the Hearings and Exhibits of the Warren Commission.

Apart from the biographical data (11) it is significant that Oswald did have a "CONFIDENTIAL" security clearance (12) and was authorized to handle Confidential material while in the Marine Corps less than a year. He was sent to Atsugi, Japan where he had access to radar and radio codes and also new MPS-16 height

finding radar (13). Oswald's commanding officer, Capt. John E. Donovan, suggested that he (LHO) even had a higher "secret" clearance.

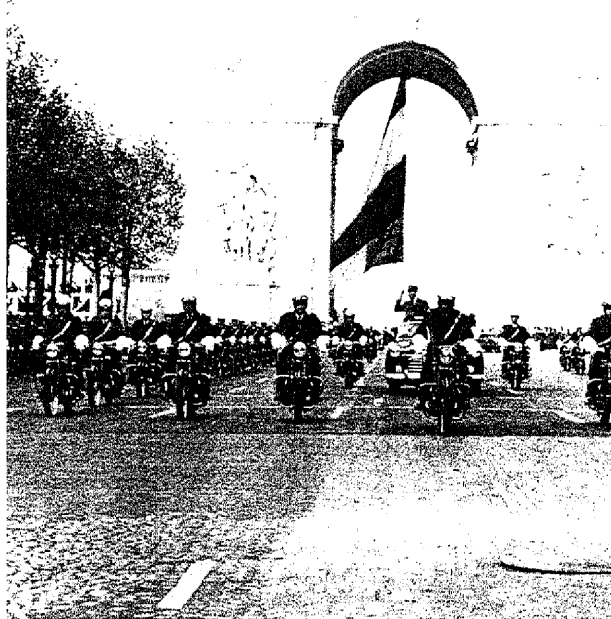
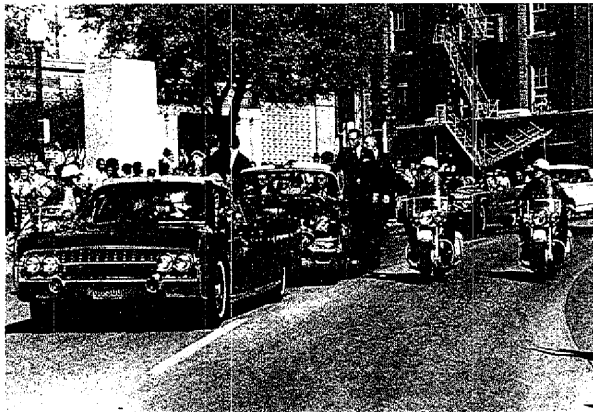
Oswald was courtmartialled twice in the Marine Corps, once for possession of a weapon (14) when he was found guilty but his sentence and loss of rank were suspended and the second time for cursing at an officer. (15)

He later requested a "hardship" discharge due to illness of his mother (16) and based this upon a letter which a doctor wrote on September 3, 1959 saying he had been treating Mrs. Oswald since Sept. 5, 1959. (17)

Instead of aiding his sick mother, Oswald was discharged and immediately applied for a passport. (18) Oswald received his passport shortly on September 10, 1959. (19) Although he gave as a reason for applying for the passport that he wanted to attend Albert Schweitzer College in Europe, he traveled instead to Russia, with the State Department's approval (20).

Analysis of Oswald's financial situation shows no record of large savings and estimates indicate he had no more than \$350 at the time he sailed from New Orleans on the S.S. Marion Lykes (21) when he reached Southampton, England on October 9, 1959 he declared cash in his possession of \$700.00. (22)

Oswald arrived in Moscow on October 16, 1959, (23) and upon being ordered to leave the USSR (24) attempted suicide by cutting his wrist and was taken to Botkinskaya Hospital. He was released a week later. (25) In an effort to remain in the USSR Oswald visited the U.S. Embassy on October 31, and stated his determination to remain there and revoke



(1) David Wise, *The Politics Of Lying* (Random House, Inc. 1973).  
 (2) *Atlantic Monthly*, July, 1973. UPI, 6/17/73.  
 (3) Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. *A Thousand Days* (Boston, Houghton, Mifflin Co. 1965).  
 Theodore C. Sorenson, *Kennedy*. (New York, Harper & Row, 1965).  
 Roger Hilsman, *To Move A Nation*, (New York, Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1967).  
 Pierre Salinger, *With Kennedy*. (New York, Doubleday & Co., Inc. 1966).  
 David Wise and Thomas E. Ross, *The Invisible Government*. (New York, Random House, Inc. 1964).

(4) Interview with Director Andre Ducret by Stephen Jaffe, June, 1968.  
 (5) 17H593-600, 17H601-617, CD 3, CD 81.1d.  
 (6) Roger Hilsman, *To Move A Nation* (New York, Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1967, p. 80).  
 David Wise and Thomas B. Ross, *The Invisible Government*, (New York, Random House, Inc. 1964).  
 Andrew Tully, *CIA—The Inside Story* (New York, Fawcett Crest, 1962, p. 214).  
 (7) *Ibid*.  
 (8) William Manchester, *Death of A President*, Harper and Row, New York, 1967) p. 1-51.

Pierre Salinger, *With Kennedy*, p. 19 (paperback).  
 Evelyn Lincoln, *Kennedy & Johnson*, (New York, Holt Rinehart & Winston, (1968) p. 205.  
 U.S. News & World Report 1/2/67  
 New York Times 1/8/67, p. 1  
 New York Times 1/9/67, p. 47  
 New York Times 1/11/67, p. 10  
 (9) Life Magazine, "Why Kennedy Went to Texas" by John Connally, 11/24/67.  
 (10) June 10, 1963.  
 (11) CD 107, p. 7, p. 41.  
 (12) CD 978, 19H665.  
 (13) 19H668; CD 36, p. 6; CD 6, p. 455; CD 1024, p. 2.

(14) 19H707, WCR pp. 683-684.  
 (15) 19H708, WCR pp. 683-684.  
 (16) 19H724, WCR pp. 688-689.  
 (17) 19H737.  
 (18) 19H269.  
 (19) 19H269-270.  
 (20) 19H269-270; 18H257; CD882, p. 12; CD903, p. 3; CD75, p. 461.  
 Sylvia Meagher, *Accessories After the Fact*, (Dobson-Merrill Co., Inc., New York, 1967) pp. 329-330.  
 (21) CE1150.  
 (22) CD1, p. 57.  
 (23) CD967, p. 66.  
 (24) 18H268.  
 (25) 18H461.

American Citizenship as well as turning "Classified" information over to the Russians. (26)

Oswald's Marine Corps Commanding Officer, Capt. John E. Donovan, testified about the Classified information. He said, "We received word he (LHO) had showed up in Moscow. This necessitated a lot of change of aircraft call signs, codes, radio frequencies. He had the access to the location of all bases in the West Coast area, all radio frequencies for all squadrons, number and type of aircraft in a squadron, who was the commanding officer, the authentication code of entering and existing the ADIZ, which stands for Air Defense Identification Zone. (27)

From October 31, 1959 until April 9, 1960 there were no U-2 flights over the USSR. Francis Gary Powers, U-2 pilot whose flight was shot down on May 1, 1960, strongly implies that Oswald's knowledge thus transferred to the Russians may have resulted in the incident (28). One CIA document explored Oswald's access to information regarding the U-2 (29). Other documents which might shed light on this remain sealed off from researchers at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. (30).

