

Exerpts from telephone interviews with R.C. NELSON, July 1 and 4, 1973.

Harris: Why do you think Officer Tippit left his patrol district and went to District 91?

Nelson: Probably the same reason I did. He and I were the only ones in Oak Cliff, as I recall. We were the only two squads in service and everybody else had been sent downtown or on some type of special detail downtown. And.... I was-- he was working 78 and I can't even remember the district I was working, probably 87 or something like that. And I was down in the central Oak Cliff part myself, which, you know, wouldn't be uncommon; we were covering the calls in Oak Cliff at that particular time.

Harris: Would it be normal for him to leave his district under the circumstances?

Nelson: Oh yeah. Like I say, he and I were the only two in Oak Cliff left in service, as far as just available for calls or whatever. And when he was shot I was at the book depository, and you know, which again was not strange. And I'm sure he was enroute in that area, whatever.

Harris: Were you sent to Elm and Houston?

Nelson: Yeah.

(Here I told him that Judy Bonner wrote that he had disobeyed an order by leaving Oak Cliff to go downtown)

Nelson: (Laughter) No. No, that's not accurate.

Harris: Before going to Elm & Houston, did you have orders to be in Oak Cliff?

Nelson: Uh, I was assigned to a district in Oak Cliff, yeah. But I was also told that Tippit and I were the only ones available for calls in the area.

Harris: Were you told to remain at large in central Oak Cliff?

Nelson: No, unh unh. As I recall, I came on the radio-- when it first broke out I was out on Zanes, and I came in on Zanes, you know, and the first thing that entered my mind would be, you know, to set up a road block on the south end of the Houston Street viaduct. There are about three possible ways out of that area (Dealey Plaza), and one of them being the Houston Street viaduct, I'm glad I didn't, 'cause that's the way he (Oswald) came, and he'd probably killed me. But anyway, as I recall, the dispatcher told, advised me to report to the Book Depository.