

How to Manufacture a "Lone Assassin":

New Information About a Witness
For the Prosecution

by

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June 1970

*Sent to Texas Observer
6/18/70*

December 2, 1963

Givens, interviewed by the Secret Service, said that he had seen Oswald with a clipboard on the sixth floor at about 11:45 a.m., shortly after which he and some fellow-workers had boarded the two elevators. While racing to the first floor, Oswald had called to them to send one elevator back up (Ball/Belin Report No. 1, dated February 25, 1964). Again Givens said nothing about a return to the sixth floor for his cigarettes at any time after the elevator race.

December 9, 1963

The FBI Summary Report (withheld from the public until mid-1966, when certain excerpts were published in the book Inquest, raising a furor of doubt about the Warren Report) to President Johnson stated that Oswald had been observed on the fifth floor between 11:30 a.m. and noon and that during that period of time he had asked Givens, who was in an elevator, to close the gates when he got off so that the elevator could be summoned (CD 1 page 6). The FBI Summary Report omits Givens' statement to two FBI agents on the day of the assassination that he had seen Oswald reading a paper in the domino room at 11:50.

February 13, 1964

Lt. Jack Revill of the Dallas Police was interviewed by FBI agent Robert Gemberling about press rumors of a Negro being held in protective custody. Revill "stated that Givens had been previously handled by the Special Services Bureau on a marijuana charge and he believes that Givens would change his story for money." (Emphasis added.) Gemberling's report repeats the story of the elevator race during which Oswald yelled to Givens to close the gates when he got off (CD 735 pages 296-297). Almost three months ^{after the} "fact," there is still no hint from Givens, Revill, or the FBI of cigarettes forgotten by Givens or his return to the sixth floor and encounter there with Oswald. But in another context, Revill volunteers the opinion that Givens would give false information "for money."

February 25, 1964

Warren Commission lawyers Joseph Ball and David Belin complete a first joint report, summarizing the evidence known by that date, and note discrepancies

Givens testimony. Instead, these new documents all but proved that perjury had been committed, in order to place Oswald on the sixth floor at a time when Givens himself (as well as three other witnesses) saw him on the first floor. They also exposed the ugly fact that collusion in that perjury could not be suspected merely of Givens and the Dallas Police, as it had seemed earlier, but clearly extended to two or more Warren Commission lawyers and therefore the Commission itself.

Here is a chronological reconstruction of the Givens affair from which anyone easily can judge for himself whether or not there are sufficient grounds for an accusation of perjury, collusion, and falsification of evidence with the clear purpose of incriminating Oswald as the assassin of President Kennedy. (The citations in each case refer to both published transcripts and exhibits and to unpublished Commission documents or internal reports and papers.)

November 22, 1963

At 1:46 p.m. Inspector Sawyer of the Dallas Police issued an alert on the police radio for Charles Givens, a porter at the Book Depository, because he had "a police record and he left" (CE 705 page 30). It was known at that hour that Oswald, too, had left the scene but no alert for him was issued--Captain Will Fritz and two detectives intended to proceed to Irving personally, in search of Oswald.

Within an hour or two, Givens was escorted to the police headquarters, where he was questioned and where he executed an affidavit stating that he had left the sixth floor at about 11:30 a.m., had gone to the washroom, at noon had taken his lunch period, had gone to a parking lot to visit with a friend employed there (CE 2003 page 27). Givens' affidavit said nothing about a return to the sixth floor for cigarettes or an encounter there with Oswald.

Later that day Givens was interviewed by FBI agents Griffen and Odum. He gave them the same story as in the affidavit but added one additional piece of information--that at 11:50 a.m. he had seen Oswald reading a paper in the "domino room" on the first floor (CD 5 page 329).

November 23, 1963

Bonnie Ray Williams, another Book Depository employee, in an interview by FBI agents Griffen and Odum described a race between two elevators at about 11:30 a.m. in which he, Givens, and others participated. On the way down, they had seen Oswald on the fifth floor. Williams had returned to the sixth floor at about noon and had seen no one there (CD 5 page 330).