Oswald wrote to the U.S. Embassy requesting revocation of his citizenship. (31) The information was then transmitted to the State Department which notified the Office of Naval Intelligence, the FBI and the CIA. (32)

On January 4, 1960, Oswald received permission to remain in the USSR. His permission to remain was extended in 1961. (33)

On January 5, 1960, Oswald was given 5,000 rubles and assigned to work at the Belorussian Radio and Television Factory in Minsk. (34)

On January 8, 1960 Oswald was welcomed by the Mayor of Minsk. (35)

On March 17, 1960 Oswald met Marina Nikolaevna Prussakova, a graduate phar-

macist, age 19. Six weeks later they were married and on February 15, 1962, their daughter, June Lee Oswald was born in Minsk. (36)

Although he had first written to his brother that he would never leave Russia and hated the United States, Oswald later wrote that he had to return to the U.S. (37)

The State Department informed the Embassy that for "security reasons" Oswald should be given a passport, provided the Embassy was convinced he hadn't legally abandoned his American citizenship which was, in fact, the Embassy's conclusion. (38)

On February 28, 1962, the U.S. office of Immigration and Naturalization notified Oswald that Marina's visa petition was approved. (39)

The U.S. Embassy gave Oswald a passport good only for the United States and lent him \$435 for traveling expenses (40) and the Oswalds passed through United States Immigration on June 13, 1962, en route to Fort Worth, Texas. (41)

When the Oswalds landed a representative of the Traveler's Aid Society, Professor Spas T. Raikin, met them. (42)

The FBI had an extensive pre-assassination dossier on Oswald (43). In fact, when Oswald was arrested in New Orleans, instead of asking for an attorney, he requested to be interviewed by the FBI (44).

It was noted in the book, *Portrait of the Assassin*, by the honorable Congressman Gerald Ford (R-Mich.) that the Warren Commission's first "shock" was an emergency session called on January 22, 1964, by Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel for the Commission, to deal with a most important report. (45)

The Attorney General of Texas, Waggoner Carr, telephoned them to report that he, and the District Attorney of Dallas, Henry Wade, had information that Lee Harvey Oswald was an "undercover agent" on the payroll of the FBI. (46)

The two Texas officials were summoned

to Washington, D.C. to meet with Rankin and Commission staffers. They informed the Commission that, "Lee Oswald was actually hired by the FBI: that he was assigned the under-cover agent number 179; that he was on the FBI payroll at \$200 a month starting in September 1962 and that he was still on their payroll the day he was apprehended in the Texas Theater (on November 22, 1963)." (47)

A Secret Service Report supported the disclosure of Congressman Ford and cited another source. Houston Post reporter, Alonso H. Hudkins, was interviewed and told the investigator that he had received the same information from the Chief of the Criminal Division of the Dallas Sheriff's Office. (48)

On January 27, 1963, someone using the alias "A. I. Hidell" mail-ordered a .38 Smith & Wesson pistol from Seaport Traders, Inc., a mail order company in Los Angeles. The return address on the order was P.O. Box 2915, Dallas, Texas, the post office box of Lee Harvey Oswald (49).

In March, a similar order—this time for a rifle—was received by Klein's Department Store in Chicago. Again, the alias Hidell was used, and again, the return address was P.O. Box 2915, Dallas, Texas (50).

In April of 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald was distributing Fair Play For Cuba literature in Dallas, Texas. (51)

On June 24, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald applied for a new passport in New Orleans. (52)

Despite the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald appeared at the American Embassy in Moscow at the end of October, 1959 and handed Consul Richard E. Snyder his passport and a written statement to the effect that he wished to renounce his U.S. Citizenship and affirm his allegiance to the Soviet Union as well as offer them all information he had in his possession on

radar operations that he had acquired while in the Marine Corps, Oswald's new passport was issued 24 hours after the application was filed in New Orleans on June 25, 1963. (53 & 54)

No review or consideration of denying Oswald this passport was made despite the fact that he indicated on the application that his previous passport had been cancelled by the State Department (55), although Oswald's renunciation of citizenship and disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" military information was serious enough for the Marine Corps to change his Honorable Discharge to "Undesirable."

On July 1, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald wrote a letter to the Soviet Embassy requesting visas for both himself and Marina. (56)

On August 9, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald, who was later to seek a visa to Cuba, was handing out "Fair Play For Cuba" leaflets on Canal Street in New Orleans. (57)

The address on one of the leaflets listed as the office for the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee" was 544 Camp Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. (58)

Oswald's pro-Cuban FPCC organization was the target of criticism and Oswald himself was to get into a fight that day for which he was arrested.

The FBI learned that an anti-Castro organization, "The Cuban Revolutionary Council", worked out of an office at 544 Camp Street (59) and that Guy Banister, a former FBI agent, associated with anti-Castro Cubans, had an office at 531 Lafayette St., New Orleans (60).

Due to the FBI's misleading reports, the Warren Commission never discovered that both addresses, 544 Camp St., and 531 Lafayette St., were for the same building on the corner of Camp and Lafayette Streets. Oswald's FPCC office and Banister's office, thus, were in the same building (61).

On August 16, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald hired two men at \$2.00 per hour a piece to help him distribute the Fair Play For Cuba Committee literature. (62)

Following this distribution of literature Oswald appeared on radio and in television newsreel clips. The footage in the film is taken from an actual interview with Oswald. (63)

When Oswald was in jail, after his arrest on August 9th for fighting with three anti-Castro Cubans, he requested the FBI interview which was granted (64).

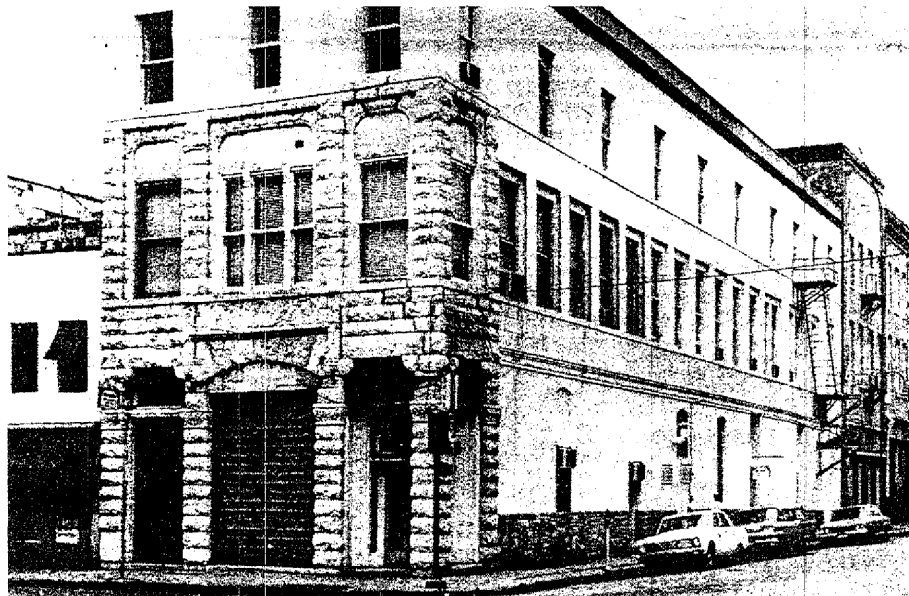
## FREEDOM MARCH ON WASHINGTON D.C.— AUGUST 28, 1963

250,000 Americans marched on Washington and formed in front of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963 to hear the famous speech ("I have a dream...") by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. After the gathering President Kennedy met with the leaders of the march at the White House telling them, "This nation can properly be proud." (65)

## TEST BAN TREATY WITH USSR DEBATED

President Kennedy made several speeches during August, 1963 urging Congress to pass the Test Ban Treaty with the USSR.

