

Witnesses Tell Fear Of Death

By DOROTHY KILGALLEN

Copyright 1964, By the New York Journal-American

While the nation waits for the report of the Warren Commission—the full story of the greatest tragedy this nation has suffered in a century—new and significant disclosures of events surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy have been obtained exclusively by this newspaper.

They are statements and affidavits. Presumably they will be incorporated in the voluminous report which President Johnson is now studying, and which the entire civilized world is awaiting in moods varying from curiosity to cynicism to anticipated relief that this dreadful chapter in history can be closed with a sigh.

Chief Justice Earl Warren and his distinguished seven-man committee have taken exactly 10 months to complete their difficult task. They have questioned a host of confused and confusing witnesses.

The New Important Points

A woman who witnessed the killing of Officer J. D. Tippit was warned by police that her life would be in danger if she talked about the case to anyone. She gave what seemed to be a vivid description of the slayer—a description which did not fit Lee Harvey Oswald—but she made her statement after being promised that her name would not be revealed. She said:

"I'm not allowed to talk to anybody . . . might get killed on the way to work . . . see, they'll kill people that know something about that."

Another eyewitness to the shooting of Officer Tippit—Mrs. Helen Markham, who identified Oswald in a police lineup—also said she had been told not to talk by "several" FBI agents, two or three secret service men, and four or five Dallas detectives.

Mrs. Markham signed an affidavit for the Dallas police, and one for the secret service. She also talked on the telephone to Mark Lane, New York attorney retained early in the case by Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald. Mr. Lane taped her statement to him, and at first was accused by the Warren Commission of refusing to give them a copy of the tape, but he furnished the commission with the tape more than two months ago and received an acknowledgment from J. Lee Rankin, general counsel, to the commission.

Police Round Up Witnesses

On Nov. 23, the day after the assassination, the Dallas police obviously were rounding up as many witnesses as possible and getting them to

(Continued from Page 1)

make statements and sign affidavits while the events were still clear in their minds.

One of these was Seymour Weitzman, a Dallas policeman, who was one of two searchers to discover the alleged assassination rifle in the Texas book depository building from which the shots were fired. He swore under oath:

"This rifle was a 7.65 Mauser bolt action equipped with a 4/13 scope, a thick black leather sling on it."

The Mauser seems to have been erased mysteriously from the case. The assassination weapon is now officially an Italian Carcano of another caliber. Lee Harvey Oswald owned a Carcano.

On Nov. 23, a cab driver named William Wayne Whaley signed an affidavit saying he had picked up a fare "who I now know to be Lee Harvey Oswald" a few minutes after the assassination and drove him a short distance—95 cents on the meter.

Yet on Nov. 24, Dist. Atty. Henry Wade of Dallas County held a press conference in which he told reporters:

" . . . He asked the bus driver to stop, got off at a stop, caught a taxicab driver, Darryl Click—I don't have the exact place—and went to his home in Oak Cliff, changed his clothes hurriedly and left."

William Wayne Whaley became Darryl Click almost as casually and rapidly as the Mauser became a Carcano.

Affidavit From Remote Witness

5. Also on Nov. 23, the police diligently obtained an affidavit from Michael Ralph Paine, although his connection with the case was somewhat remote. He was the estranged husband of Mrs. Ruth Paine, with whom Oswald and his wife and two children lived in Irving, a suburb of Dallas. Mr. Paine lived in an apartment in Grand Prairie, Tex.

He told the police he had been at work when he heard President Kennedy had been shot from the Texas Book Depository Building, volunteering, "I knew that Lee Oswald worked there, and I immediately thought of him and wondered if I should call the FBI. I thought it unlikely that he shot the President, and that the FBI was fully aware of his presence there, and I did not want to contribute to his harassment which would be likely to occur due to his known Marxist views."

Quite obviously, Oswald's "known Marxist views" did not attract the attention of the FBI on that fatal day.

Mrs. Paine has been quoted as saying she notified the FBI after she got Oswald his job in the book depository, but she believed he was working in the annex not in the building along President Kennedy's parade route.

Mr. and Mrs. Paine in

Police Security Was Thorough

6. The official 20-page report to Chief of Police J. E. Curry by three high-ranking Dallas police officers, illustrates dramatically how elaborately and carefully the Dallas force, the Secret Service and the F.B.I. worked on security measures in advance of President Kennedy's reception—with the terrible exception of covering Oswald.

The same report delineates how carefully and elaborately the Dallas police worked on security measures to protect Oswald's transfer from the police basement to the city jail—with the terrible exception of Jack Ruby.

7. A reliable source close to the entire case has been informed that one of the commission members, government advisor John J. McCloy, was given a photograph showing Oswald with a rifle in the sixth floor window of the book depository from which the assassination bullets were believed to have been fired. The photograph is said to have been taken by an amateur along the parade route, just as the bullets were being fired, or a second afterwards. It probably will be incorporated in the Warren report as additional—and startling—evidence that Oswald was indeed the assassin.

Extracts From Interviews

Here are extracts from the actual, documentation—interviews, affidavits and special reports—that presumably appear in the Warren Commission report.

1. Interrogation of a woman (name withheld) who witnessed the slaying of officer J. D. Tippit, and gave a description of his killer which did not fit that of Lee Harvey Oswald. Later, she told of threats from police not to talk about it:

Q.—Was he a short, kind of heavy-set man?

