

The Departure from the Depository

According to the Warren Report

As Oswald's actions are reconstructed (pages 149-156 and 613), within about a minute and a half of shooting the President from the southeast corner window of the sixth floor at 12:30 pm, he crossed the floor to the northeast corner, hiding the walls on his way, and took the stairs down. He reached the second floor and entered the vestibule leading to the lunchroom before Roy Truly and police officer Martin Baker, ascending from the first floor, reached the second floor landing. Tests established that Baker's minimum time to reach the second floor landing after the shots was 1 minute 14 seconds; in the event, he probably took longer. Further tests established that Oswald could have reached the second floor vestibule in 1 minute 14 seconds.

The "Escape"

Victoria Adams, an employee who testified that she went down the same stairs from the fourth floor to the first within one minute of the shooting, did not meet Oswald, nor Truly and Baker. She claimed that when she arrived on the first floor she noticed Billy Lovelady and William Shelley, Depository employees. However, Lovelady and Shelley had gone to the railroad yards after the shooting and did not reenter the Depository until some minutes later. Mrs. Adams is therefore mistaken in her belief that she descended the stairs within one minute of the shots and must have come down later than Oswald and after Truly and Baker had climbed above the fourth floor.

Manoelle Oswald, after the encounter with the police officer, obtained a soft drink from a vending machine and walked through the second floor, where he was seen by Mrs. Robert Heid and returned to his desk, probably at 12:32 pm. Oswald walked east and south to the stairway, descended to the first floor, and departed from the main entrance at about 12:33 pm, before the building was effectively sealed off by the police.

The evidence does not support the reconstruction of Oswald's movements between 12:30 and 12:33 pm. The reconstruction is based on the reconstruction of the evidence available at the time of the shooting.

According to the Warren Report

Roy Truly testified on March 24, 1964, about the circumstances under which he and Baker encountered Oswald. Immediately after the shooting, he said,

I saw a young motorcycle policeman run up to the building, up the steps to the entrance of our building. He ran right by me. And he was pushing people out of the way...I ran up and...caught up with him inside the lobby of the building, or possibly the

the front steps... I ran in front of him... I went up on a landing on the stairway. The Departure from the Depository and coming to the stairway. By the time I reached the second floor, the officer was a little further behind me than he was on the floor... a few feet. It is hard for me to tell. I ran around to my left, started to continue on up the stairway to the third floor, and in so doing...

According to the Warren Report

As Oswald's actions are reconstructed (pages 149-156 and 648), within about a minute and a half of shooting the President from the southeast corner window of the sixth floor at 12:30 pm, he crossed the floor to the northeast corner, hiding the rifle on his way, and took the stairs down. He reached the second floor and entered the vestibule leading to the lunchroom before Roy Truly and police officer Marrion Baker, ascending from the first floor, reached the second floor landing. Tests established that Baker's minimum time to reach the second floor landing after the shots was 1 minute 18 seconds; in the event, he probably took longer. Further tests established that Oswald could have reached the second floor vestibule in 1 minute 14 seconds.

Victoria Adams, an employee who testified that she went down the same stairs from the fourth floor to the first within one minute of the shooting, did not meet Oswald, nor Truly and Baker. She claimed that when she arrived on the first floor she noticed Billy Lovelady and William Shelley, Depository employees. However, Lovelady and Shelley had gone to the railroad yards after the shooting and did not reenter the Depository until some minutes had passed. Miss Adams is therefore mistaken in her belief that she descended the stairs within one minute of the shots and must have come down later than Oswald and after Truly and Baker had climbed above the fourth floor.

Meanwhile Oswald, after the encounter with the police officer, obtained a soft drink from a machine and walked through the second floor, where he was seen by Mrs. Robert Reid when she returned to her desk, probably at 12:32 pm. Oswald walked east and south to the stairway, descended to the first floor, and departed from the main entrance at about 12:33 pm, before the building was effectively sealed off by the police.

The evidence does not support the reconstruction of Oswald's movements between 12:30 and 12:33 pm, as will now be discussed, nor does the reconstruction have inherent plausibility.

According to the Hearings and Exhibits

Roy Truly testified on March 24, 1964, about the circumstances under which he and Baker encountered Oswald. Immediately after the shooting, he said, I saw a young motorcycle policeman run up to the building, up the steps to the entrance of our building. He ran right by me. And he was pushing people out of the way... I ran up and... caught up with him inside the lobby of the building, or possibly the

the front steps...I ran in front of him...I went up on a run up the stairway...This officer was right behind me and coming up the stairway. By the time I reached the second floor, the officer was a little further behind me than he was on the first floor...a few feet. It is hard for me to tell. I ran right on around to my left, started to continue on up the stairway to the third floor, and on up.

Belin Now, when you say you ran on to your left, did you look straight ahead to see whether there was anyone in that area, or were you intent on just going upstairs?

Truly If there had been anybody in that area, I would have seen him on the outside, or what?

(3H 221-223)

Baker It didn't appear that to me. He appeared to be a man I knew.

I suppose I was up two or three steps before I realized the officer wasn't following me...I came back to the second floor landing...I heard some voices, or a voice, coming from the area of the lunchroom, or the inside vestibule...I ran over and looked in this door...I think I opened the door. I feel like I did...I don't remember...of the encounter with Oswald and the

Baker

other even I opened the door...I saw the officer almost directly in the doorway of the lunchroom facing Lee Harvey Oswald...he was just inside the lunchroom door...2 or 3 feet possibly...When I reached there, the officer had his gun pointing at Oswald. The officer turned this way and said, "This man work here?" And I said, "Yes." ...Then we left Lee Harvey Oswald immediately and continued to run up the stairways...

Belin All right...How far was the officer's gun from Lee Harvey Oswald when he asked the question?

Truly...it seemed to me like it was almost touching him...

Belin Did you hear Lee Harvey Oswald say anything?...Did you see any expression on his face?...

Truly He didn't seem to be excited or overly afraid or anything. He might have been a bit startled, like I might have been if somebody confronted me. But I cannot recall any change in expression of any kind on his face.

(3H 224-225)

The next day, March 25, 1964, police officer Baker described the same incident, stating that,

As I came out to the second floor there, Mr. Truly was ahead of me, and as I come out I was kind of scanning, you know, the rooms, and I caught a glimpse of this man walking away from this—I happened to see him through this window in this door. I don't know how come I saw him, but I had a glimpse of him coming down there.

Dubles Where was he coming from, do you know?