Many authorities from the military and scientific communities appeared before the Senate Committee considering the Treaty in August to oppose, vehemently, President Kennedy's words of support for the measure (66).



This building at 544 Camp Street in New Orleans housed the detective agency of Guy Banister and the headquarters of Sergio Aracha Smith's anti-Castro organization. It was also the address given by Lee Harvey Oswald for his Fair Play for Cuba group.

- (26) 18H1259.
- (27) 8H297-298.
- (28) Francis Gary Powers, *Operation Overflight* (New York, Tower Books, p. 364).
- (29) CD No. 931, "Oswald's Access to Information About the U-2".
- (30) President Johnson ordered some documents classified until 2039 A.D.
- (31) CD 1122.
- (32) WCR p. 749.
- (33) 18H268.
- (34) WCR p. 697, CD 1, p. 51.
- (35) WCR p. 697, CD 1, p. 51.
- (35) CD 1, p. 51.
- (36) 22H120, 22H748, 18H602, 23H407

- (Oswald meets Marina); 1H95, 2H73, 18H138, 18H606, 22H748, 26H4 (Marriage); 1H95, 16H567, 22H75, 22H748 (Birth of Oswald child).
- (37) CD 206, p. 336, CD 206, p. 352.
- (38) 22H62, 22H485.
- (39) 22H13.
- (40) 22H47, 22H122, 24H335, 18H182, 26H4.
- (41) 22H204.
- (42) 26H5-8.
- (43) CE 834 (FBI Dossier).
- (44) 4H438, 10H156, 26H95-99.
- (45) Gerald Ford, *Portrait of the Assassin*, (Ballantine Books, New York, 1965, p. 16).

- (46) Ibid.
- (47) Ibid.
- (48) CD 320, SS control number 767.
- (49) 16H511, 22H116, 26H700, WCR pp. 172-174.
- (50) 7H295, 7H266, 17H635, 17H677, 22H115, 23H419, 25H806, WCR pp. 118-122.
- (51) 20H511, 10H87-88, 22H796.
- (52) 22H12, 24H509, 26H177.
- (53) WCR, Chapter VII, Appendix XIII and Appendix XV, 5H311.
- (54) 24H509.
- (55) 19H283, WCR p. 710.
- (56) 16H30.
- (57) 26H348, 22H820, WCR pp. 728-729.

- (58) 26H783, p. 10.
- (59) 22H820, FBI Report 11/25/63, by SA Ernest C. Wall, Jr., New Orleans Bureau Office.
- (60) Ibid.
- (61) Rosemary James and Jack Wardlow, *Plot or Politics?*, Pelican Publishing House, New Orleans, 1967, p. 116, (photograph).
- (62) 10H64, 21H139.
- (63) August 21, New Orleans, La. WDSU-TV.
- (64) 26H95-99, WCR p. 407.
- (65) Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., *A Thousand Days*, p. 937.
- (66) A matter of Historical record.

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF JFK'S PLANNED DALLAS VISIT

On September 13, 1963 the Dallas Times-Herald newspaper announced that President Kennedy would visit the city but made no details of the forthcoming visit available other than the cities to be visited.

On September 26, 1963 both Dallas newspapers indicated that the President would visit the city on November 21 or November 22. (67)

## OSWALD STARTS WORK AT BOOK DEPOSITORY

Lee Harvey Oswald started work at the Texas School Book Depository on October 16, 1963. (68)

## MOTORCADE ROUTE PLANNED FOR DALLAS LUNCHEON AT TRADE MART

President Kennedy's "advance man" was concerned with planning the trip and his main objective was often to produce large crowds to demonstrate the popularity of the President. (69)

Jerry Bruno, who was the White House aide filling that position, was also concerned with security since his plans were often those ultimately accepted and employed by the Secret Service. (70)

The most direct route through Dealey Plaza was down Main Street, which was the street the motorcade would already be taking through downtown Dallas. This route enabled the motorcade to travel to the Trade Mart over boulevards (71) instead of by the Stemmons Freeway, therefore giving more people a chance to see the President and satisfying the objective of Mr. Bruno by having more crowds along the streets to show the President's strength among the people. The travel time difference between the two routes was negligible.

Initially there were two locations under consideration for the luncheon speech of the President, one was the Women's Building, a "sprawling auditorium which could seat four thousand," Bruno states, and the other was the Trade Mart which presented serious security risks in comparison, was closed off and did not fit the desires of the President. (72)

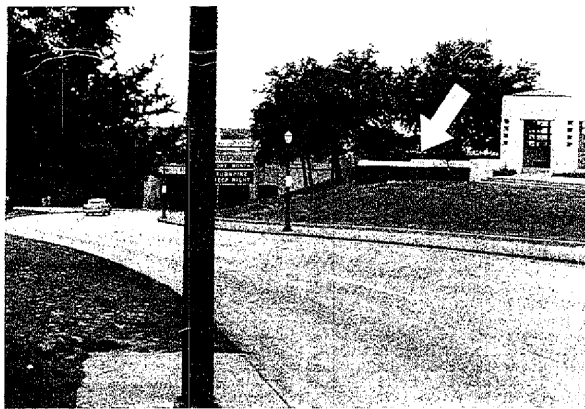
"There was another point about the Women's Building site that didn't seem important to anyone at the time. If Kennedy had been going there instead of to the Trade Mart, he would have been traveling two blocks farther away from the School Book Depository—and at a much faster rate of speed. At that speed and distance, it would have been almost impossible for a sniper to hit him from the Depository," Bruno states. (73)

Bruno wrote that there was a political difference over the selection of the luncheon site and therefore the final decision was left open until later than it would have normally been planned.

The Women's Building was a better choice from the standpoint of security and Kennedy's desire to speak to as many of the people of Dallas as possible, including different factions including labor groups, Chicanos, Women and Blacks, all of which would have been able to be present in the larger auditorium. The Connally-Johnson supporters wanted the smaller Trade Mart site which would restrict the luncheon to Dallas' wealthy party backers.

Bruno decided to use his influence and the argument of better security to get the Secret Service to finally rule that the Women's Building would be the site.

"I asked Jerry Behn, the head of the Secret Service at the White House, to pass the word to the Texas agents to wrap it up.



view from the spot behind the fence on the Grassy Knoll



But somehow or other that word never got through. We heard back from Texas that the Secret Service had O.K.'d the Trade Mart as acceptable from a security point of view," Bruno said. (74).

