

Sylvia: This is all the paper I have this morning. I have a problem that is so boring I hate to begin, but feel I must. It has been bothering me for some time, yet I have put it off--primarily because I could not see any particular significance to it. Please take down Volume 7 and turn to p. 36. Walker says here that on hearing of Tippit's murder he and two newspapermen left the TSBDB and went directly to 10th Street "... one (newspaperman) got out at the scene where Officer Tippit was killed."

Also Walker says (haltingly to be sure) that he and the newsmen heard the first descriptions of ~~xx~~ the alleged ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{killer} over the radio as they were driving to OakCliff. (It is my opinion that what Walker recalls is NOT the descriptive call on the alleged killer of Tippit, but the description of the man wanted for the assassination. More on this farther down.)

The clear picture ~~xxxx~~, then, is that Walker heard ~~xx~~ ^{that} an officer ~~xxxx~~ ^{xxxx} had been shot in Oak Cliff while he (Walker) was still at the TSBDB. He got in his squad car and with two newsmen who joined him at the TSBDB drove directly to "...the scene" where one of the newsmen got out of the car.

The testimony was given in April 1964. Under oath.

In July 1964 I had a telephone conversation with Hugh Aynesworth which I recorded. (The recording was very poor; I never admit this however.) At this time Aynesworth told me that he was standing on the sidewalk of the TSBDB when he heard "over a police radio" that an officer had been shot in OakCliff. "I knew at once, I had a real hunch, that this was connected with the assassination, so I asked the Officer (parked on the sidewalk) if I could ride with him." "On the way over we heard the description given out on the man wanted for killing Kennedy." (This last was delivered following my question as to why Tippit may have stopped "Oswald." It was Aynesworth's contention at ~~the~~ time that Tippit, like himself and the unnamed officer he was ~~xxxx~~ riding with, could very well have heard the calls put out on the man wanted in the Presidential attack and stopped the man for questioning.)

Aynesworth went on to say that he and the officer had driven directly to 10th Street and it was Aynesworth's claim that "...at 1:05, not later than 1:10" he was standing on 10th Street looking down at the spot where Tippit had been killed. (Aynesworth was tremendously egotistical in all this. In '64 he was aghast at the fact that Merriman Smith had won an award for his coevrage of the assassination. Aynesworth felt that he (Aynesworth) had accomplished so much more. "After all, " he said, " I was the only reporter in America who made it to all four big scenes." The assassination in Dealey Plaza, the killing scene of Tippit, the Theatre, and the basement on Nov. 24.)

Thus we have Aynesworth's contention to ~~me~~ in July '64 that he left the TSBDB area in a police car, going directly to 10th Street. On the way to 10th Street he and the unnamed officer overheard a police broadcast on identification of the assassin.

So far this fits in with Walker's story.

In the Commission "index" however there ~~xxxxxx~~ are only two references to Hughie, see Volume 15, p. 348 and p. 354.

This is the testimony of Robertson, employee of station WFAA, subsidiary of the Dallas Morning News, employer of Aynesworth. (In other words they were all boys together, so to speak.) Robertson insists UNDER OATH that Aynesworth rode with him and Ron Reiland (photographer for WFAA) from the TSBDB to Oal Cliff on hearing of the murder of an Officer there. Reiland drove the car. Robertson states first they went to the Hughes Funeral Home chasing that elusive jacket. (Which is another story in itself. The Jacket allegedly found on "a bush" in front of the Funeral Home, later flew all the way across the street to be found on the flat old pavement in the Texaco lot!)

In other words, Roberston in late July 1964 claimed Aynesworth had ridden with him and

Reiland in an ordinary car to Oak Cliff stopping first on Jefferson to check on the jacket allegedly found by that time at the Funeral Home; whereas Aynesworth in a conversation with me at around the same time (July '64) said he had ridden in a policeman's car to Oak Cliff going directly to 10th Street and arriving there at "...1:05, not later than 1:10pm."

Walker's testimony, although it does not name names, seems to corroborate Aynesworth's original remarks to me. Since Aynesworth did NOT testify, was not called to testify, one has no way of making any judgment based on his statements. However, I can conceive of NO reason why Aynesworth would have made up that entire story to me. Why not just say to me: "I rode out with Reiland and Robertson?" What in hell did such a convoluted tale benefit from reaching my ears? And why, if that was the true story, was it necessary to get Robertson to perjure himself in regard to Aynesworth having been in the car with him? Notice that Reiland was not called. It is possible that Aynesworth knows more about Tippit's death (and Lee's innocence in this regard) than we realize. I feel quite sure that a determination was made--at the Dallas FBI level--NOT to call Aynesworth to the Commission. In his conversation with me in July '64 Aynesworth expressed himself as being positive he would be called before the Commission. He had no doubts of this; as he himself put it, he had been in on all "four big scenes," hadn't he? They called Thayer Waldo merely on the basis of his (Thayer's) having been at ONE big scene, the basement. Yet Aynesworth was left out in the cold. Aynesworth also "leaked" the Oswald diary story at the request of Belin (I may have this name wrong, since I am working from memory. At any rate it wouldn't be hard to trace. The Commission attorney who gave Aynesworth the diary to print was in Dallas at the time the DMN broke the story. I am quite sure it was Belin. Warren later put the FBI on this shocking "leak" at Marina's request so to speak; but as was to be expected nothing came of it. The regional FBI in Dallas put that fire out. Warren never knew what happened in that creepy mess, the sorry old bastard.)