(Italics added)

(3H 279)

Baker No, sir. All I seen of him was a glimpse of him go away from me...he was walking away from me about 20 feet away from me in the lunchroom...I hollered at him at that time and said, "Come here." He turned and walked right straight back to me... 12:55 p.m. Miss Adams testified that she had watched the motorcade

Boggs Were you suspicious of this man? set of double windows into the

Baker No, sir; I wasn't. employees in the p(3H 250-251) 100 where
After the last shot, Miss and Freddie Styles immediately ran down the

Boggs When you saw him, was he out of breath, did he appear to have been running or what?

Baker It didn't appear that to me. He appeared normal you know.

Boggs Was he calm and collected?

Baker Yes, sir. He never did say a word or nothing. In fact, he didn't change his expression one bit. (3H 252)

Baker may have had more light to shed on the encounter with Oswald and the other events of the day, as the discussion went off the records no less than five times during his testimony, we can only speculate about what was said.

The impassive Oswald was next seen by Mrs. Robert Reid, a clerical supervisor at the Depository. She had been watching the motorcade from the street and, as she testified on March 25, 1964, when she heard the shots,

the thought that went through my mind, my goodness I must get out of this line of shots, they may fire some more...I ran into the building. I do not recall seeing anyone in the lobby. I ran up to our office...up the stairs...the front stairs...I went into the office...I kept walking and I looked up and Oswald was coming in the back door of the office. I met him by the time I passed my desk several feet...I had no thoughts of anything of him having any connection with it at all because he was very calm. He had gotten a coke and was holding it in his hands and I guess the reason it impressed me seeing him in there I thought it was a little strange that one of the warehouse boys would be up in the office at the time, not that he had done anything wrong. (3H 274)

Belin...Was there anything else you noticed about him?...Anything about the expression on his face?

Reid No; just calm. (3H 278)

Dalles Was he moving fast?
Reid No; because he was moving at a very slow pace. I never did see him moving fast at any time. (3H 279)

(Italics added)

We revert now to Victoria Adams, bearing in mind that if her story is accurate it decisively invalidates the Warren Commission's hypothesis about Oswald's movements between 12:30 and 12:33 p.m. Miss Adams testified that she had watched the motorcade from an open window on the fourth floor (the third set of double windows from the southeast corner), in company with other employees in the publishing office where she worked. After the last shot, she and Sandra Styles immediately ran down the back stairs to the first floor, where she saw Lovelady and Shelley standing near the elevator.

Q How long do you think it was between the time the shots were fired and the time you left the window to start toward the stairway?

A Between 15 and 30 seconds, estimated, approximately.

Q How long do you think it took you to get from the window to the bottom of the stairs on the first floor?

A It would say no longer than a minute at the most.

It is true that the testimony given by Lovelady and Shelley on the same day as Victoria Adams, April 7, 1964, suggests that she is mistaken in her estimate of the time. Both men said that after the shooting they had gone together to the railroad tracks and observed the searching of cars for about a minute and a half before returning to the Depository by the rear door. Neither man remembered clearly whether or not he saw Victoria Adams on arrival (6H 329-330 and 339-340).

However, this testimony is not consistent with affidavits executed by the same two men on the day of the assassination for the Dallas police. Lovelady's affidavit (CE 2003 page 36) states that he heard shots and "after it was over went back into the building and I took some police officers up to search the building." Nothing about railroad tracks.

Shelley's affidavit (CE 2003 page 59) stated, "I heard what sounded like three shots...I ran across the street to the corner of the park and ran into a girl crying and she said the President had been shot...I went back to the building and went inside and called my wife and told her what happened. I was on the first floor and I stayed at the elevator." Nothing about railroad tracks.

In their original stories, then, both Lovelady and Shelley accounted for their movements after the shooting in a manner that is completely consistent with Victoria Adams' testimony!

Appraisal of the using his advantage, Oswald apparently decided to use the most
Known Facts; the most dangerous point of exit, the main door on Elm Street where

The Warren Commission spared neither pains nor runners in straining to make Oswald's alleged actions fit within the strictly limited time available. Tests were conducted in which Baker ran his distance twice, a stand-in for Oswald ran twice, and Mrs. Reid (gallant woman!) did her sprint no less than three times. Among these runners and alleged runners, only Victoria Adams was exempted from reenacting her dash from the fourth floor to the first so that her estimate of one minute could be tested by stopwatch. Why was she left aside when the tests were run? Why was her companion, Sandra Styles—who was in a position to confirm or contradict her testimony—not called before the Commission and questioned? ^{police officers}

The witnesses Lovelady and Shelley salvaged the Commission's hypothesis from the brink of disaster by ^{going to the witness that Oswald} ~~seemingly~~ to discredit Victoria Adams' story. But the Commission had in its hands their affidavits of November 22nd, which supported her testimony. The affidavits were sworn while events were still fresh. Is it conceivable that both men should have forgotten to mention the railroad yards at that time, and that both should have remembered in April—so providentially?

If we are to believe what is credible instead of what is essential to the patchwork official theory, we must believe Victoria Adams' testimony and the affidavits of Lovelady and Shelley. Their testimony has the odor of perjury and collusion. ^{is more curious, in fact, that both Lovelady and the other}

Let us reexamine the game of musical stairs described in the Report. Oswald has reached the second floor, only to be hailed by a cop with a gun in hand. He walks "right straight back" to the officer, looking "calm and collected," "normal," and merely "a bit startled" by the weapon pointed at him. But now the assassin has the great good luck to have his boss vouch for him and to see the two men resume their rush upstairs. He is safe, and free to escape from the building.

At that moment Oswald had merely to return to the back stairs, walk down one flight to the first floor, and walk out the back door. The longer he delayed, the greater the danger that the building would be sealed off by the police and he would not be permitted to leave. He was alone and had no audience to impress with a pretense of relaxed innocence. The imperative was to slip downstairs and get as far away as possible. ^{the normalcy of his demeanor and in his unobscured face,}

To those who find Oswald's known actions and reactions wholly consistent with innocence, but preposterous if he was guilty, we need say nothing more.

* Pierce Allman, WFAA-TV newsman, was within a few feet of the President when he was shot, according to a EBC broadcast. He telephoned the news from the Depository. Allman was not questioned by the Warren Commission or any official agency. However, he has said that he is the person whom Oswald mistook for a Secret Service agent and that Oswald directed him to the Depository telephone. The incident is noteworthy not only because it corroborates Oswald's story, which the Commission did not trouble to check, but also because it suggests that Oswald stood around outside the building—an action hardly compatible with what the Commission terms his "escape."