On November 18, 1963 Bruno got the news from Kenny O'Donnell, the President's Special Assistant, that they would let the Trade Mart be the site. Reluctantly, O'Donnell told Bruno, "We're going to let Dallas go, Jerry." (75)

"It struck me at the time that this was one of the few fights like this I had lost. I was no inner counselor to John Kennedy or anything like that, but usually, if I fought hard enough, I could generally get my way about what sites he would do best at politically. On things like this my judgment was usually taken. This time it wasn't." (76)

## OSWALD AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL

Oswald went to Parkland Hospital on October 21, 1963 to see his wife and their new baby born the previous night. (77)

## OSWALD AT GENERAL EDWIN A. WALKER RALLY

Oswald attended General Walker's "USA Day Rally" on the evening prior to Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson's scheduled address in the same auditorium for "United Nations Day." The audience was well attended by people who were extremely conservative in their political views according to the signs which were carried by some of them and the text of General Walker's talk. (78)

## OSWALD ATTENDS STEVENSON UNITED NATIONS DAY SPEECH

In contrast to Oswald's activities of the night before, he allegedly attended the United Nations Day Speech on October 24, 1963 of Ambassador Stevenson where Stevenson was actually struck by one of the picket signs carried by a demonstrator and several others had to be forced to leave by police. (79)

## OCTOBER, 1963 "VIETNAM TROOP PULL-OUT" ANNOUNCEMENT

A White House statement announced in October that President Kennedy was going to withdraw 1,000 U.S. military personnel from South Vietnam which was, perhaps, his last formal executive order, thus reducing the U.S. troop strength there to approximately 14,500 men. (80)

## "ALL GIs OUT OF VIETNAM BY XMAS"—JKF

Secretary of Defense McNamara made a public statement that all American personnel would be brought back home from Vietnam by 1965. His announcement came from the White House. (81) President Kennedy told Kenneth O'Donnell in the Spring of 1963 of his determination to withdraw American forces from Vietnam risking unpopularity after his reelection. "In 1965," the President said, "I'll be damned everywhere as a Communist appeaser, but I don't care." (82)

## UNREST IN SAIGON

Amid riots, immolations, and terror in Saigon, President Diem attempted to calm the agitated people. There were demonstrations, police attacks on Buddhist priests, several of them were jailed, and one immolated himself in protest. (83)

## "OSWALD" REQUESTS RIFLE REPAIRS

Two ladies, Mrs. Gertrude Hunter and Mrs. Edith Whitworth testified that Oswald, his wife and two daughters had come into the furniture store of Mrs. Whitworth looking for a gunsmith, as a result of having seen a sign in the window which said "Guns." Mrs. Whitworth had forgotten to remove the sign when a gunsmith, indeed, formerly worked there. (84) "Oswald" said that his daughter had been born on October 20 and, according to the testimony, wanted to repair the firing-pin or "plunger" of his rifle. He was carrying an object 15 inches long. She directed him to the Irving Sports Shop. (85) Mrs. Hunter corroborated Mrs. Whitworth's account of the incident. (86)

Gunsmith Dial Ryder worked at the Irving Sports Show. (87) He and the owner of the shop, Mr. Charles Greener, could not recall Oswald from his photograph but they did have a repair ticket with the name Oswald on it in their store. The ticket had no date on it but they estimated the date to be November 4th to November 8th. They do not recall making the kind of repairs that from photographs were made on the sight of the Mannlicher-Carcano which was allegedly Oswald's rifle. (88)

An anonymous phone call to a television newscaster saying that "Oswald had had a rifle sighted on Thursday, November 21, at a gun shop on 211 or 212 Irving Boulevard in Irving," had led Detective F. M. Turner to the gunshop of Mr. Greener. (89)

If this was Oswald it would mean that Marina Oswald committed perjury when she testified denying the entire incident (90). It would further suggest the culpability, if not the complicity, on her part in a crime which Oswald planned to commit, had she knowingly accompanied him on an expedition to repair a rifle, after the alleged attempts on General Walker and Richard Nixon and her testimony that she threatened to turn Oswald in if he ever showed signs of repeating such adventures. (91) If it wasn't Oswald (who was at work at the Texas School Book Depository all the afternoons of the month) then the alternative is that someone was impersonating Oswald, thereby incriminating him by linking him directly to the rifle prior to the assassination.

## THE ITALIAN MANNLICHER-CARCANO RIFLE

The rifle that is linked to Lee Harvey Oswald by the alias A. J. Hidell, an Italian Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5 mm rifle, is, according to FBI rifle expert Sebastian Latona, a "Cheap old weapon." (92)

This inferior weapon was described in more detail by rifle expert Walter H. B. Smith in *The Basic Manual of Military Small Arms*, as "poor military weapons in comparison with United States, British, German, or Russian equipment." (93) And by a magazine which specializes in such equipment, the Mannlicher-Carcano was described as "crudely made, poorly designed, dangerous and inaccurate." (94)

The Mannlicher-Carcano, according to the Italian soldiers who used it during World War II, was known as "'the humanitarian rifle' on the grounds that it could not hurt anyone on purpose." (95)

(67) WCR p. 40.  
 (68) WCR p. 738, 3H214, 22H162.  
 (69) Jerry Bruno and Jeff Greenfield, *The Advance Man*, (William Morrow and Company, Inc., New York, 1971), p. 28.  
 (70) *Ibid.*, p. 92.  
 (71) See Dallas Street Map.  
 (72) Bruno, *The Advance Man*, pp. 89-92.  
 (73) *Ibid.*  
 (74) Bruno, *The Advance Man*, p. 92.

(75) *Ibid.*  
 (76) *Ibid.*  
 (77) CD210, p. 5, 22H230, 22H746, 3H40, 11H291, 26H694.  
 (78) 2H403, 20H272, 5H396, 11H401, CD 213, p. 10, WCR p. 738.  
 (79) 2H412.  
 (80) Historical record.  
 (81) Historical record.  
 (82) Kenneth O'Donnell and David Powers,

*Johnny We Hardly Knew Ye* (Little Brown, New York, 1972) p. 16.  
 (83) Historical record.  
 (84) 11H262-275, 11H279.  
 (85) *Ibid.*  
 (86) 11A253-261.  
 (87) 24H, 252-254.  
 (88) 7H225, 23H499, 24H328, CD 1066, p. 238.  
 (89) Sylvia Meagher, *Accessories After The Fact*, p. 367.

(90) 11H285.  
 (91) Sylvia Meagher, *Accessories After The Fact*, pp. 367-369.  
 (92) 4H29.  
 (93) Mark Lane, *Rush To Judgment* (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, New York, 1966, p. 122).  
 (94) *Mechanics Illustrated*, October, 1964.  
 (95) Sylvia Meagher, *Accessories After The Fact*, p. 401.

## "OSWALD" AT THE USED CAR LOT—DALLAS—NOVEMBER 9, 1963

Someone identifying himself as Lee Harvey Oswald appeared at the automobile sales and used car lot of Downtown Lincoln Mercury on November 9, 1963, according to an employee there, Albert Guy Bogard (96). Bogard identified the man as Lee Oswald and said that Oswald tested a car with him driving at high speeds on the Stemmons Freeway. Sales Manager, Frank Pizzo, suggested that the hairline of Oswald, according to photographs shown him, did not match that of the man who was at the lot. (97)

The story of Bogard was supported in part by Pizzo and by Oran Brown and Eugene Wilson, salesman at the lot. Brown wrote the name "Oswald" on a paper which both he and his wife remembered as being in his possession prior to the assassination. (98)

Bogard took a lie-detector test, or a polygraph test as it is otherwise known, and his answers were consistent with someone who was telling the truth. (99)

According to Bogard, "Oswald" made a comment about returning to Russia and also said that he would be coming into some money shortly, enough, evidently, to buy the car he was considering. (100)

