

Date 12/4/63

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ALVIN BENTON CRAIG, Reserve Patrolman, Dallas Police Department, residence 4310 Dawes Drive, Dallas, employed at Socony-Mobil Research Laboratory, 3600 Duncanville Road, furnished the following information:

He reported to the assembly room at the Dallas Police Department about 9:30 AM on November 24, 1963. He entered the building through the south basement door on Commerce Street and reported to Reserve Lieutenant MERRELL and a Sergeant whose name is unknown to him. He was told to wait in the assembly room until it was determined where his help was needed. About 9:45 AM he was assigned to a location at the bottom of the ramp leading to the parking area in the basement. He was instructed by Lieutenant MERRELL and the Sergeant not to allow anyone past him in the area other than police officers and newsmen. He was instructed to ask for credentials and identification of anyone he did not know. He remained in this position only about fifteen minutes. At that time there were not more than seven or eight persons in the area around the ramp other than officers in uniform or plain clothes officers who were known to him. There were some cameras in position near the exit from the elevator onto the ramp at that time.

He was told by some other officer on duty in the basement, whose name he does not recall, that the basement had already been secured prior to his arrival. About 10:00 AM he was assigned to assist Patrolman NELSON inside the hall of the basement where the barred windows open into the jail office and near the double doors that exit onto the ramp. NELSON was already on duty at this post when CRAIG arrived. In addition to him and Patrolman NELSON, there were two Special Services officers on duty at the site. They were instructed to let no one pass them other than police officers and members of the press.

On one occasion a young woman who was employed in the Police Department started by them and was stopped by Sgt. PUTNAM at the double doors. He refused to allow her into the area and then reprimanded the officers on duty, including CRAIG, for letting her past it. He told them very emphatically that absolutely no one other than police officers and members of the press were allowed to be passed. Everyone that tried to pass them was required to show identification unless he was known to one of the officers as a police officer. He is not sure of the number but believed as many as fifteen

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members of the press passed them to enter the basement area. All of them were required to exhibit press cards. One of these men did not have a press card, but he did have identification reflecting he was a newsman from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was turned over to Captain TALBERT, who apparently checked his identification and was satisfied that he was a legitimate member of the press. In one instance a man identified as a driver for some press representatives tried to pass them with a group. Although he showed identification as a driver for the press, he was turned over to Captain TALBERT, who refused to allow him to enter the area near the ramp.

Mr. CRAIG's post was near the windows at the jail office, where the public is usually admitted to make bail for the prisoners held in the City Jail. Numerous people tried to pass them for this purpose, but they were denied entrance and directed to another window. Two men, a Mexican and a Negro, were standing around in the hall, and one of the officers told him "to keep an eye on them". They never gained entrance to the area leading onto the ramp and never attempted to do so. CRAIG was never told the exact time OSWALD would be moved from the City Jail, but one of the officers did say it would probably be after 10:00 AM.

A group of ten or twelve detectives came to the hall and were told to remain there for just a short time and then led into the ramp area by one of the captains. This was about ten minutes before OSWALD was shot. CRAIG looked through the barred window from the hall into the jail office and caught a glimpse of OSWALD as he was brought from the jail toward the exit from the ramp. Just a short time later he heard what appeared to be a shot. From his post he could not see the site where OSWALD was shot. CRAIG was immediately instructed by one of the officers not to let anyone out of the area. Everyone was kept in the area for a few minutes, and then two officers at the double doors started checking identifications and allowing the people to leave.

He remained on his post for about thirty minutes after OSWALD was shot. While they were there and after they had heard that JACK RUBY had shot OSWALD, Patrolman NELSON remarked, "My God, I'm glad RUBY didn't come by here". He surmised from that statement that NELSON knew RUBY, but he is not positive of this.

CRAIG advised that he does not know RUBY and after examining his photograph could not recall having seen him at the Police Department on the morning of November 24, 1963. He has never worked for RUBY and does not know officers who have.

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