Instead of using his advantage, Oswald apparently decided to use the most distant and the most dangerous point of exit, the main door on Elm Street where police and spectators were thick. But he was in no hurry to get there. He first obtained a coca-cola from the dispensing machine, then ambled across the second floor "at a very slow pace." No one saw him again until he boarded a bus that was headed back to the scene of the crime, in the best tradition of the detective novel even if much too soon to fit the classical "murderer."

The Commission has speculated about Oswald's movements between the second floor, where he was seen by Mrs. Reid, and the bus where he was seen by witnesses. No attempt has been made to determine where he left the coca-cola bottle, or whether it was still full when abandoned. No searching inquiry was made among police officers who guarded the front door of the Depository after the shooting (one policeman testified that he was in position within two minutes and permitted no one to leave without authorization, as discussed elsewhere) to see if Oswald was allowed to walk out of the building. No searching examination was made of all films and photographs known to have been taken at the scene immediately after the shooting, on the chance that Oswald's departure was recorded by a camera. No attempt was made to check on Oswald's story, after his arrest, that a Secret Service agent had stopped him to ask where the nearest telephone was located, in front of the Depository after he had come out of the building.*

It is most curious, in fact, that Captain Fritz and the other interrogators never even asked Oswald which exit he had used and whether or not a police officer had been stationed at the door or had tried to stop him or asked his credentials. They should have been interested to learn how Oswald left a building which was sealed by the police and whether his safe departure had been facilitated by an accomplice or by innocent carelessness. But the reports on the interrogation of Oswald (Appendix XI of the Warren Report) indicate that no attempt was made to obtain such information from him and--still stranger--that he was not asked at any time whether he had fellow-conspirators and who they were.

Despite the remarkable defects of the investigation at all stages, we still have clear knowledge of Oswald's whereabouts immediately after the shooting and his actions after the encounter with Baker and Truly. The three witnesses who saw him testified to the normalcy of his demeanor and to his unhurried pace. To those who find Oswald's known actions and reactions wholly consistent with innocence, but preposterous if he was guilty, we need say nothing more.

* Pierce Allman, WFAA-TV newsman, was within a few feet of the President when he was shot, according to a BBC broadcast. He telephoned the news from the Depository. Allman was not questioned by the Warren Commission or any official agency. However, he has said that he is the person whom Oswald mistook for a Secret Service agent and that Oswald directed him to the Depository telephone. The incident is noteworthy not only because it corroborates Oswald's story, which the Commission did not trouble to check, but also because it suggests that Oswald stood around outside the building--an action hardly compatible with what the Commission terms his "escape."

He said that on November 22, 1963, he attended the usual morning
classes at The Bus Ride and got out of school at about
11:30 a.m. He said he walked to the street near the Court Theatre,
where he waited for the bus, which arrived at approximately
12:00 p.m. He said that, upon boarding the bus, he sat

Before the Warren Report

District Attorney Henry Wade held a press conference on Sunday night after
Oswald was murdered, of which it has been said that he was not guilty of a single
accuracy. Wade asserted that Oswald had boarded a bus* after leaving the Depository
and had laughed aloud as he told a woman passenger that the President had been shot.
In Wade's own words, that at this time a woman passenger on the bus told the

The next we hear of him is on a bus, where he got on a bus at Lamar Street; told the bus driver the President had been shot. The President (he) told a lady who—all this was verified by statements—told a lady on the bus that the President had been shot. He said, how'd he know. He said that a man back there had told him. He went back to talk to him. The defendant said, "Yes, he's been shot," and laughed very loud. (CE 2168)

According to the Warren Report

The Report explains that the bus driver, Cecil J. McWatters, testified that it was actually another passenger, teenager Milton Jones, who had exchanged words with a woman passenger during the bus ride. The Commission considered that "McWatters' recollection alone was too vague to be a basis for placing Oswald on the bus," and quotes Mary Bledsoe, a former landlady of Oswald's, to establish his presence. As Mrs. Bledsoe told it, Oswald had boarded the bus looking "like a maniac," his shirt undone, his "sleeve was out here," he was dirty, he "looked so bad in his face, and his face was so distorted."

Bledsoe did not mention any altercation between a man and a woman passenger but the Report states that "in a later interview, Jones confirmed that he had exchanged words with a woman passenger on the bus during the ride south on Marsalis." (Pages 159-160)

According to the Hearings and Exhibits

The "later interview" with Milton Jones is very interesting indeed. An FBI report dated April 3, 1964 states that,

On March 30, 1964, ROY MILTON JONES...advised he is an 11th grade student attending half-day sessions at the N.R. Crozier Technical High School...and is employed part time as a clerk at Buddies Supermarket...JONES stated that he used the name MILTON JONES rather than his full name and is better known by this name at school and at work.

*At a press conference Friday night in police headquarters the news that Oswald had taken a bus after leaving the Depository provoked an incredulous reporter to ask if this was the first time that the Dallas Public Transport system had been used as a getaway car. No reply is recorded.

He said that on November 22, 1963, he attended the usual morning session of classes at high school and got out of school at about 11.45 am. He said he walked to Elm Street near the Capri Theatre, where he waited for the Marsalis bus, which arrived at approximately 12.10 or 12.15 pm. He said that, upon boarding the bus, he sat in the first seat facing forward on the curb side of the bus and was alone. He recognized the driver by sight as one who frequently drove the bus at this time of day, but stated he did not know him by name. JONES advised that the bus proceeded in the direction of Houston Street and, approximately four blocks before Houston Street, was completely stopped by traffic which was backed up in this area.

He recalled that at this time a policeman notified the driver the President had been shot and he told the driver no one was to leave the bus until police officers had talked to each passenger. JONES estimated that there were about fifteen people on the bus at this time and two police officers boarded the bus and checked each passenger to see if any were carrying firearms. ((Italics added))

Jones advised that before the bus was stopped the driver made his last passenger pickup approximately six blocks before Houston Street, that one was a blonde-haired woman and the other was a dark-haired man. He said the man sat in the seat directly behind him...JONES advised that when the bus was stopped by traffic, and prior to the appearance of the police officers...the man who was sitting behind him left the bus by the front door while it was held up in the middle of the block. JONES stated that he did not observe this man closely since he sat behind him in the bus, but, on the following Monday when he caught the same bus going home from school with the same driver, the driver told him he thought this man might have been LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

According to the FBI report, Jones described the man as a white male, about 30 to 35 years, 5'11", 150 pounds, dark brown hair receding at temples, no glasses or hat, dressed in a light blue jacket and gray khaki trousers. The report continues,

JONES estimated the bus was held up by the police officers for about one hour and, after they were permitted to resume, they crossed the Marsalis Bridge, where a woman...boarded the bus...and the driver asked her whether she had heard that the President had been shot. She replied that she had not heard anything in this regard, and stated she did not believe it was true.

