

25 Questions for the
Warren Commission

Meagher, 11 October 1964

OTHER QUESTIONS

1. How did James H. Martin, lawyer and dear friend of Ruby's roommate, George Senator, happen to ^{BE} come "business manager" for Marina Oswald?
2. Did Tippit, in the half-hour before he died, stop any suspects other than the man who killed him? Did he encounter no one else who fit the vague description that went out at 12:45 ("probably" on the basis of Brennan's story) of a "slender man about 5'10" in his early thirties" which enabled him to suspect a man seen only from behind and caused him to draw up alongside and stop him?
3. Since Brewer fingered Oswald from the stage of the Texas Theatre, why did Officer McDonald search two other patrons before approaching Oswald?
4. Ten witnesses are named who were present when Oswald was arrested in the theatre, including seven police officials. Why did the Warren Commission question only one of them, Officer McDonald? *Why was Miles Brewer absent from the news stories of the arrest, and why did he file his affidavit so long afterwards (Dec. 6)?*
5. How did Deputy Sheriff E. R. Walthers happen to be among the police officers at the theatre? *He was alleged to have found a bullet in the grass after the assassination but later denied it.*
6. Who in fact are the eyewitnesses who positively identified Oswald as the killer of Tippit? In Chapter I the Warren Commission claims two eyewitnesses of the shooting--Markham and Benavides--and seven witnesses who heard the shots and saw the gunman flee. In Chapter IV the Warren Commission acknowledges that Benavides did not feel he could identify the man and that he was not even taken to the police station to view the lineup. That leaves only one eyewitness, Markham, who was "uncertain and inconsistent" in her testimony on the time of the shooting and the color of the jacket worn by the killer and who also lied to the Commission about a telephone conversation which she later admitted.

In Appendix XII ("Speculations") the Commission suddenly promotes Scoggins and by implication the two Davis women to "eyewitnesses to the shooting." Who, then, are the seven who "heard shots and saw a man with a gun running away?" Mary Brock saw a man walking briskly with hands in pocket (no gun), which leaves only (1) Scoggins (2) Guinyard (3) Davis (4) Davis (5) Smith and (6) Calloway. Who was the seventh witness?

Scoggins did not get him in mind until ~~later~~ his wife, a Aquilla Clemons? (see Brock article)

7. Why did the FBI wait two months before interviewing Brock, Reynolds, Patterson, Lewis, and Russell on or about 21 January? Can any value be attached to the fact that some of these witnesses identified a photograph of Oswald as the man they had seen briefly, running or walking rapidly, two months before—when that man's face had been shown incessantly in the interim on television and in the press? *and in a debate in which it was almost unpatristic or unrationale to question his guilt?*
8. Is it only a coincidence that Reynolds failed to identify Oswald as the man he saw, was shot in the head two days later, and subsequently did identify him?
9. If it is true that the rifle in the advertisement from which Oswald placed his order is not the same model Carcano as the one found on the sixth floor, do Klein's records indicate an error in filling the order? Is there any substance to Mark Lane's allegation that Klein told him categorically that he did not have in stock the model found on the sixth floor until some months after filling Oswald's order? Why was Klein not called for cross examination?
10. Why did it take Seaport Traders, Inc. two months to fill the order for the revolver? The order was dated 27 January but the revolver was shipped only on 20 March—the same day that Klein's shipped the rifle.
11. Did the FBI or the Dallas police every trace the purchase of ammunition for the rifle and/or the revolver by Oswald? *Does failure of WC to indicate this suggest it was not possible to trace purchases to LHO?*
12. Who was the other Tippit on the Dallas police force whom Ruby knew? Tippit is not a common name like "Smith" or "Brown." Was the other Tippit related to the Tippit who was murdered? *What was the number of his police car (if any)? Note Earlene Roberts story of police car "106" or "107." Could she have seen "10" the number of the slain Tippit's car?*
13. Oswald's mother continues to insist that the FBI showed her a photo of Ruby on 23 November. The FBI and the Warren Commission say it was a photo of someone else, whom the CIA thought might be linked to Oswald. Is there any facial resemblance between the CIA suspect and Jack Ruby?
14. Who normally occupied the seventh floor of the TSBD? Was it in use on 22 November?
15. Exactly where were the chicken bones found? Press reports at the time said at the window with the cartridges etc. Did Bonnie Ray Williams see the shield of cartons before he left the sixth floor at 12:20? Did Dougherty see Williams, Norman and Jarman on the fifth floor before he left by elevator immediately after the shooting? They did not see him.