At any rate, Aynesworth's remark to me may have been more shattering than I realized at the time. Aynesworth was POSITIVE of the time he got out of the policeman's car on 10th Street. Later after the 26 volumes were released I realized the value of the remark (by Aynesworth) because of Bowley's deposition on the time. Bowley was meeting a schedule of sorts, with a school run and his wife's job involved. He KNEW what time it was. The Commission never did hear of Bowley; nor did the FBI bother taking his watch or checking it for accuracy, etc. Mrs. Markham for whom I have (naturally) great contempt was far closer on the time angle than the Commission gave her credit for. It may have been the only ~~place~~ place where the poor bitch told the truth. Markham is a working woman, of the lower class, to whom a job and the income it brings in is quite a priority. The fact that she placed Tippit's death-time in sequence with her walk to the bus is excellent logic. A working woman who depends on city buses for her living and her transportation has a very good eye for time in this regard. Now here I must admit something that makes me terribly ashamed. Sometime in March 1964 I called the Dallas police station and asked a Lt. there what the official time was for Tippit's death was. He replied: "1:06pm." I think if I searched my papers very carefully I could find his name. The children heard me say it to them. Perhaps I could remember it by going over the list of names on the police roster at that time. Still, it is not critical evidence, since the policeman would now just be described as "mistaken." However, in context with Bowley, Markham and Aynesworth, it adds up to an interesting picture. Is this then (the time) the reason Robertson placed Aynesworth in his car? If so, it was tight planning, since I believe my conversation with Aynesworth took place only a few days before Robertson's appearance before the Commission hearings. But why? Aynesworth told me point blank that he rode to 10th Street directly with a policeman. On the way there they heard a description. They arrived at 10th at "1:05, not later than 1:10pm." Walker's testimony indicates to me that ~~this was~~ one of the newsmen riding with him was Aynesworth. Walker is not asked what time he got to 10th. At any rate, I plan to do something about this after hearing from you.

Amusing note: Walker says police do not approach suspects with gun in their (police) hands; yet a few pages earlier he says "I had my gun out" as he approached theatre patrons! Ha.

An Open Letter to Father Oscar Huber

(Who administered the last rites to President John F. Kennedy)

Oh, Father, I am so sorry you don't remember my children and me. Richard Warren Lewis, author of "The Scavengers" (New York World Journal Tribune, 1/22/67) writes:

"The priest (the Very Rev. Oscar Huber, pastor of the Holy Trinity Church in Dallas) denies ever meeting Mrs. Martin or having any knowledge of such a wound (over President Kennedy's left eye)."

Yet, I and my children (Victoria 21, Teresa 15, Steven 12, Mike 11) interviewed you on November 22, 1964, at which meeting you detailed for us what you thought to have been a bullet hole over President Kennedy's left eye on November 22, 1963. (A story quoting you in this regard appeared in the 11/24/63 Philadelphia Sunday Bulletin.) The children and I had gone to Dallas for the purpose of honoring President Kennedy at Dealey Plaza on the first anniversary of his death. We attended mass that day (a Sunday) at your church; I introduced myself to you as Mrs. Mark Martin from the parish of Father John Ceffi, Hominy, Oklahoma. You led us into a study which was to the left of a fairly long hall where we sat and talked for at least twenty minutes. On a desk you had a number of copies of an article you had written called "President Kennedy's Final Hours, November 22, 1963," and you told us you wanted very much to send a copy to Mrs. Kennedy, but that you were hesitant about approaching her. "Do you think it would be a good idea?" you asked. You were concerned about mailing to her in time to have the anniversary postmark on the envelope. We assured you that with Mrs. Kennedy's sense of history, your thoughtfulness would be appreciated. (You then gave us a copy of your article which we still have.)

At this point you described for us what you thought to have been a bullet wound over President Kennedy's left eye.* "I took the sheet down to his nose," you said, "and I saw what I immediately thought to be a bullet hole on his forehead, above his left eye. I told a number of people when I got back that this must have killed him, but that night I heard that the man was behind him in the building, so I knew what I had seen was a blood-clot." "No; no one has come to see me about it. No one."

We also talked at length about your boyhood. You told us the sight of the President's blood had not bothered you because as a young man you had participated in the slaughter of pigs and were accustomed to seeing blood "all over the place." You then described an accident you had once attended, concluding: "No, no. The sight of blood never bothers me at all."

How can you deny, Father, that you met us or that you described for us what you thought was a bullet wound over President Kennedy's left eye? Richard Lewis (a sophisticate with a blind faith in the priesthood?) has used your denial of us to slander all my efforts on the Oswald case. He writes: "The graying Agatha Christie fan (has) conveyed her frequently misleading reports to fellow investigators..."; and I am told that Mr. Lewis plans a book (Dell, 300,000 copies) in which he will persist in his libel against the investigators.

Consequently, Father, your denial of the children and me may lead to trouble yet. We are not accustomed to being called liars, either by a priest or a Hollywood "journalist."

(Mrs.) Shirley Martin
Owasso, Oklahoma
cc: 500
2/14/67

*A number of witnesses, including Dr. McClelland, Parkland Hospital, testified to seeing a bullet wound over President Kennedy's left eye. Thus the pertinence of Father Huber's story.