

December 15, 1964

STATEMENT

On the Sunday (September 27) that the Warren Commission Report was released simultaneously by all the news media, TV Station KNXT, CBS Channel 2, presented a two hour replay of video tapes of interviews in their files. The program was narrated by Walter Cronkite. One of those video taped interviews was with Oswald in the bedlam of the Dallas police station.

I remembered that interview very well from the time I had first seen and heard it soon after the assassination. I told my husband to watch the replay closely because I remembered that the only time I had ever seen Oswald look frightened was when the reporter had told him, at that interview, that he had been charged with killing the President. Consequently, my husband and I were watching intently when the scene occurred -- the reporter told him that he had been charged with killing the President -- he got the frightened look on his face that I had remembered -- then, to our complete surprise, Oswald said, "I'm a patsy!" Now that remark was not in the video tape that I had heard at the time of the assassination. It evidently had been cut out of the tape before it was ever shown to the public. I had never seen or heard that remark reported in any other news media either.

On Sunday, November 22, the anniversary of President Kennedy's death, I saw that CBS was presenting a program entitled "Four Dark Days" which was to include film clips from the time of the assassination. I set up my tape recorder so that I could get Oswald's remark on tape. CBS showed that same video taped interview again but, again, as they had done at the time of the assassination, they had cut Oswald's remark, "I'm a patsy!" out of it. It simply ended on his frightened look.

In the Commission Report - Chapter V - Page 188 - it states: "Throughout the period of detention, however, Oswald was not represented by counsel. At the Friday midnight press conference in the basement assembly room, he made the following remarks:

OSWALD. Well, I was questioned by Judge _____ (Johnston). However, I protested at that time that I was not allowed legal representation during that very short and sweet hearing. I really don't know what the situation is about. Nobody has told me anything except that I am accused of, of, murdering a policeman. I know nothing more than that and I do request someone to come forward to give me legal assistance.

Q. Did you kill the President?

A. No. I have not been charged with that. In fact, nobody has said that to me yet. The first thing I heard about it was when the newspaper reporters in the hall asked me that question.

* * * * *

For the sake of the record, I give you the words that should have been recorded in the Commission Report in place of that row of asterisks,

REPORTER: You have been charged with it.

OSWALD: Sir?

REPORTER: You have been charged with it.
(Oswald looks frightened)

OSWALD: I'm a patsy!

In the Commission Report - Chapter V - Page 193 - it states:
"Oswald's most prolonged exposure occurred at the midnight press conference on Friday night. In response to demands of newsmen, District Attorney Wade, after consulting with Chief Curry and Captain Fritz, had announced shortly after midnight that Oswald would appear at a press conference in the basement assembly room. An estimated 70 to 100 persons, including Jack Ruby, and other unauthorized persons, crowded into the small downstairs room."

The definition of a "patsy" is someone who is being used by others to take the rap or the blame for something the others are guilty of. Thus, after the assassination, we, the American public, were not permitted by CBS to know that Oswald had said that he was a "patsy". But Jack Ruby was in that room when he said it. Jack Ruby, the man who killed him the next day, heard Oswald say "I'm a patsy" --- and Ruby would certainly know what a "patsy" meant.

One of the worst features of Ruby's crime of the murder of Oswald was supposed to be because he had silenced forever any information that Oswald might have given us. Now we find that we were not then permitted by CBS and now by the Warren Commission to learn of the few words that Oswald did speak that indicated the involvement of others and that he was being used by others to take the blame for their crime.

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EPILOGUE: The above statement was written after the issuance of the Commission Report on September 27, 1964. In January, 1965, I received my 26 volumes of Hearings and Exhibits. I noted in the exhibits that in reporter Seth Kantor's notebook (V20-p366) there is a notation: "7:55 - 'I'm just a patsy'." I checked Kantor's testimony and the remark was not mentioned. The time, 7:55, did not jibe with the Friday midnight press conference, and my husband and I both remembered that Oswald had said, "I'm a patsy!" -- not, "I'm just a patsy!" -- on that CBS tape.

In January or February, 1965, NBC advertised a coming program, called "Oswald and the Law" to be narrated by Chet Huntley. This time I was ready with my tape recorder running when the program started. While the title of the program was showing on the TV screen, the sound in the background was the sound of a tape made in the police station sometime after the assassination. The shouting of the reporters was unintelligible, but Oswald's voice could be heard as he shouted, "I'm just a patsy!" I have that recording on tape.