A.—Yes, he was short. Heavy.

Q.—He was kind of heavy?

A.—Yeah, he was kind of stocky-built. Stock build—whatever you call it.

Q.—You wouldn't say he was kind of thin? (Oswald was thin.)

A.—No, I wouldn't . . .

Later, the woman talked about a visit by a policeman: "Some kind of policeman talked to me. You know, I don't know one from another."

Q.—Was it a plainclothesman?

A.—No, he wasn't plainclothes.

Q.—He had a police officer's uniform on?

A.—He had a blue-looking clothes on.

Q.—Cop?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Had a star—badge?

A.—And I'm not supposed to be talking to anybody, because he said if I talked to anybody I might have to go to Washington.

Q.—So, the police said I'd get a lot of publicity and would better not do it?

Might Get Killed On Way to Work

A.—Yeah, I'd better not, might get killed on the way to work.

Q.—Is that what the policeman said?

A.—Yes. See they'll kill people that know something about that. There's liable to be a whole lot of them.

A.—Who?

Q.—There might be a whole lot of Oswalds and things. You know, you don't know who you talk to, you just don't know. You have to be careful. You get killed.

Q.—That's what the police said too?

A.—Sure. They told me that I had to be careful.

2.—Telephone conversation between Mrs. Helen Markham, another witness to the shooting, and New York attorney Mark Lane, who was retained by Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald:

LANE: Would you say he (the killer of Officer Tippit) was stocky?

Mrs. Markham: He was short.

Lane: He was short. And was he a little bit on the heavy side?

Mrs. Markham: Uh, not too heavy.

Lane: Not too heavy, but slightly heavy?

Mrs. Markham: Uh, well, he was—no, he wasn't, didn't look too heavy.

Lane: He wasn't too heavy. And would you say that he had rather bushy kind of hair?

Mrs. Markham: Uh, yeah, just a little bushy, uh, huh.

Lane: (Later in the interview) How was he dressed?

Mrs. Markham: He had on a light grey jacket.

Lane: Yes.

Mrs. Markham: Kind of dark trousers.

3.—Whaley said he

picked up Oswald at the Greyhound bus station and drove him to the 500 block of North Peckley Street.

"This boy was small, five feet eight inches, slender, had on a dark shirt with white spots of something on it. He had a bracelet on his left wrist. He looked like he was 25 or 26 years old."

"At approximately 2:15 p.m. this afternoon, I viewed a lineup of four men in this (Dallas) city hall, the number three man, who I now know as Lee Harvey Oswald, was the man who I carried from the Greyhound bus station to the 500 block of North Peckley."

But the next day, Dallas County Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said in a press conference:

"The next we hear of him (Oswald), is where he got on a bus at Lemar Street (near the bus station) he told a lady—all this was verified by statements—told the lady on the bus that the President had been shot."

"He then . . . he asked the bus driver to stop, and got off, not a stop, caught a taxicab driver, Darryl Click—I don't know the exact place—and went to his home in Oak Cliff, changed his clothes hurriedly, and left."

Police thus apparently tossed out taxicab driver Whaley's affidavit.

Told Not To Discuss Case

(In further questioning, Mr. Lane brought out that "several" FBI agents, "two or three" secret service men and "four or five" Dallas detectives told her it was best not to discuss the case.)

3. The affidavit of Pt. Seymour Weitzman of Dallas police, who found the alleged rifle with which President Kennedy was assassinated:

"I was working with Deputy S. Boone of the Sheriff's Department and helping in the search (for a weapon of the assassin). We were in the northwest corner of the sixth floor (of the Texas school book depository building) when Deputy Boone and myself spotted the rifle about the same time.

"This rifle was a 7.65 Mauser bolt action equipped with a 4-13 scope, a thick leather brownish-black sling on it. The rifle was between some boxes near the stairway. The time the rifle was found was 1:22 p.m.

"Capt. Fritz took charge of the rifle and ejected one live round from the chamber."

(But the assassination weapon is now officially designated as an Italian 6.5 Carcano carbine, which Oswald owned a Carcano, which he had bought from a Chicago mail order house.)

Cab Driver's Testimony

4. The day after President Kennedy was assassinated, taxicab driver William Wayne Whaley signed an affidavit swearing that he picked up Oswald a few minutes after the President was killed.

Mr. Whaley said he picked up Oswald at the Greyhound bus station and drove him to the 500 block of North Peckley Street.

"This boy was small, five feet eight inches, slender, had on a dark shirt with white spots of something on it. He had a bracelet on his left wrist. He looked like he was 25 or 26 years old."

"At approximately 2:15 p.m. this afternoon, I viewed a lineup of four men in this (Dallas) city hall, the number three man, who I now know as Lee Harvey Oswald, was the man who I carried from the Greyhound bus station to the 500 block of North Peckley."

But the next day, Dallas County Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said in a press conference:

"The next we hear of him (Oswald), is where he got on a bus at Lemar Street (near the bus station) he told a lady—all this was verified by statements—told the lady on the bus that the President had been shot."

"He then . . . he asked the bus driver to stop, and got off, not a stop, caught a taxicab driver, Darryl Click—I don't know the exact place—and went to his home in Oak Cliff, changed his clothes hurriedly, and left."

Police thus apparently tossed out taxicab driver Whaley's affidavit.

(Continued on Page 19, Col. 1-5)