The driver then pointed to JONES and said, "Ask him, he saw it." JONES said the driver was smiling at this time and the woman turned to him and he told her, "I don't know anything about it. I just heard some others say that the President had been shot." He said that because of the expression on the woman's face both he and the driver were smiling at this time, and she then said, "You are both smiling, so I don't believe it."

JONES advised he could not recall any conversation between the bus driver and himself or any other person on the bus about the President being shot in the temple. He said he did not hear any person make this remark on the bus...He said that, in conversation with this same bus driver on the following Monday, the driver told him the Dallas Police Department had him up until one o'clock on Saturday or Sunday morning questioning him about the passenger on his bus who looked like LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

(CE 2641)

The bus driver, McWatters, had given a different version of the incident later described by Jones. When McWatters testified before the Commission on March 12, 1964 he said that about seven blocks before the Depository a man had knocked on the door and mounted the bus, dressed in

what I would call work clothes, just some type of little old jacket on, and I didn't pay any particular attention to the man...

Senator Cooper later questioned McWatters about the (2H 264) later identified. Asked where he was when he first heard that the President had been shot, McWatters said,

Well, I was sitting in the bus, there was some gentleman in the front of me in a car, and he came back and walked up to the bus and I opened the door and he said, "I have heard over my radio in my car that the President has been--" I believe he used the word--"has been shot." (2H 265)

The bus driver testified that this incident had occurred while the bus was stalled in traffic. While the driver of the passenger car was talking to him, the man later identified as Oswald had left the bus. The bus then proceeded toward Houston Street, turning at the corner of Elm and Houston, where

the traffic was still tied up, but the police, they opened up a lane there, they had so many buses and everything that was tied up, they opened up, moved traffic around that they run quite a few of these buses through there...they weren't letting any cars through at that time but they just ran a bunch of those buses through...right on down here to Houston... (2H 265-266)

McWatters related the progress of the bus to Oak Cliff and the incident with the woman passenger.

Well, there was a teenage boy, I would say 17 or 18 years of age, who was sitting to my right on the first cross seat and me and him had, we had conversated a little while we was tied up in the traffic, you know, of the fact of we wondered where all, what all the excitement was due to the fact of the sirens and others; and I made the remark, I wonder where the President was shot, and I believe he made the remark that it was probably in the head if he was in a convertible or something to that effect...it was a conversation about the President, in other words, to where he was shot...

Now, as we got on out on Marsalis...there was a lady who was...getting on, and I asked her had she heard the news of the President being shot...and she said, "No, what are you--you are just kidding me."

I said, "No, I really am not kidding you." I said, "It is the truth from all the reliable sources that we have come in contact with," and this teenage boy, sitting on the aisle, I said, "Well, now, if you think

I am kidding you...ask this gentleman sitting over here," and he kind of, I don't know whether it was a grinning or smile or whatever expression it was, and she said, "I know you are kidding now, because he laughed or grinned or made some remarks to that effect." And I just told her not it wasn't no kidding matter, but that was part of the conversation that was said at that time.

(2H 266-267)

Senator Cooper later questioned McWatters about the passenger later identified as Oswald and about other people on the bus.

Cooper: Was the passenger that got on near Murphy Street the same passenger that you later have testified about who told you that the President had been shot in the temple?

McWatters: Well, they told me later that it was, but at the time they didn't tell me.

Cooper: Who didn't tell you?

McWatters: The police didn't.

Cooper: Then the one who told you the President had been shot in the temple was not the one you later identified in the police lineup?

McWatters: No, sir.

McWatters explained that he had not actually identified any man in the police lineup, as his affidavit of that time suggested, but had indicated that the No. 2 man looked most like the passenger, because,

he was the shortest man in the lineup, in other words, when they brought these men out there, in other words, he was about the shortest, and the lightest weight one, I guess, was the reason I say that he looked like the man, because the rest of them were larger men...

Ball: Were you under the impression that this man that you saw in the lineup and whom you pointed out to the police, was the teenage boy who had been grinning?

McWatters: I was, yes, sir; I was under the impression that was the fellow... In other words, when I told them, I said, the only way is the man, that he is smaller, in other words, he kind of had a thin like face and he weighs less than any one of them. The only one I could identify at all would be the smaller man on account he was the only one who could come near fitting the description... I really thought he was the man who was on the bus... that stayed on the bus.

(2H 281)

~~We turn now to Mary Bledsoe, the ex-landlady, who testified on April 2, 1964, that Oswald boarded the bus looking like a maniac, wearing a brown shirt with the buttons torn off and a hole in the sleeve at the right elbow. She said,~~

The longer McWatters testified, the more he became embroiled in self-contradiction and illogic. He was unable to explain how it was that all of his statements and his affidavit on the day of the assassination could have related to Milton Jones, as he now claimed, when Jones had not taken a bus transfer and when it was the transfer given to Oswald and found on his person that had led the police to McWatters. He was unable to explain why he had not told the police about the second man on the bus, who had knocked on the bus door to be admitted (2H 289). He acknowledged that the statement in his affidavit of November 22nd that he had picked up a man at Elm and Houston was "wrong," saying that he had not read the document with sufficient care before signing it.

Since McWatters insisted that he had completely confused Oswald with the teen-ager Jones on the day of the assassination, Senator Cooper logically enough asked McWatters if the two looked alike (2H 291). McWatters replied in vague, if not evasive, terms that Jones and Oswald were the same height and the same build. Apparently the Commission made no independent check on the alleged resemblance, although McWatters' demeanor justified the most serious doubt about his veracity—even when the FBI report on the interview

with Milton Jones (CE 2641) indicated that he was only 5'2" tall, or some 7" shorter than Oswald as well as 7 years younger. Information that would be of crucial importance in interpreting Oswald's actions

after on top of his utterly confused testimony about Jones and Oswald, McWatters had no recollection at all of the third important passenger on that bus ride, Mary Bledsoe (2H 288), the witness quoted with obvious and excessive satisfaction by the Commission as establishing Oswald's presence on the bus. Mrs Bledsoe, Oswald's former landlady, testified on April 2, 1964 that Oswald had boarded the bus looking like a maniac, wearing a brown shirt with "all the buttons torn off" and a hole in the sleeve at the right elbow. She said, from the hole in the sleeve and the color.

