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Date 12/4/63

RONALD C. NELSON, 1302 Winding Trail, Duncanville, Texas, was interviewed at his residence. He was advised that he was not required to make a statement; that any statement he did make might be used against him in a court of law; and that he had the right to legal advice prior to making a statement.

NELSON advised that he has been a patrolman with the Dallas, Texas, Police Department for nearly four years. He stated that while serving in this capacity on November 24, 1963, he was in the Sergeant's office at the Dallas, Texas, Police Department at about 9:15 to 9:20 AM, when he was instructed by Lieutenant PIERCE to report to Sergeants P. T. DEAN and PUTNAM in the basement of the city hall. Patrolman VAUGHN and two other police officers were given the same instructions and they all four proceeded to the basement area. Sergeant PUTNAM instructed him and another officer to check all persons in both areas of the basement to determine that they were either police officers or members of the press. They were instructed to send away any other individuals who were not authorized to remain. After they filled this assignment, he and the other officer working with him were sent through the double doors into the city hall section of the basement, and he stationed himself at the end of the corridor located about 20 feet from the double doors and just west of the exit door from the jail office. The other officer assigned there with him was a reserve officer whose name he does not know. He was there for just three or four minutes when Sergeant PUTNAM told them to station themselves just behind the first jail office window, where people were coming in regard to jail business such as seeing prisoners, some of them bringing packages and so forth. They were instructed not to let any unauthorized persons through the doors leading into the corridor and ramp area of the basement, where a number of news-men had already congregated and were waiting for LEE HARVEY OSWALD to be brought from the jail and transported to the County Jail.

While he was stationed here, he checked a number of individuals who approached the jail office window and checked

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 by Special Agents ROBERT J. WILKISON and  
EDMOND C. HARDIN :lp Date dictated 12/4/63



any packages and topcoats they may have been carrying. He let no one through the door, leading to the ramps, who was not an officer or a member of the press. While there, he recalls that two men came down the City Hall elevator with a television camera, which they requested to be allowed to roll through the door into the corridor leading to the ramps. He called Lieutenant PIERCE and asked him if this could be permitted, whereupon Lieutenant PIERCE talked with one of these men and checked their identification, and then stated to NELSON that they could be allowed to take their camera to the desired location.

NELSON stated that he did not see JACK RUBY shoot OSWALD that morning inasmuch as he could not observe the spot where the shooting occurred from his position. He stated he was at his post until the shooting occurred and that he heard the shot when it was fired. He advised that when he heard the shot, he immediately went through the double doors leading into the area where OSWALD was shot and saw a great number of individuals running about excitedly. In just a short moment, he noticed officers bringing RUBY past him and into the jail office. He heard someone say, "See if he's got a gun," and when he noticed RUBY's left arm was free, he felt RUBY's left hand to make sure he did not have a gun in it. He then returned to his post which he had just left.

NELSON stated that he does not know RUBY and never knew OSWALD. He added that he has never been employed at any of RUBY's establishments and knows of no other police officers who may have been so employed. He further stated that he has never heard anything indicating a relationship which may have existed between RUBY and OSWALD. He stated that he did not see RUBY before the shooting occurred, and has no information concerning RUBY's activities prior to this event or concerning any individual with whom RUBY may have talked prior to shooting OSWALD.

NELSON stated that when he first arrived in the basement area, he would estimate that there were about 20 people in the area, most of whom he believed were newsmen. He does not recall the identities of any police officers and, with the exception of those named by him above, he added that he could not identify any of the newsmen present.



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NELSON stated that he is sure that police officers were stationed at all points of entry into the basement area and that the others, as himself, were instructed to make sure that no person would enter the area without being either a police officer or a newsman and that they were to properly identify themselves or be so recognized prior to gaining entrance into the building. NELSON stated that he does not know of any unauthorized person who may have been permitted entrance into the building or without showing identification.