

NOTES OF ATTORNEY GENERAL WAGGONER CARR
CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IN DALLAS,
TEXAS, ON MAY 9, 1964, OF THE TEXAS SCHOOL
BOOK DEPOSITORY BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

Present at this time were John J. McCloy, Allen Dulles, John Sherman Cooper of the Commission, Dean Storey, myself, Mr. Truly of the Depository and various members of the FBI. We met at the Depository Building at approximately 9:00 A.M. David Belin of the Commission staff was also present. We reviewed and inspected the Book Depository Building and its surroundings until approximately noon.

Mr. Truly conducted us on a tour of the building and described the events on the assassination day. On the sixth floor from where the shots were fired, we spent considerable time discussing the scene of the shooting from the window used by Oswald to fire the shots. We had Oswald's rifle and telescopic sight and the difficulty of shooting this rifle was discussed at length. Oswald's rifle was a heavy rifle with not too much kick to it upon being fired. The telescopic sight which had been removed from the rifle was of poor quality and did not bring the objects in very close. It did have a cross hair which helped to aim the rifle. On more than one occasion I was able to look through the sight and observe what Oswald saw at the various distances it is presumed he fired at the President. I observed the heavy weight of the foreign made rifle and the bolt action of the gun. I arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Oswald had to be a crack shot to fire as many times as he did in a period of a few seconds with no more help than had from the scope. The tree between him and the President offered

Mr. Carr has been remarkably silent about the conclusion he reached (last three lines) about Oswald's having to be a crack shot. I have no hesitation in agreeing that his observation is well founded.

which made the firing more difficult. We had the officers clear the traffic from the middle lane and via a walkie-talkie radio we directed those officers standing in the street to proceed to certain spots where it was presumed the President was at the time of the first, second and third shots. We also observed the portion of the sixth floor where the rifle was later found by the officers hidden among stacks of book cartons. We also traced Oswald's steps down the stairs to the floor where he was first seen by Officer Baker before he purchased his coke from the coke machine.

On the fifth floor, we stood where the Negro witnesses watched the parade. They later testified before the Commission that they heard the shots and heard the shells fall on the floor after each shot. We observed that the falling of the shells on the floor above could be heard. This was heard even though the floor of the sixth floor had been thickened by additions of plywood since the assassination date.

On the second floor, we had Officer Baker demonstrate where he ran up the stairs and observed Oswald going through a door towards the lunchroom and the coke machine. He demonstrated how he ordered Oswald to return to him prior to Mr. Truly's advising him that Oswald was an employee and "let's go on up". On this same floor we talked to Mrs. Reid, who had previously testified before the Committee and who saw Oswald a few moments later in the office area of the second floor with a coke in his hand. He walked by her and disappeared down through the doors at the south end. It is presumed that he went down the stairs in the front of the building and went out the front of the building unnoticed.

On the first floor we noted the stairs and the area where Officer Baker and Mr. Truly ran to see who had fired the shots upstairs. We observed the washroom and domino room, and the room where Oswald's jacket was later found which he apparently discarded between the time he left the building after the assassination and the time he arrived for work that morning. We also saw where the wrapping paper was secured which was found on the sixth floor.

Outside the building we observed the street position of the cars when the shots were fired. We also investigated the area around the railroad tracks and on the overpass and observed that it would have been impossible to fire from the overpass without the bullets going through the windshield prior to striking the President. We also observed the surrounding grounds and area and the immediate position of the parade prior to the shooting.

Subsequent to the investigation Senator Cooper, Mr. Dulles and I had an interview with the press. After this Dean Storey and I left and went to his law office where we discussed the situation together with the events of the previous night when Dean Storey held an informal dinner for the members of the Commission and City Officials. He will write a resume of this dinner meeting.

As a sideline and note to this memorandum, we were given by Mr. Truly a book of "roller readers". Oswald used a couple of cartons of these "roller readers" to brace his rifle on to secure a steady aim at the President. We secured the autographs of everyone present for this event.

Senator Cooper and Allen Dulles assured the press at the interview that all of the findings of the Commission would be made public and that the report would be made this summer at the latest. Mr. McCloy found it necessary to catch a plane about 11:00 A.M. and, therefore, left prior to the interview.