

1

Date 1/10/64

JAMES N. CRAWFORD, Deputy District Court Clerk, Dallas County District Court Clerk's Office, Records Building, advised that approximately three minutes before the Presidential parade approached the intersection of Elm and Houston Streets near the Texas School Book Depository, Mr. CRAWFORD along with a fellow employee, MARY ANN MITCHELL, left the Dallas County District Court Clerk's Office and went to the southeast corner of Elm and Houston Streets to await the approach of the Presidential motorcade. As soon as he reached the southeast corner of Elm and Houston, Mr. CRAWFORD noted that the Presidential motorcade was just rounding the corner at Houston and Main Street. Mr. CRAWFORD watched the President pass in the Presidential limousine turning west onto Elm Street toward the Elm Street Triple Underpass. Mr. CRAWFORD estimated that approximately four or five automobiles including the Presidential automobile, of the Presidential motorcade, had turned down Elm when Mr. CRAWFORD heard sounds which at first were believed by CRAWFORD to be the backfiring of an automobile. Mr. CRAWFORD believed these sounds came from one of the cars in the front of the Presidential motorcade which was approaching the Triple Underpass. Upon further evaluation of the sounds CRAWFORD thought that the sounds might be fireworks. He looked around for signs of smoke.

Mr. CRAWFORD stated that to his best recollection there was a definite pause of as much as 15 to 20 seconds between the first and the second sounds, and the second and third sounds came very close together. By the time the sound of the third shot had passed, Mr. CRAWFORD looked around and in looking up at the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository he observed a movement which he described as a movement such as something being withdrawn quickly. Mr. CRAWFORD stated that this movement was in the left side of the sixth floor southeast corner window facing on Elm Street. This window was the only window which Mr. CRAWFORD noted at the time appearing to be open. He noticed that there were boxes close to the window on the inside of the building. Mr. CRAWFORD stated he could describe the movement he observed as light colored, possibly white, and light have been the reflection of sunlight upon a light colored object. Upon seeing this

on 1/9/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 100-10461

by Special Agent GEORGE T. BIRNEY/sah 22 Date dictated 1/9/64

DL 100-10461

movement he immediately remarked to MARY ANN MITCHELL, "If those were shots, they came from that window".

Mr. CRAWFORD stated he observed no smoke in or around the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository. Mr. CRAWFORD stated that he believes the motion that he observed in the window was a person, but he could not determine whether it was the figure of a man or a woman because of the short glimpse he got. He stated he could, therefore, not give a description of what he had observed except that it was a quick white movement made by a figure which he had immediately concluded to be a person.

Mr. CRAWFORD noted that at the time they heard the shots MARY ANN MITCHELL had exclaimed "Oh no, oh no, oh no" and appeared to be quite upset. Mr. CRAWFORD and MARY ANN MITCHELL returned to their office where they turned on the radio to find out what had happened. Mr. CRAWFORD did not know that the President had been shot until he heard it on the radio in his office. After hearing that the President had been shot, Mr. CRAWFORD went back to the street and walked to the Texas School Book Depository where he contacted Deputy Sheriff ALLAN SWEATT advising him of the movement he had seen in the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository. He suggested to SWEATT that a check be made on the sixth floor behind boxes near the sixth floor window.

329/23