(2H 412-413)

APPROXIMATELY
MOTORMAN said, "Well, the President has been shot," and I say
--so, and the woman over--we all got to talking about four of
us sitting around talking, and Oswald was sitting back there,
and one of them said, "Hope they don't shoot us," and I said,
"I don't believe that--it is--I don't believe it. Somebody just
said that." And it was too crowded, you see, and Oswald got off.

Q Ball Did he say anything to the motorman when he got off?
A Bledsoe They say he did, but I don't remember him saying anything.

(6H 409-410)

Q Ball Was there traffic? Was the traffic heavy?

A Bledsoe Oh, it was awful in the city, and then they had roped off
that around where the President was killed, shot, and we were the
first car that come around there, and then all of us were talking
about the man, and we were looking up to see where he was shot and
looking--and then they had one man and taking him, already got him
in jail, and we got--"Well, I am glad they found him."

Q Ball You were looking up at where?

A Bledsoe At where the boy was shot... [School Book Depository]...
because we were right four blocks from there, you see.

(6H 411)

Q No one asked Mrs. Bledsoe if Oswald was still on the bus when the passengers
learned that a man had been arrested for the assassination and was already in jail
--information that would be of crucial importance in interpreting Oswald's actions
after he left the bus.

A Mrs. Bledsoe went on to relate that she had notified the police on Friday
evening that she had seen Oswald on the bus. The next night (Saturday) she had
gone to the police headquarters where she had identified Oswald, not in a lineup
but from photographs of him holding "a gun" shown to her by the police. At some
later time, Secret Service agents had come to her home, bringing a brown shirt
which she had recognized as the one Oswald had worn on the bus, from the hole in
the sleeve and the color.

(6H 412-413)

The driver himself said that a motorist had told him by name, with
certainty, that Mrs. Bledsoe (of 1947).

But there is a far more crucial conflict. The driver's account of what
was said to him while he was at the police station is not to be trusted while he
up passenger area. William Jones, driver, was not furnishing reports that
Mrs. Bledsoe had boarded the bus and returned the passengers. Just after Oswald
had left the vehicle. If that is true, it is hard to exaggerate the importance of
the consequent implications.

Appraisal of the whose testimony betrays the fact that he permitted the police
Known Facts (2H 277), has suppressed the police search of the bus.

(2) Police officials who reported as testified on their activities immediately after. There were three witnesses to the bus ride on which Oswald was a passenger for a brief time. The bus driver is the only one who testified before the Commission, making quite a poor impression in terms of intelligence and candor. The landlady gave a deposition, exhibiting some degree of confusion and frank malice against Oswald. Her statement that he entered the vehicle "looking like a maniac" and with his face "so distorted" is completely at variance with all other descriptions and scarcely encourages the confidence which the Commission places in her testimony, sight unseen. The teen-ager was not given the opportunity to give testimony at all; and the Commission seems to have paid inadequate attention to his comments to the FBI.

Two of these three witnesses, the bus driver and the teen-ager, said that Oswald was wearing a jacket, light-blue according to Jones. The taxi-driver who picked Oswald up when he left the bus also said that Oswald had worn a faded blue jacket (2H-255). Only the landlady described Oswald as without a jacket, and it will come as no surprise that the Commission has accepted her testimony and apparently considers that the three men were "mistaken." Two of the men said that he was wearing a blue jacket; Oswald owned a blue jacket, but the Commission finds (WR 155) that he left it behind at the Depository, where it was discovered "subsequently." "Subsequently" was "late in November" (WR 163); and it is not inconceivable that the jacket was placed there, to be discovered, once the requirements were known to support the official reconstruction of Oswald's movements, although the Commission has not yet conceived such a thought, even after ~~more~~ powerful stimuli.

The witnesses disagree also about the means by which the driver learned that the President had been shot. Henry Wade's statement to the press, that Oswald himself had announced the news and had "laughed very loud," was an irresponsible invention. Jones said that a policeman had given the news to the bus driver. The driver himself said that a motorist had told him the news, with some corroboration from Mrs Pledsoe (CE 1985). But there is a far more crucial conflict. The driver testified that traffic was at a standstill but that the police had allowed buses to proceed while holding up passenger cars. Milton Jones, however, gave the astonishing report that two policemen had boarded the bus and searched the passengers, just after Oswald had left the vehicle. If that is true, it is hard to exaggerate the importance of the consequent implications.

- (1) McWatters, whose testimony betrays the fact that he permitted the police to influence him improperly (2H 277), has suppressed the police search of the bus.
- (2) Police officials who reported or testified on their activities immediately after the shooting of the President have concealed the search of the bus.
- (3) Instructions or reports on such a search of the bus, if transmitted on the police radio, have been excised from the official transcripts and concealed by the FBI as well as the Dallas police.
- (4) The search of a bus on which Oswald was a passenger, just after he had debarked, in the absence of city-wide roadblocks and inspections or interference with air and surface travel, can mean only one thing—that the police were pursuing Oswald specifically, before he was even reported missing from the Depository. The only ground for such a pursuit would be that Oswald had been selected in advance for the role of assassin.

The gravity of those implications must have been unmistakable to the Commission from the moment of receipt of the FBI report of April 3, 1964 on the interview with Milton Jones. Witnesses continued to give testimony for five months after that date, but the Commission did not call Milton Jones nor make any attempt to test his story. They did not even dismiss Jones' story as "mistaken," as was the Commission's wont—they just ignored it.

The Commission closed its ears also to significant statements in Mrs Bledsoe's testimony—for example, that she had identified Oswald from photographs in the police station at a time when he was in custody and appearing in lineups. McWatters, who did view a lineup, suggested that there was a marked difference in size between Oswald and the other men—which speaks for the "fairness" of the lineups that "satisfied" the Commission (WR 169). More important is the landlady's disclosure that the bus passengers were aware, very soon after the shooting, that the shots had come from a specific window in the Depository and that a suspect had been arrested and jailed. With an extraordinary lack of curiosity, the Commission failed to ask if Oswald was still on the bus at the time those developments became known. Even more remarkable is the Commission's indifference to information that a suspect had been arrested, long before Oswald. The police witnesses were not asked about such an arrest, nor did they volunteer information.

When a fact-finding body is repeatedly and monumentally deaf to alarm bells signalling possible plot or perjury, it compels questions about its competence and its purposes. Such questions are compounded, in this case, by such manipulation of data as is discussed next.