17. Where did Wade get the information that the rifle was a Mauser?
18. Did Seymour Weitzman submit his affidavit identifying the rifle as a Mauser before or after the FBI traced the sale of a Carcano to "Hidell"? Both events took place on 23 November.
19. Have the pipes next to the window on the sixth floor been replaced since the assassination? They do not appear the same in Exhibit 1302 (page 139) as in Exhibits 887 (page 99) and 723 (page 80), the last of which shows the shield of cartons. When was that photograph taken?
20. Why, and by whom, were films or photographs made of Oswald distributing pro-Castro pamphlets on the streets of New Orleans? Why did Oswald request that an FBI agent be summoned when he was arrested there?
21. Does not suspicion of falsification attach to the evidence given on Ruby's evasion of security and method of entering the police basement? When arrested Ruby refused to say how he had gained entrance. "Some days later" three policemen first informed their superiors that Ruby had told them a half-hour after ~~informing~~ shooting Oswald that he had come in via the Main Street ramp. On November 29th an ex-policeman Daniels told the same story, although on 24 November he had denied to the policeman stationed at that ramp seeing anyone get by him (Vaughan). On 21 December, Ruby after refusing for four weeks to tell how he had managed to get in to the police basement, also testified that he had used the Main Street ramp.
22. Did the Warren Commission investigate allegations (in THE NATION and elsewhere) that the FBI was silencing and coercing witnesses?
23. Why did the Warren Commission conceal the fact that NEWSWEEK and THE NY TIMES had not merely "retouched" the photograph of Oswald holding a rifle but had falsified it by removing all trace of the telescopic sight? By no stretch of the imagination can that be excused as "inadvertently changing the lines of the rifle" in the course of "retouching" to clarify its lines and other details.
24. Did Walter E. Craig recall any of the witnesses who had been heard by the Warren Commission before he was appointed as the guardian of fair procedures? To what extent did he participate in the examination of witnesses after his appointment? How many meetings, if any, did he attend personally?
25. Did the Warren Commission ever determine which of its members or staff had "leaked" to the press "top secret" evidence such as the Oswald diary and the transcript of the interrogation of Jack Ruby? *What about Warren's own leaks to press on Marina's testimony? on "national security"?*

⊗ Harrison Salisbury in *Bentley/NY Times* edition Warren Report p. XXXVI
 Mark here, quoting Jean Hill, Dr. M. Perry, Klein, etc.

(8) (H) A broadcast from the scene of the assassination on WNBC radio (replayed on Sunday night 9-9:30 p.m. after release of Warren report on 27 September 1964) included the excited report that police were chasing an unknown gunman across the railroad tracks. Other radio broadcasts reported a motorcycle policeman in pursuit of a man and woman fleeing from the underpass. See also Joesten pages 96-97.

(9) (I) This is not consistent with the detailed description of a Mauser given by Seymour Weitzman in his affidavit executed the next day, on November 23, photostatic copy of which has been exhibited in public by Mark Lane.

(10) (J) Richard Dudman of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Frank Cornier of AP saw a hole in the windshield but were not permitted by the Secret Service to examine the windshield (at the emergency entrance of the hospital). No one had access to the car or windshield except the Secret Service and presumably the FBI until it was shown to the Warren Commission. Is it certain that it is the identical windshield? How did two people see a small hole where there was only a "small pattern of cracks"?

(11) (K) See Joesten, page 52, on his visit to Oswald's room and his statement that a goldfish in a glass bowl would have had more privacy.

(12) (L) There seems to be no justification for assuming that Frazier and his sister were both mistaken in their estimation of the length of the package or that Frazier was mistaken in his precise recollection of how Oswald was carrying the package, except that the Warren Commission was determined to brush aside anything that tended to create a question about Oswald's guilt. If Frazier is unreliable in these two instances, can his other evidence and testimony be accepted without question?

(13) (M) The police search on 22 November apparently was not very thorough.

(14) (N) See Joesten, page 47, quoting Brennan (as reported in Newsweek) as saying that he could not identify the man he saw in the window and Lane's opinion that Brennan's evidence would not be admissible in a court trial.

(15) (O) Again the Commission gives the benefit of doubt to the witness against Oswald and not to the accused.

(16) (P) If this is credible, it is possible that Oswald was anxiously seeking a

sight of his co-conspirator(s).

Q ~~(17)~~ It is singular that everything Oswald is alleged to have done from the moment that the first shot was heard was done without a minute to spare---he had just enough seconds available to get to the second floor, just enough to get to his rooming house by 1 p.m. and just enough to get to Tenth Street and kill Tippit---without a minute to spare---if Tippit was indeed killed at 1:15 p.m. But if he was killed at 1:05 as originally testified by Mrs. Markham, even Oswald's wild talent for accomplishing the maximum, by a hair's breadth, within the maximum available time, could not have placed him on the scene of the murder.

(R) ~~(18)~~ The Commission could not accept Deputy Sheriff's evidence because it would have required a complete revision of the official thesis. The taxi-driver and the bus-driver were both caught in errors or uncertainty but both stories were accepted by the Commission; the Deputy Sheriff's account was categorical but was rejected without apparent attempt at confirmation or investigation of his motive for telling such a falsehood or concern about his reliability as a law-enforcement officer if he was capable of such fantasy and/or error.

(19) How is it possible to be sure what Oswald told Captain Fritz, about the bus ride or anything else, in the absence of a transcript?

(20) What records of any of Oswald's purchases of
ammunition for the rifle and/or the revolver?

~~(21) Who was "IDENTA"?~~