

Date December 4, 1963

(1)

Sergeant JAMES A. PUTNAM, Dallas, Texas, Police Department, who resides at 2015 Joan Drive, Dallas, Texas, was contacted concerning the shooting of LEE HARVEY OSWALD on the morning of November 24, 1963, at the Dallas City Hall. PUTNAM was advised he did not have to make a statement; that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law, and that he could consult an attorney at any time he desired. PUTNAM voluntarily advised as follows:

At 9 a.m. on the morning of November 24, 1963, Sergeant P. T. DEAN, Patrol Division, Dallas Police Department, acting on orders of Lieutenant R. S. PIERCE, Patrol Division, assigned PUTNAM to assist Sergeant DEAN with a search of the basement area of Dallas City Hall. He said that he, Sergeant DEAN, Officer L. E. JEZ, Reserve Captain ARNETT, and several other unknown reserve Police Officers searched the basement area for any unauthorized persons or weapons. He added that their search, which was completed at approximately 9:30 a.m., developed nothing unusual and the entire area was considered safe and secure. He added, however, that during the search several building maintenance employees were asked to leave the basement area, which they did.

Sergeant PUTNAM advised that he and other officers in the basement, from about 9:30 a.m. until approximately 11:20 a.m., were securing the area and checking out any unidentified persons there. He said to his knowledge no unauthorized person was located in the basement during that time.

He related that the following officers were assigned to the positions listed below:

- R. C. NELSON - basement entrance from Police and Courts Building;
- R. E. VAUGHN - north ramp entrance on Main Street;
- B. G. PATTERSON, south ramp exit on Commerce Street;
- A. R. BROCK, elevators in basement.

Sergeant PUTNAM advised that at about 11:19 a.m. he received instructions from Sergeant P. T. DEAN to accompany Lieutenant PIERCE in his car which was to lead the armored car, in which OSWALD was to be placed, to the County Jail. Sergeant PUTNAM added that he and Lieutenant PIERCE were accompanied by Sergeant MAXEY.

At approximately 11:20 a.m. Lieutenant PIERCE's car left via the Main Street exit, where Officer R. E. VAUGHN was on duty, turned left

on 12/3/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639

by Special Agents JAMES E. GARRIS and JACK B. WOODHAM Date dictated 12/4/63