

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 543-1460

J. LEE RANKIN,
General Counsel

Rec'd. 8-10

AUG 5 1964

ARL WARREN,
Chairman
RICHARD B. RUSSELL
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
PALE BOGGS
ERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. McCLOY
LLEN W. DULLES

Mr. Jesse E. Curry
Chief, Dallas Police Department
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Curry:

On Thursday, July 23, 1964, a member of the Commission staff took the testimony of Welcome Eugene Barnett, an officer of the Dallas Police Department. Officer Barnett testified that within three minutes after the assassination, he was ordered to stand at the door of the Texas School Book Depository Building to make certain that no one left the building. According to Barnett, he was ordered to do this by "Sergeant Howard." We request that your department identify Sergeant Howard and obtain from him an affidavit setting forth his activities covering the period immediately before and after the assassination. In particular, we would like to know whether Sergeant Howard issued such instructions to Officer Barnett or to any other police officer. We would also like to know whether Sergeant Howard was told by any of the spectators as to where the shots originated. With regard to all of Sergeant Howard's recollections, we would like him to pinpoint as nearly as he can the exact times of the various events.

We would also like to call to your attention an item in your testimony before the Commission. On page 175 of your testimony there appears the following exchange between you and Representative Ford:

"Representative Ford. Who was in charge of the actual showup operation?"

"Mr. Curry. The jail personnel would have brought him down from downstairs and brought him into the room and then removed him."

"Representative Ford. Who handled the actual process of identification or attempted identification by various witnesses?

"Mr. Curry. Usually Captain Fritz or some of his homicide detectives are present. I know when they were having a showup for a little lady. I don't know her name but she was a waitress who observed the shooting of the officer, I just--I wasn't there during the entire showup but I was present part of the showup and Captain Fritz was asking her to observe these people and see if she could pick out the man she saw who shot the officer and she didn't identify Oswald at that time."

On page 176 there appears the following exchange between you and Mr. Rankin:

"Mr. Rankin. At the other showups, were witnesses there to try to identify Oswald?

"Mr. Curry. Yes, there were.

"Mr. Rankin. How were those handled, do you know?

"Mr. Curry. Exactly the same manner except that he was brought in behind the screen, and was handcuffed to some police officers or other prisoners.

"Mr. Rankin. Do you know who was there to try to identify him?

"Mr. Curry. Only on one occasion. This was a little lady that was a waitress.

"Mr. Rankin. Mrs. Markham?

"Mr. Curry. I believe her name was Mrs. Markham.

"Mr. Rankin. Do you believe whether she was able to identify him?

"Mr. Curry. Yes, I heard her tell Captain Fritz that was the man she saw shoot the officer.

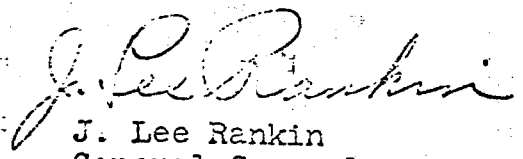
"Mr. Rankin. And that was Officer Tippit?"

"Mr. Curry. Yes, sir."

It would appear from your statement on page 175 that Mrs. Markham was unable to identify Oswald whereas your statement on page 176 indicates that she did make such an identification. We would appreciate receiving an affidavit from you clarifying this discrepancy in your testimony so that this affidavit can be printed as part of our published record.

Your continued cooperation in the work of the Commission is appreciated.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel