

Rec'd 8/8/67

Sylvia: I just had a long telephone conversation with Allman. He says that he does not know himself if he is the "young crewcut" man who identified himself to Lee Oswald and asked for a phone. He says he is young and that in '63 he had a crewcut. And also admits to asking "someone" for directions to a phone. Here is the story: He was standing near Brennan at the time the shots were fired. He ran immediately up the grassy knoll along with nearly everybody else. Once there he looked around, spoke to Bob Jackson who had gotten off a press bus, and then returned to the TSBDB where he encountered a man (inside the glass doors) and asked where a phone was. He states positively that he cannot identify this man with Oswald, pro or con. Nor can he remember a single item of the man's clothing, except to say that he was not in a business suit. He can not even clearly remember if the man were young. The man did not speak in so far as he can remember, certainly not much. "He jerked a thumb to the inside of the building," is about the way Allman describes it. However, he did agree with me that the time involved for the alleged confrontation (12:33pm) is awfully tight for him (Allman) to have run across to the knoll, up the knoll, talk to some observers including Jackson, and then return to the TSBDB all in ~~three~~ two or three minutes. (he did not leave the sidewalk near Brennan either until after the Presidential limousine had sped away.

He is aghast by Manchester's allegation that MacNeil used the telephone and called NBC from the Depository, since he (Allman) was on that particular phone for one half hour. (Finally a member of Army Intelligence told him to get off the phone. By this time the building was cordoned and he had trouble leaving.)

Of course MacNeil did NOT call NBC from the depository. And obviously the crewcut man was Allman. Is this another stupid Manchester mistake or did the SS press Manchester and MacNeil to do this story for them. (Allman says that neither the FBI or the Commission interviewed him. Only the Secret Service. These gentlemen he said seemed anxious for him to make a positive identification of Oswald as the man he spoke to, but he could not.) Someone obviously needs to talk to MacNeil.

At any rate, I thought you would be interested. Allman seems very nice. I was surprised that he had absolutely no accent at all. He was with WFAA at the time of the assassination, merely as a reporter. Now he is Executive Director of Southern Methodist University, quite a job I imagine.

He does not remember seeing a policeman run past him at any time into the building, but of course Baker and Truly were allegedly already inside, which is perfectly ridiculous. In fact the whole story is so absurd. What really happened in my opinion is that Allman had his confrontation with Lee alright but at 12:40pm, not 12:33. This negates entirely the possibility that Oswald killed Tippit.

Why didn't I ask Allman how the SS got his story in the first place? I forgot that. He says he thinks they recorded him, but I doubt it. His story was fine from their point of view as long as he did not balk at the 12:33pm alignment and apparently it never occurred to him to do that. Today, when I pressed him on it, he admitted that 12:33 was awfully short a time for him to have watched the car leave, gone across the street then west and north up the knoll, talked to observers and then returned to the book building.

I must close as this isn't the time of day I write letters and I am swamped with household things. Let me hear your opinion on this. Love, S.

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