## OSWALD PHOTOGRAPH WITH RIFLE AND HANDGUN

An incriminating piece of evidence in the case against Lee Harvey Oswald was a photograph discovered by police among the possessions which were allegedly Oswald's at the home of Ruth Paine. This photograph was not listed on the report of the Dallas Police itemizing all of the possessions (101) even though a number of items, including photographs, were described in the testimony of the officers regarding who discovered the photographs. (102)

The photograph was published as the cover of Life Magazine on February 21, 1964 several months before the official investigation of the Warren Commission was completed (103). It was published, in fact, in magazines and newspapers all over the world described as "Lee Harvey Oswald with the weapons he used to kill President Kennedy and Officer Tippit." (104)

The photograph apparently supplied more than simply the evidence to link Oswald with the weapons allegedly used in both homicides, it provided evidence of a motive since the newspapers in the hands of the person allegedly photographed as Oswald, were the radical publications of "The Worker" and "The Militant." (105) Testimony was introduced to show that the photograph had been retouched prior to publication (106) and it was alleged that the photograph was a composite, or a false photograph as well. (107)

Research has been done since the time this photograph, and another similar photograph were allegedly found (both designated as Commission Exhibits 133 A & B) (108) which indicates that both photographs are composites, falsely portraying Oswald.

Oswald, himself was asked about the photographs while he was being interrogated by Dallas Police Captain Wil Fritz. (109)

"I showed Oswald an enlarged picture of him holding a rifle and wearing a pistol. This picture had been enlarged by our Crime Lab from a picture found in the garage at Mrs. Paine's home. He (Oswald) said the picture was not his, that the face was his face, but that his picture had been made by someone superimposing his face, the other part of the picture was not him at all and that he had never seen the picture before." (110)

## OSWALD INTERROGATION

Captain Fritz did not call for a stenographer, court reporter, or tape recorder to have Oswald's invaluable interrogation properly recorded (111). Fritz kept notes, and his notes are the best evidence of what Oswald told him before others who observed the interrogation, including FBI agent Jim Bookhout, Homicide officers, and Inspector Kelly, of the Secret Service. (112)

Captain Fritz continued, "He (Oswald) told me that he understood photography real well, and that in time, he would be able to show that it was not his picture, and that it had been made by someone else. At this time he said that he did not want to answer any more questions and he was returned to the jail about 7:15 p.m." (113)

## MOTORCADE ROUTE FOR NOVEMBER 22, 1963 VISIT OF PRESIDENT DISCLOSED

On November 16, 1963 the Dallas Times-Herald and Dallas Morning News announced the November 22nd visit of the President, details of the motorcade route and indicated it would pass through Dealey Plaza and continue on to the Trade Mart. (114)

## "OSWALD" AT THE RIFLE RANGE

Someone who was recognized immediately following the assassination as being identical with Lee Harvey Oswald appeared at the Sports Drome Rifle Range in Dallas on several occasions in September, October and November 1963. (115)



Mr. Garland G. Slack testified, along with others, that a man who he identified as Oswald was at the Sports Drome Rifle Range on November 10, 1963 and that he became involved in an altercation with "Oswald" because he was firing at his (Slack's) target. (116)

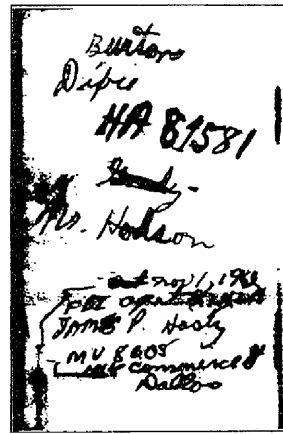
## OSWALD'S ADDRESS BOOK CONTAINED FBI AGENT'S NUMBER

Although the Secret Service had no record of Lee Harvey Oswald in its files, particularly in the Protective Research Section which determined whether or not a person might be a threat to the President, (117) Oswald was well known to the FBI.

The name, auto license number and telephone number of FBI agent James P. Hosty appears in Lee Harvey Oswald's address book (118) and Hosty had interviewed Marina Oswald and Ruth Paine (119) as close to the date of the assassination as October 29, November 1st, and November 5th as well as their neighbors. The Warren Commission was not able to explain how Oswald learned of Hosty's auto license or why he had this information in his address book. Apparently none of the FBI's extensive information on Oswald was passed on to the U.S. Secret Service. (120)

## WHITE HOUSE SECRET SERVICE CHIEF REMAINS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

White House Secret Service detail Chief, Gerald A. Behn remained in Washington, D.C. during the President's Texas trip and Special Agent in Charge Roy Kellerman went to Dallas with the President instead. (121)



COMMISSION EXHIBIT 18

## PROTECTIVE RESEARCH SECTION OF SECRET SERVICE IN DALLAS

As of November 8, 1963, a check of the Secret Service Files revealed there was not one person considered to be a threat to the life of the President in the entire Dallas-Fort Worth area, despite the earlier assault on Ambassador Stevenson. (122)

## DALLAS MOTORCADE LEAD CAR

The lead car of the President's motorcade carried Dallas Police Chief Jesse E. Curry, Secret Service SAIC Forrest Sorrells, SAIC Winston G. Lawson, Sheriff Bill Decker (123). Preceding them was the pilot car, also a hard-top, carrying Deputy Police Chief G. L. Lampkin, Detective F. M. Turner, Detective B. L. Senkel, advance man Jack Puterbaugh, and Army Lt. Col. George Whitmayer. (124)

## SECRET SERVICE AGENTS AT FORT WORTH BAR UNTIL LATE HOURS

Nine special agents of the Secret Service were, according to their own reports (125) and that of the Secret Service Agency (126) in charge of the Presidential detail in Texas, present at The Cellar nightclub in Fort Worth, some of them until 3:00 a.m., the night before the assassination of the President. In specific violation of the Secret Service's own regulations (U.S. Secret Service Manual, Section 10, Chapter 1, page 7, (127) some of the agents did assemble and consume intoxicating beverages. (128)

## "WANTED FOR TREASON": JOHN F. KENNEDY

This poster was widely distributed throughout the city of Dallas on the day of President Kennedy's visit, by anti-Kennedy persons. (129)

## PRESIDENTIAL PLANE ARRIVES AT LOVE FIELD, DALLAS

According to the records of the Secret Service, public accounts and journals, President Kennedy's plane, Air Force One, touched in Dallas at Love Field at 11:40 a.m. c.s.t. on Friday, November 22, 1963. (130)

(96) 62H450-452, 10H352-356.  
(97) WCR 320-321.  
(98) Sylvia Meagher, Accessories After The Fact, p. 332.  
(99) WCR, p. 840.  
(100) CE 3078, CE 3091, CE 3902, 10H352-356, 24H454.  
(101) 24H332-346, Stovall Exhibit B.  
(102) 7H209, 7H215, 7H194, 7H231.  
(103) WCR, CE 334.

(104) Life Magazine, 2/21/64, 21H457, 21H458, 21H460.  
(105) 21H460, WCR 125, 287, 289.  
(106) 21H449, 21H450, 21H455, 2H34-38.  
(107) 2H34-38.  
(108) 16H510.  
(109) 24H264-270.  
(110) 24H269.  
(111) WCR 180.  
(112) 24H269.

(113) 24H269.  
(114) WCR pp. 39-40.  
(115) 10H357-373, 24H304.  
(116) 10H378, 26H680.  
(117) 2H109, WCR 318.  
(118) 16H64, (CE 18, p. 76).  
(119) 4H456, 4H449, 4H453.  
(120) 2H109.  
(121) 2H63, 2H105.  
(122) 2H108, 17H530-532.