The Cab Ride

According to the Warren Report, Oswald walked from the point where he had left the bus to the Greyhound Bus Terminal. There he took a taxicab piloted by William Whaley, saying that he wished to go to 500 North Beckley. As the cab was about to start, Oswald seemed about to yield his place to an elderly woman who wanted a taxi too but apparently she refused his offer. The cab proceeded to North Beckley, where Oswald got out in the 700 block, paying a meter charge of 95¢. The Report (page 163) states that the elapsed time of the reconstructed run from the Greyhound Bus Station to Neely and Beckley was 5 minutes 30 seconds, in a retracing of the route performed during an interview with Whaley in Dallas. The Commission suggests that if the cab ride was approximately six minutes, Oswald could have walked the distance to his rooming house in time to arrive there by 1 p.m.

Comments on the treatment of the taxi ride by the Warren Commission can be brief. It is immediately obvious that Oswald's actions were inconsistent with those of an escaping assassin in two respects: he took a taxi to a local address instead of taking advantage of the opportunities in the Greyhound Bus Station for leaving Dallas or the State of Texas altogether; and he was ready to surrender the taxi to a lady who wanted it, as if he had no cause for anxiety or urgency. ^{1/} These surprising actions are not discussed in the Report in the context of Oswald's alleged guilt, although the mere fact of his departure from the Depository is considered incriminating.

The estimate of six minutes for the taxi trip merits a few remarks. Whaley ^{2/} first testified before the Commission on March 12, 1964. At that time he estimated the distance between the points where he had picked up and discharged Oswald as two and a half miles. Asked for an estimate of the time it took to cover that distance, Whaley said,

I run it again with the policeman because the policeman was worried, he run the same trip and he couldn't come out the same time I did...I got the two minutes on him he never could make up. So I had to go back with him to make that trip to show him I was right.

Ball How much time, in that experiment, when you hit the lights right, how long did it take you?

Whaley Nine minutes.

(2H 259)

^{1/} and ^{2/} (see next page)

The estimate of nine minutes for the taxi ride apparently created difficulties from the Warren Report to the Tippit scene, as reconstructed.

1/ It is increasingly difficult to reconcile Oswald's demeanor with what the Commission calls "escape." Whaley testified to the "slow way" Oswald had walked up to the taxi, saying that "he didn't talk." He wasn't in any hurry. He wasn't nervous or anything" (2H, 261).

It was this reconstruction that served as the basis for the Commission's estimate of six minutes (4H 434), with a slightly altered point of termination of the ride (the 700 instead of the 703).

2/ William Whaley was an important, naive, and likeable witness. He provided significant testimony not only on the cab ride but on the nature of the police lineups and the methods of official investigators, probably without even realizing the full importance of what he contributed, in well-intended desire to give his full co-operation to the investigation. At this writing, the sad news has come of William Whaley's death on December 18, 1965, apparently in a head-on collision.

testimony that Jack Ruby was seen at Parkland Hospital an hour after the assassination. The Commission solemnly reached the conclusion that the witnesses were mistaken, basing itself in part on the assumption that Ruby could not have made the drive in the time available, 10 to 15 minutes, because of traffic conditions. Since the normal time for the drive was 9 to 10 minutes, the Commission apparently considered that Ruby would have experienced a slowdown of 25 to 50 percent.

It is difficult to square the Commission's reasoning in the case of Ruby with its calculations in the case of Oswald. His trip was actually slowed up by thirty-three percent in relation to the driver's first attempt to retraced the route, which took nine minutes. In the later experiment, the Commission failed to check the six-minute ride against the taxi meter to see if the same amount of 93¢ was registered at the end of the ride, that being the amount that Oswald paid.

These discrepancies are not raised to support a claim that Oswald took more time, or Ruby took less, than the estimates given in the Warren Report. They are raised to call attention to the use of a double standard which enabled the Commission to reach whatever conclusions were desirable or necessary to its fundamental thesis, and to underline the difficulty of fixing the real facts with precision and confidence. If we decide that normal driving times prevailed despite the traffic conditions and that Ruby could have gone to Parkland Hospital, we raise the possibility of conspiracy. If we decide, on the other hand, that there was a marked slowdown in traffic, we raise the possibility that Oswald reached his rooming house too late to walk to the Tippit scene in time to shoot Tippit.

The Commission, of course, avoids these discomfiting alternatives by a stratagem which has no merit except transparency.

8 pages of notes about the Warren Report on page 123. Just only 450 minutes on page 6.

The estimate of nine minutes for the taxi ride apparently created difficulties since Oswald's movements from the Depository to the Tippit scene, as reconstructed by the Warren Commission, had him on a tight timetable without a minute to spare. Whaley was reinterviewed in Dallas on April 8, 1964, after again retracing the route on which he had transported Oswald, this time in a Secret Service car. It was this reenactment that served as the basis for the Commission's estimate of six minutes (6H 434), with a slightly altered point of termination of the ride (the 700 instead of the 500 block of North Beckley Street, three blocks ^{instead of five} from the rooming house) to which Whaley now agreed. He readily acknowledged that his original recollection—that Oswald had left the cab in the 500 block—was wrong.

In allowing six minutes for the taxi ride,* the Commission has made no allowance for traffic conditions immediately after the assassination. But in the case of testimony that Jack Ruby was seen at Parkland Hospital an hour after the assassination, the Commission solemnly reached the conclusion that the witnesses were mistaken, basing itself in part on the assumption that Ruby could not have made the drive in the time available, 10 to 15 minutes, because of traffic conditions. Since the normal time for the drive was 9 to 10 minutes, the Commission apparently considered that Ruby would have experienced a slowdown of fifty percent.

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The Commission, of course, avoids these dismaying alternatives by a stratagem which has no merit except transparency.

* The report allows "about six minutes" on page 163 but only "5 or 6 minutes" on page 6.

Oswald's Arrest

...I don't know whether to report it or not." ...I don't know whether they were ...
...Establishment of Link between Tippit Suspect and Assassination ...
...and ...