So now we know that CBS has a tape where Oswald shouted "I'm a patsy!" at the Friday midnight press conference and NBC has a tape where Oswald shouted "I'm just a patsy!" at 7:55, the time noted in Seth Kantor's notebook.

I have never seen either remark reported in any news media, have you? This is rather frightening when you think of how many representatives from news media from all over the world who were present and some of whom must have heard Oswald's desperate shouts. Who instructed them not to report it? And how come they all complied?

February 10, 1966

In the Warren Commission Report, page 189, a statement follows the Commission's censored account of the questions asked and the answers given by Oswald at the Friday midnight press conference. The Commission's assertion is as follows: "At this time Oswald had been arraigned only for the murder of Patrolman Tippett, but questioning by Captain Fritz and others had been substantially concerned with Oswald's connection with the assassination."

That Commission assertion certainly does not jibe with what Oswald answered to the CBS reporter's question, "Did you kill the President?"

Oswald answered, "No. I have not been charged with that. In fact, nobody has said that to me yet. The first thing I heard about it was when the newspaper reporters in the hall axed (sic) me that question."

Then the CBS reporter told Oswald, (NOTE: The following was also censored out of the Commission's account) "You have been charged with it." Oswald said, "Sir?" The CBS reporter repeated, "You have been charged with it." It was then that Oswald looked frightened and said, "I'm a patsy!" on that CBS video tape.

No wonder Oswald looked frightened. He must have realized at that moment that the police had charged to the press and public that he had killed the President --- yet hadn't even questioned him about it.

With reference now to the NBC sound tape where Oswald said "I'm just a patsy!" which remark is noted in Seth Kantor's notebook (V20-p366) as having been said at the time of 7:55 --- we have found (V21-p516) the same time - 7:55 P.M. - noted as being the time that Oswald was being taken back to Capt. Fritz's office after the "show-up" at 7:40 P.M. In order to get back to Capt. Fritz's office from the show-up room, Oswald had to be taken through the hall where the newsmen were. That must have been when Seth Kantor and the NBC microphone both recorded his desperate cry, "I'm just a patsy!"

William Whaley, taxi driver, described the Oswald "show-up" where he identified Oswald as his passenger to Oak Cliff at approximately 2:15 P.M. on Saturday, November 23, 1963, as follows: (V2-p260)

WHALEY: ". . . they brought in six men, young teenagers, and they were all handcuffed together. Well they wanted me to pick out my passenger. At that time he had on a pair of black pants and a white T-shirt, that is all he had on. But you could have picked him out without identifying him by just listening to him because he was bawling out the policemen, telling them it wasn't right to put him in line with these teenagers and all . . . "

BALL: "Did he look older than those other boys?"

WHALEY: "Yes"

BALL: "And he was talking, was he?"

WHALEY: "He showed no respect for the policemen, he told them what he thought about them. That he knew what they were doing and that they were trying to railroad him and he wanted his lawyer."

. . .

(V2-p294)

BALL: "Now in the police lineup now, and this man (Oswald) was talking to the police and telling them he wanted a lawyer, and that they were trying to, you said they were trying to frame him or something of that sort -- "

WHALEY: "Well the way he talked, that they were doing him an injustice by putting him out there dressed different than these other men he was out there with."

REP. FORD: "Did the man you identified have any reaction that you noticed at the time you identified him?"

WHALEY: "Only that he was the only one that had the bruise on his head, sir. The only one who acted surly. In other words, I told this Commission this morning you wouldn't have had to have known who it was to have picked him out by the way he acted. But he was the man I carried in my taxicab. I told them when I identified him. I didn't identify him as the man who shot the President. I identified him as the man who rode from the Greyhound to 1500 North Beckley with me."

Now, I'm no lawyer, but it would certainly seem to me that, aside from the differences in age, size and clothing, the bruise on Oswald's forehead, alone, would have been grounds to have nullified any identification by any witness at any "show-up" in that Dallas police station in any Court in the land --- including the Supreme Court.

On a radio news program in New York City on December 18, 1965; William Whaley, taxi driver in Dallas for thirty-eight years; the man referred to by District Attorney Henry Wade as "Darrell Click" on Sunday, 11/24/63; the only identifying witness who mentioned the bruise on Oswald's head; was reported as having been killed in a head-on crash in Dallas.

The tragic, violent deaths continue.