(123) 24H249, 24H324, 7H335, 24H285.  
(124) 21H578.  
(125) 18H682-690, 18H666-668, CE 1019.  
(126) 18H682.  
(127) 18H665.  
(128) 18H682-690.  
(129) CE 996, 18H646, 17H627.  
(130) 2H67.

# THE SHOOTING: THREE ASSASSINS SHOT AT JFK FROM THREE DIRECTIONS

Arlen Specter, District Attorney of Philadelphia, was the attorney who handled the investigation of the shooting for the Warren Commission. He made the statement (131) that of all the witnesses at the scene of the shooting which numbered in the hundreds, "Governor Connally was perhaps the most important witness. To accept the conclusion that Governor Connally and President Kennedy were hit by separate bullets is synonymous with saying there was more than one assassin." (132) And yet that conclusion, that the two men were hit by separate bullets, was precisely the conclusion that Governor Connally testified to before the Warren Commission. Mrs. Connally has always corroborated her husband's testimony. (133)

Connally testified: "It is not conceivable to me that I could have been hit by the first bullet." (134)

Connally further testified: "Well, in my judgment, it just couldn't conceivably have been the first one because I heard the sound of the shot. In the first place, I don't know anything about the velocity of this particular bullet, but any rifle has a velocity that exceeds the speed of sound, and when I heard the sound of that first shot, that bullet had already reached where I was, or it had reached that far, and after I heard that shot, I had the time to turn to my right, and start to turn to my left before I felt anything." (135)

The reason Governor Connally's testimony is so crucial to the determination of how many assassins there were is that he could determine best whether or not he was hit by the first bullet which was fired. If he was not, as his testimony indicates, then the assassination was the result of a conspiracy.

The legal definition of a "conspiracy" is simply, "two or more persons acting in concert to commit an illegal act."

The FBI determined that the 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano rifle had a minimum time of 2.3 seconds (136). That is, the minimum time during which the rifle could be fired, the bolt opened and closed (thereby ejecting the shell and pushing a new bullet into the chamber), and fired again was 2.3 seconds. That does not include the time it would take to aim again since the operation of that bolt would take the focus of the aim of a person away from its original position (137). FBI expert Robert A. Frazier was able to fire within the 2.3 seconds when he tested it although he fired not at a moving target, as Oswald was alleged to have done, but at a stationary target. When asked what would have happened to his ability to fire the rifle that fast had he used moving targets as Oswald was alleged to have done, Frazier responded, "It would have slowed down the shooting." (138)

Oswald, it should be noted, was no match for the experts who tested the rifle since he was qualified only one point above the minimum for the Marine Corps (139). Oswald was further described by Marine Corps Lt. Col. A. G. Folsom, Jr., head Records Branch, Personnel Dept. Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, as "a rather poor shot." (140)

Breaking down the number of shots which were fired at the two victims, President Kennedy, and Governor Connally, by the evidence to support the number which could be accounted for, there were possibly five shots, enumerated as follows: FIRST SHOT: Struck President Kennedy in the back and did not exit. (141)

SECOND SHOT: Struck Governor Connally in the back, exited through his chest after shattering his fifth rib, penetrated his right wrist and ultimately lodged in his left thigh. (142)

THIRD SHOT: Struck President Kennedy in the neck. (143)

FOURTH SHOT: Struck the Main St. curb ricocheting up and cutting the face of James Tague. (144)

FIFTH SHOT: Struck President Kennedy in the head, causing him to thrust violently backward and to the left. (145)

Governor Connally testified that he heard the first shot but was not hit, therefore the first shot either missed or hit President Kennedy. Since Secret Service Agent Roy Kellerman testified that the President cried, "My God, I am hit," (146) after the first shot, and he could only have done so if he had not been harmed by a later shot which struck him in the throat, it is likely to assume that President Kennedy was struck by the first bullet in the back (see autopsy diagram) (147) as described by the two FBI Agents who witnessed the autopsy of the President. (148)

The second shot struck Governor Connally as described above and he so testified.

The third struck the President in the front of the neck. (149)

The "miss" which hit the curb on Main St. and ricocheted upward cutting James Tague's cheek came at some point during the sequence of the shots which, it was determined, lasted from 4.8 to 5.6 seconds (150). For the sake of explanation only, we will treat it as the fourth shot although it might have come at any time after the first shot and before the last.

The final shot, as graphically depicted in the Zapruder film and according to the testimony of witnesses, struck President Kennedy in the head, driving him backward and to his left. His head movement, according to medical specialists, was faster than can be explained as a neuro-muscular reaction. (151)

It is not clear if there were two shots which hit the President in the head almost simultaneously or not, although there is

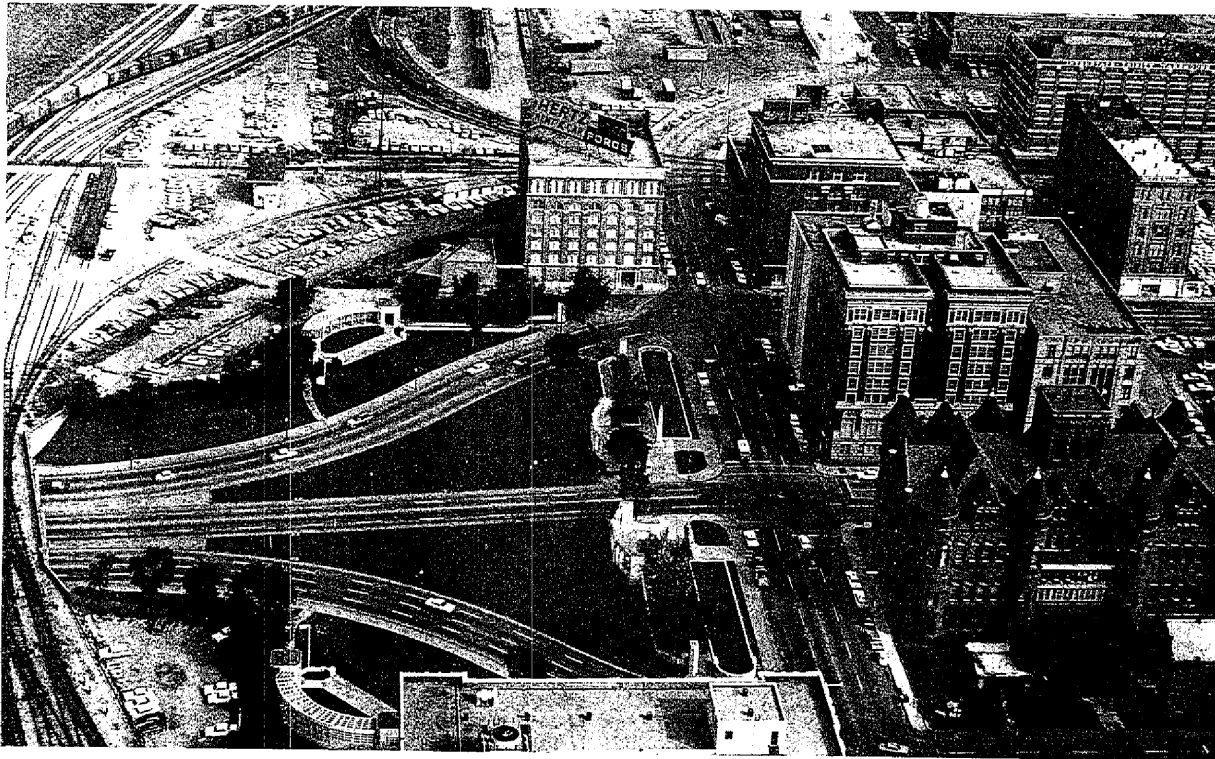
some evidence to support that contention. (152)

According to the FBI reports on the capability (the minimum operation) of the weapon, the five shots would require 9.2 seconds. Since the entire span of time covered by the actual shots was determined to be a maximum of 5.6 seconds, the only possible conclusion is that there was more than one gunman, firing from positions in front of the President to cause his anterior neck wound and shot in the head which propelled him backward, as well as two gunmen firing at the President and Governor Connally from the rear. (153)

The Zapruder film shows the entire span of the shots as a sequence of timed photographs which compose it. It was determined by the FBI that the camera ran at 18.3 frames per second (154). Therefore the 2.3 second minimum operating time of the rifle would be equivalent to 42.09 frames in order to fire two shots.

