

DL 44-1639

CD 85
"November 26, 1963

"Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

"Subject: Assignment of Sergeant
James A. Putnam On
Sunday, November 24, 1963

"Sir:

"On Sunday, November 24, 1963, at approximately 9:00 A.M.,
Sergeant Dean advised me he had instructions to
search the basement parking area and instructed me to assist
him. I was with Sergeant Dean when he assigned the officers
at each entrance to the area to be searched. The assignments
were as follows:

"R. C. Nelson	Basement Entrance From Police & Courts Building
R. E. Vaughn	North Ramp Entrance on Main Street
B. G. Patterson	South Ramp Exit on Commerce Street
A. R. Brock	Elevators In Basement

Reserve Officer Assigned by Reserve Captain Arnett. Entrance
On South Side From Engine Room

"Sergeant Dean instructed the men on these posts to refuse
entrance to anyone except properly identified Police Officers
and members of the Press.

"After securing the area, Sergeant Dean contacted Reserve
Captain Arnett, who provided approximately twelve (12) Reserve
Policemen to assist us with the search. Officer L. E. Jez,
Sergeant Dean, Reserve Captain Arnett, approximately twelve
(12) other Reserve Policemen and I conducted a search of all
vehicles and all of the possible hiding places in the basement
parking area.

"I assisted Sergeant Dean by remaining in the basement and
checking the posts as often as possible and also asking for
identification of anyone in the basement that I did not recog-
nize, as Police or Press Personnel.

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service rooms opening into the basement were to be looked into after clearing them of personnel. The building elevators were out off on the first floor so they could not be used to reach the basement and the parking attendants were sent from the basement to the first floor of the City Hall with instructions to remain with the elevators to prevent tampering. The City Hall service elevator is a self-service type but had an operator. This man was instructed that he was not to go below the first floor until notified. The service elevator from the sub basement of the Police and Courts Building exit, into the basement parking area and has no doors to lock so a reserve officer was stationed there.

"The sergeants used a total of seventeen (17) regular and reserve officers to execute the search. The extra officers were held in the sergeant's room at my office and the reserves were retained in the assembly room. These officers were not permitted in the basement to insure no confusion in the systematic search.

"After the area was secured and cleared only officers, reserves, and accredited news press were permitted to re-enter. Identification of the news personnel was made by their press credentials. All civilian employees of the Department were cleared from the basement lobby and instructed to remain at their desk.

"Officer R. C. Nelson and a reserve officer were stationed in the hall leading to the jail service windows. The door from the jail to the lobby remained locked and the public used the first window, set at an angle, to conduct jail business.

"Detective Beaty and Lowery remained with the officers during most of the period the parking and prisoner area was closed off. Everyone conducting business at the jail was scrutinized and if they did not appear to have legitimate business, they were conducted from the basement.