According to the Warren Report

The circumstances under which Captain Fritz of the Dallas Police discovered that the suspect wanted in connection with the assassination had already been arrested for the murder of Tippit are described in the following excerpts,

As Fritz and Day were completing their examination of this rifle on the sixth floor [of the Texas School Book Depository], Roy Truly, the building superintendent, approached with information which he felt should be brought to the attention of the police. Earlier, while the police were questioning the employees, Truly had observed that Lee Harvey Oswald, one of the 15 men who worked in the warehouse, was missing. After Truly provided Oswald's name, address, and general description, Fritz left for police headquarters. He arrived at headquarters shortly after 2 p.m. (page 9)

When he entered the homicide and robbery bureau office, he saw two detectives standing there with Sgt. Gerald L. Hill, who had driven from the theatre with Oswald. Hill testified that Fritz told the detective to get a search warrant, go to an address on Fifth Street in Irving, and pick up a man named Lee Oswald. When Hill asked why Oswald was wanted, Fritz replied, "Well, he was employed down at the Book Depository and he had not been present for a roll call of the employees." Hill said, "Captain, we will save you a trip ...there he sits." (page 180)

According to the Hearings and Exhibits

Roy Truly testified on March 24, 1964 on his realization that Oswald was missing from the Depository and the steps he took to bring his absence to the attention of the police.

When I got back to the first floor, at first I didn't see anything except officers running around, reporters in the place. There was a regular madhouse...I noticed some of my boys over in the west corner of the shipping department, and there were several officers over there taking their names and addresses, and so forth...I noticed that Lee Oswald was not among these boys. So I picked up the telephone and called Mr. Aiken down at the other warehouse who keeps our application blanks...So Mr. Campbell [vice-president of the Depository] is standing there, and I said, "I have a boy over here missing."

Captain Will Fritz in testimony before the Warren Commission on April 22, 1964, took up the tale,

...Mr. Truly came and told me that one of his employees had left the building, and I asked his name and he gave me his name, Lee Harvey Oswald, and I asked his address and he gave me the Irving address...After he told me about this man almost, I left immediately after he told me that...I felt it important to hold that man...

I told them [police officers Sims and Boyd] to drive me to city hall and see if the man had a criminal record...my intentions were to go to the house at Irving. When I got to the city hall...I asked when I got to my office who shot the officer, and they told me his name was Oswald, and I said, "His full name?" And they told me and I said, "That is the suspect we are looking for in the President's killing." (4H206)

A different version of this incident, however, had been given by Dallas Police officer C.W. Brown, when he testified on April 3, 1964. He described the situation at police headquarters just after Oswald had been brought in from the Texas Theatre under arrest,

...the phones were ringing. I answered the phone. It was Captain Fritz. He was still at the scene on the sixth floor of the School Book Depository, and I told him that the officers had just brought in a suspect that had shot the police officer, and told him about Mr. Shelley [employee at the Depository] telling me that this boy that was identified as Lee Harvey Oswald, was also an employee there. He said, "I will be right up in a few minutes."

Belin Where was Captain Fritz at this time?

Brown He was still at the scene of the shooting...he called from there. I told him it looked like we might have the boy that was responsible for that. He said, "Okay, I will be up in a few minutes."

Belin What did you mean by "that," for the assassination?

Brown For the President's assassination. That was my personal opinion at that time. (7H243)

Brown's account is confirmed by Sheriff J.E. Decker in a report on the assassination and in his testimony of April 16, 1964. The report states,

After my first arrival at the Texas School Book Depository Building from Parkland Hospital, Captain Fritz of the DPD, Homicide Division arrived and he went on up into the Texas School Book Depository building, leaving a pair of his officers down stairs where they opened up their automobile and brought out rifles to assist them in securing the building. Shortly thereafter Captain Fritz came to my

office where he contacted his department by telephone and advised me that the suspect, Lee Harvey Oswald had been apprehended in the Texas Theatre in Oak Cliff. Also he advised me that Oswald had been employed in the Texas School Book Depository.

Depository, and some witnesses that Oswald was in the building (Decker Exhibit No. 5323)

In his testimony, two weeks after Brown's, Sheriff Decker referred to the incident somewhat more curtly,

Then, I talked to Fritz after he arrived...then we went across the street and he phoned and that's when I learned Oswald had been formerly employed there at that building. (12H46)

The same counsel (David Belin) who had questioned Brown on April 3, 1964 heard from Sergeant Gerald Hill on April 8, 1964 the testimony on which the Warren Report relies in relating these events.

...Captain Fritz walked in. He walked up to [Detectives] Rose and Stovall and made the statement to them, "Go get a search warrant and go out to some address on Fifth Street," and I don't recall the actual street number, in Irving, and "pick up a man named Lee Oswald." And I don't recall the exact time he said, "Well, he was employed down at the Book Depository and he had not been present for a roll call of the employees." And he said, "Captain, we will save you a trip," or words to that effect, "Because there he sits." (7H54)

The police officers who were present at the arrest of Oswald at the Texas Theater testified that they were pursuing the suspect in the Tippit murder and were unaware at the time that the man arrested was involved in the assassination. However, Johnny Calvin Brewer, the shoe salesman who was present at the arrest, testified on April 2, 1964,

...there were a couple of officers fighting him and taking the gun away from him...and he was fighting, still fighting, and I heard some of the police holler, I don't know who it was, "Kill the President, will you." And I saw fists flying and they were hitting him. (7H6)

[The Warren Report (page 179) dismisses as "unlikely" the report that a police officer made that remark.]

The cashier at the theatre, Julia Postal, testified on April 2, 1964 that during the arrest a police officer came into the box office to use the telephone and that he remarked, "I think we have got our man on both accounts." (7H12)

Police established a link between the Tippit murder and the assassination, essential in the official history of the murder of the President.

The Warren Commission was established largely because of the
Appraisal

1. Roy Truly appears to have overreacted to Oswald's absence from the Depository, when one considers that Truly encountered him within a minute or two after the President was shot, at a location and in a posture which seemed to eliminate him from suspicion. If Truly had felt any doubt about Oswald at that moment he would not have vouched for him, as he did, to a police officer. Later, when Truly became concerned at Oswald's absence, at least one other member of the crew (Charles Givens) was also missing. By intuition, seemingly, Truly saw reason for alarm only in Oswald's absence and proceeded to obtain his address and other particulars even before he knew if the police shared his concern.

2. Captain Fritz in turn overreacted to Truly's report. Almost with precognition, he "felt it important to hold that man," and "left immediately" with the intention "to go to the house at Irving." Extraordinary: the President has just been shot, by-standers have flung themselves on the ground in fear of their lives, the fear of a plot against Kennedy's life seems gruesomely confirmed, the Vice-President is hustled anonymously to the airport lest the assassins attempt his murder too; in the Depository, shells are found, a rifle is found, and the evidence of a chicken lunch abandoned points to a sniper's nest. In that setting, Fritz drops everything to go outside the city limits searching for a missing man—not the only missing man, for Givens is also absent and perhaps others as well—a man already encountered by a police officer and let go.