Governor Connally specifically identified his earliest possible hit as Zapruder film frame #234 (155), and it was officially accepted that President Kennedy was hit by Zapruder frame #225 and not before #210 (156). Therefore there was an interval (157) of 24 frames or approximately 1.3 seconds, or enough time to establish that the two men could not have been hit by the same bullet (158) as indicated by Governor Connally's sworn testimony, but far too short a period of time for the weapon to fire two shots with the 2.3 second minimum time.

There is support for only one conclusion: there were at least two gunmen firing from behind the President and the Governor (159). From the angle of trajectory established for the wounds it is probable that one of the assassins shot from the Texas School Book Depository and another from the roof of the County Records Building. (160)



(131) "A Matter of Reasonable Doubt", LIFE Magazine, 11/25/66.  
 (132) Ibid, p. 38; Norman Redlich, Assistant Counsel, *Inquest*, p. 43.  
 (133) 4H135-136.  
 (134) Ibid.  
 (135) 4H136.  
 (136) WCR 97, 5H153, 3H407.  
 (137) Ibid.  
 (138) 3H407.  
 (139) WCR 191.  
 (140) Ibid.

(141) CE 397, CD 7, FBI Report of Agents Francis X. O'Neill, Jr. and James W. Silbert, 11/26/63; 2H193.  
 (142) 4H136, CD 381, CD 5 (FBI Report 11/29/63).  
 (143) Statements by Dr. Malcolm Perry, CBS, Los Angeles Times 11/23/63 interview with Dr. Cyril Wecht, by Josiah Thompson, May 26, 1967, 6H56, 17H29; Also: 3H370, 3H368, 6H42, 6H33, 6H60, 6H6, 5H60,

5H62, 5H59-60.  
 (144) 2H478-483.  
 (145) 18H1-79 (Z-Frame 313).  
 (146) 2H73, 18H724.  
 (147) 17H45, CE 397.  
 (148) CD 7, Silbert/O'Neill, FBI.  
 (149) N.Y. Times, 11/23/63. 17H4, N.Y. Times 11/27/63.  
 (150) WCR 117.  
 (151) Thompson, *Six Seconds In Dallas*, p. 82-114.  
 (152) Thompson, *Six Seconds In Dallas*,

p. 82-114.  
 (153) Life Magazine 11/25/66; Thompson, *Six Seconds In Dallas*, p. 115-140, 18H1-79.  
 (154) 5H160.  
 (155) Life Magazine 11/25/66.  
 (156) Ibid; 15H696-697; Thompson, 6. 35.  
 (157) Ibid.  
 (158) Epstein, *Inquest*, p. 43.  
 (159) Ibid.  
 (160) 4H138, CD 827, Thompson, p. 129-133.

## POLICEMEN RUSH INTO THE BOOK DEPOSITORY BUILDING

Immediately following the shots Dallas Policeman M. L. Baker rushed into the Texas School Book Depository and, with Roy Truly, confronted Lee Harvey Oswald drinking a coke on the second floor. (161)

## PARKING LOT BEHIND THE GRASSY KNOLL—ESCAPE

A key witness in the assassination was Lee J. Bowers, Jr. who testified that he saw: "something occurred in this particular spot" pinpointing the spot behind the fence on the Grassy Knoll behind which he watched from his tower (162). He continued:

"At the time of the shooting, in the vicinity of where the two men I have described were, there was a flash of light or, as far as I am concerned, something I could not identify, but there was something which occurred which caught my eye in this immediate area on the embankment." (163)

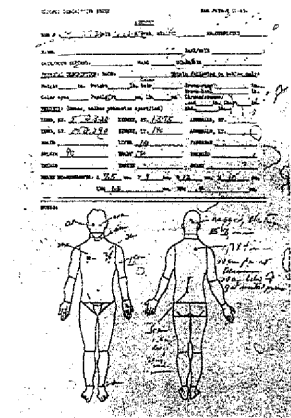
S. M. Holland, an employee of the Union Terminal Company (in charge of the railroad track area behind the Grassy Knoll) gave an interesting description of what he saw behind the fence:

"And I got over to the spot where I saw the smoke come from and heard the shot; I was looking for empty shells or some indication that there was a rifleman or someone over there. Well, you know it'd been raining that morning and behind the station wagon from one end of the bumper to the other, I expect you could've counted four or five hundred footprints down there. And on the bumper, oh about twelve or eighteen inches apart, it looked like someone had raked their shoes off; there were muddy spots up there, like someone had been standing up there." (164)

Holland continued:

"Just to the west of the station wagon... there were two sets of footprints that left... I noticed these two footprints leaving; now they could have stepped out between the second and third cars on the gravel or they could've got in the trunk compartment of this car and pulled the lid down, which would have been very, very easy." (165)

J. C. Price who saw the assassination from the roof of the Terminal Annex building across Dealey Plaza said in an affidavit filed November 22, 1963. (166)



COMMISSION EXHIBIT 397



Dallas Police Station — Main St. ramp

"I saw one man run towards the passenger cars on the railroad siding after the volley of shots. This man had a white dress shirt, no tie, and khaki colored trousers. His hair appeared to be long and dark and his agility running could be about 25 years of age. He had something in his hand. I couldn't be sure but it may have been a head piece."

He later said: "the man was carrying something in his right hand" which "could have been a gun." (167)

## OFFICERS RUSH TO THE GRASSY KNOLL AREA

Two motorcade officers rushed up the Grassy Knoll after the shooting, apparently in pursuit of gunmen (168). The officers, Hargis and Haygood testified that they thought that was the direction from which shots had been fired. (169)

## MEN POSING AS SECRET SERVICE AGENTS SHOW IDENTIFICATION

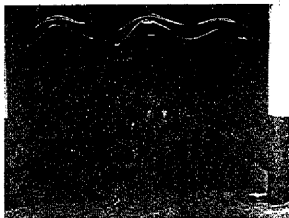
The Secret Service and the official report indicate that there were no Secret Service agents in the area of Dealey Plaza after the shots were fired (170). And yet, three police officers were given Secret Service identification by men who were on the Grassy Knoll and in front of the Texas School Book Depository Building (171). These alleged Secret Service Agents were never accounted for in Secret Service reports and were never seen again.

## THE PHONES GO OUT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

In a crucial and astonishing breakdown in communications systems the telephone system went out immediately after the shots were fired in Dallas, but the breakdown didn't occur in Texas, it occurred in Washington D.C. Senator Ted Kennedy, brother of the President, was forced to go from house to house asking to use strangers' phones before he realized that the phone system was out. (172)

## CABINET PLANE OVER THE PACIFIC—CODE BOOK MISSING

Another crucial coincidence was that most of the members of the Cabinet were on their way to Japan when the assassina-



tion occurred. Some of the most powerful men in the administration were out of touch including, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz, the Chairman of President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisers, Arthur Heller, and Presidential Press Secretary Pierre Salinger. (173)

When the teletype aboard the plane of the Cabinet members carried the earliest wire notice that the President had been shot in Dallas, there was a moment of panic but then, fearing an international plot, and with specific codes and procedures to take effect in such an emergency, the Secretary of State and Press Secretary to the President attempted to contact the White House to confirm the shocking report. They were able to do so, but prohibited from making certain confirmation of data because the official Code Book was not aboard the plane. After a long period of searching for it and not finding it, the Secretary of State was forced to break procedures designed specifically to protect against such interference with codified communications, break the code and communicate with the White House in plain English. (174)

## LEE HARVEY OSWALD DECLARED PUBLICLY HE WAS A PATSY

As the world watched on television, Lee Harvey Oswald got one of his rare chances to speak publicly during a transfer down a hallway in the Dallas Jail at Police Headquarters. He was asked if he had shot the President, which he denied, saying at 7:55 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 1963, "I'm just a patsy." (175)



## JACK RUBY IS PERMITTED TO ENTER BASEMENT AND SHOOT OSWALD

Jack Ruby testified that he entered the basement of the Dallas Police Station on November 24, 1963 and shot Lee Harvey Oswald to death (176). He said that he entered through the Main St. ramp although there was an officer of the Dallas Police specifically stationed in that ramp, which was a little wider than a car width, to keep anyone who hadn't been able to present the proper identification of being either police or press, expressly out of that basement (177). N. J. Daniels, himself a former police officer on the Dallas Police Force, happened to be in the area and stopped to see his friend, Officer Vaughn, who was guarding that entrance. Shortly before the shooting, Daniels saw Officer Vaughn acknowledge a man and allow him to pass into the basement without stopping him or asking him for his credentials. This man appeared to Daniels to be holding a hard object like a gun, in his pocket, yet Vaughn did not stop him. A few minutes, if not seconds later, Oswald was shot. Daniels later identified the man who he had seen walk past Vaughn and into the basement as Jack Ruby. (178)



## THE DEATH OF 18 MATERIAL WITNESSES IN A SHORT TIME

In the past decade more than 40 people who were directly, or indirectly connected with the assassination, either as witnesses or participants in the lives of those involved, have died strangely (179). A list of 18 "material witnesses," that is, people who could have been called to testify in the event that Lee Harvey Oswald had stood trial, perished in a shorter period of time. The list, and the methods which caused the death of these witnesses, provides some important data.

"Of the 18 witnesses, 5 died of natural deaths, and 13 were the victims of accident, suicide or murder. The unnatural causes constitute 71.5 per cent of the total. There were 6 murders, 1 manslaughter, 2 suicides, 3 motor vehicle accidents, and 1 presumed accident (or suicide) by a fall through a plate-glass window." (180)

An actuary of the London Sunday Times computed the life expectancy of 15 of the deceased witnesses and concluded that on November 22, 1963 the odds against all 15 being dead by February 1967 were 100,000,000,000,000 to 1 (181)

(161) 3H249, 17H224, 17H501.  
(162) 6H288.  
(163) Filmed and taped interview by Mark Lane, 3/31/66. *Rush To Judgment*, p. 32.  
(164) Josiah Thompson interview, Nov. 30, 1966. 6H245-246.  
(165) Thompson interview, 11/30/66.  
(166) 19H492.  
(167) Lane, *Rush To Judgment*, p. 33.

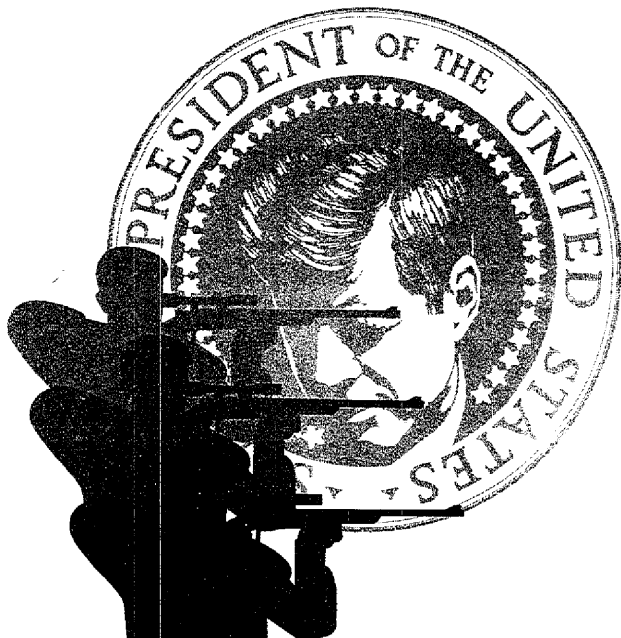
(168) 6H295, 6H209.  
(169) *Ibid.*  
(170) WCR 52.  
(171) 7H107, 6H312, 7H535.  
(172) William Manchester (Harper & Row, New York, 1967, p. 198), *Death Of A President*, pp. 198-199.  
(173) Los Angeles Times, Nov. 18, 1963, *With Kennedy*, Pierre Salinger, p. 3.  
(174) Manchester, *Death Of A President*,

p. 193-195, p. 224. Pierre Salinger, *With Kennedy*, Good Housekeeping Magazine, p. 61.  
(175) 20H366, Kantor Ex. 3.  
(176) 3H181-213, 14H504-570.  
(177) 12H357-372.  
(178) Interview of N. J. Daniels by Stephen Jaffe, August, 1973. 12H225-234. Lane, *Rush To Judgment*, pp. 221-226.  
(179) Penn Jones, Jr., *Forgive My Grief*,

I, II, III, Midlothian Press.  
(180) Meagher, *Accessories After The Fact*, p. 299.  
(181) London Sunday Times, Feb. 26, 1967.  
Appendix of supportive material by Stephen Jaffe.  
Special research by Martin Gates and David Lifton.

In the three-year period which followed the murder of President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, eighteen material witnesses died—six by gunfire, three in motor accidents, two by suicide, one from a cut throat, one from a karate chop to the neck, three from heart attacks, and two from natural causes.

An actuary, engaged by the London Sunday Times concluded that on November 22, 1963, the odds against these witnesses being dead by February, 1967, were one hundred thousand trillion to one.



**BURT  
LANCASTER**  
**ROBERT  
RYAN**  
**WILL GEER**

They are the conspirators in the plot to assassinate an American President.



An Edward Lewis Production  
**EXECUTIVE  
ACTION**

Probably the most controversial film of our time!

Screenplay by DALTON TRUMBO - Based on Novel by MARK LANE and DONALD FREED - Co-Producers by DAN BESSIE and GARY HOROWITZ - Produced by EDWARD LEWIS - Directed by DAVID MILLER - COLOR - A National General Pictures Release ©

**PG** PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED  
Some Material May Not Be Suitable for Children