Was Oswald's absence from the Depository, in that setting, so incriminating as to warrant such action by Fritz? He could have put an alert on the police radio to pick up Oswald for questioning, as in fact was done when Givens had not appeared by 2.30 p.m. Instead, Fritz left the Depository, not even giving Oswald's name and description to the police radio dispatcher, stopping briefly at Sheriff Decker's office before beginning the pursuit of the missing man.

3. Brown and Decker testified independently to Fritz's telephone call, during which he learned that the missing Oswald was in custody on suspicion of the Tippit murder. Either Brown and Decker are lying or the testimony of Fritz and Hill—on which the Warren Report relies—is false.

4. Of the two versions, that of Brown and Decker is the more credible. The Warren Report nevertheless puts forth a synthetic and superfluous account of how the police established a link between the Tippit suspect and the assassination, embodied in the official history of the murder of the President.

5. ... suggesting that police officers at Oswald's arrest connected him with the assassination before they knew that he worked at the Depository since cause for ... has been disregarded or ignored.

5. The Warren Commission was established largely because the outrageous and sinister mismanagement of the case by the Dallas police had aroused widespread revulsion and distrust. Yet the Commission has overlooked conflicting accounts of an incident by police witnesses, legitimatizing the less credible testimony. Such negligence cannot be justified. If more than oversight was involved, if the contradictory testimony was knowingly disregarded, the Commission's probity is utterly compromised.

6. The Warren Commission was not unaware during its term that intense criticism of the case against Oswald was being voiced publicly, that the police version of his arrest was ridiculed, and that allegations were being made that Oswald had been framed by the law-enforcement officers themselves. The questioning of witnesses who participated in the arrest at the Texas Theatre betrays the Commission's sensitivity to any indication that the police prematurely had acted on the assumption that Oswald was implicated in the assassination.

It is implicit in the Warren Report, including the fanciful story of Fritz's return to police headquarters, that the Dallas police are absolved of any sinister purpose or activity. Yet, it is inescapable that two police witnesses have given false testimony.

7. It may seem inconsequential that Fritz actually learned on the telephone that Oswald had been apprehended, shortly before he says this denouement occurred. It is not inconsequential if he has falsified his testimony in any respect. He is a crucial figure in the Oswald case: he had charge of the evidence, the identification lineups, the interrogation, and the abortive transfer. Evidence channeled through a perjurer can have no legal or moral value.

8. The same question must be asked about Gerald Hill, an important witness to events at the Depository, the Texas Theatre, and police headquarters.

9. If Fritz and Hill are absolved, suspicion of perjury must then be directed at Brown and Decker, who is also a major figure in the Oswald case.

10. The Warren Report has presented a spurious account of an incident, relying on testimony which appears untrustworthy, overlooking or concealing apparent perjury by important witnesses, and has ignored the implications of a response by Fritz (and by Truly, to a lesser extent) completely out of proportion with the circumstances. Behavior which is unnatural and implausible, if one assumes that Fritz never heard of Oswald before he was reported missing, begins to make sense if one assumes that he knew OF Oswald, and his history of Marxist conviction and political defection, and recognized him to be the perfect candidate for the role of assassin. Logic suggests that this possibility is real.

11. Testimony suggesting that police officers at Oswald's arrest connected him with the assassination before they knew that he worked at the Depository adds cause for suspicion but has been deprecated or ignored.

Oswald's Addresses

When Oswald was arrested at the Texas Theater, he refused to give his address and he had no identification on his person which indicated the rooming house on North Beckley Street in Dallas as his residence. The Depository records showed only the Paine address in Irving. Not even Marina Oswald or Ruth Paine knew the address on North Beckley. Nevertheless, Captain Fritz testified that when he returned to city hall and began to question the prisoner, Oswald,

or maybe just before I started to talk to him, some officer told me outside of my office that he had a room on Beckley, I don't know who that officer was...

(4H 207)

The Warren Commission understandably was curious to learn the identity of this officer, since according to the Dallas police they had no knowledge whatever of Oswald until his arrest on November 22, 1963. Despite the Commission's interest in the matter, which is apparent from the testimony, it is sad to report that after careful study of the twenty-six volumes of Hearings and Exhibits, the identity of the officer and the means by which he knew that Oswald had a room on Beckley remain a mystery.

This is not the only indication that members of the Dallas police were familiar with certain details of Oswald's life at a time when, according to the police themselves, they knew nothing about him and had no record of him in the files. In fact, a considerable controversy developed between the police and the FBI because of the ^{apparent} failure of FBI agent Hosty to notify the police that Oswald, an FBI "case" and a known "Communist," was living in ~~the fair city of~~ Dallas. The controversy began with a memorandum by Lt. Jack Revill to his superiors in the Dallas police, written at 3.30 pm on the day of the assassination, in which he reported a conversation with Hosty. At the top of that memorandum (CE 709) appear the words,

Subject: Lee Harvey Oswald
605 Elsbeth Street

The Warren Commission was extremely curious about this aspect of the memorandum when Revill testified on May 13, 1964.

Dulles This is an address he once lived at...I want to find out what he (Revill) knows about it.

Revill Is this a--is this an incorrect address on Mr. Oswald where he was living at the time?

Rankin If you check it up I think you will find--it is an incorrect address at the time. I think you will also find that 602 Elsbeth Street is where he lived at one time...

(5H 41)

Dulles Could I ask a question? Where did you get this address that you put on of 605 Elsbeth Street, do you recall?

Revill Yes, sir; from Detective E. B. Carroll or Detective Taylor...

Dulles You have never ascertained where they got it?

Revill No, sir;...I never even thought about it until you brought up the point...

Dulles Can you find out where they got this address?

Revill Yes, sir; I can.

Dulles I think that would be useful. I would like to know that. I would like to know where they got this address also.

Revill It would have been the same day, because this was made within an hour.

(5H 42)

Although Revill promised to obtain the information and send it to the Warren Commission, the answers to the questions put by Dulles are not found anywhere in the twenty-six volumes. Did Revill fail to send the information, or did the Commission decide to suppress his report? Dulles, at least, was astute enough to recognize the implications of the inclusion in Revill's memorandum of the Elsbeth Street address, even in a slightly incorrect version. It suggested that the Dallas police did have prior knowledge of Oswald, despite their denials.

It is all the more strange, then, that neither Dulles nor anyone else seems to have noticed an equally bizarre and incomprehensible entry on another document. This is a list of names and addresses of Depository employees, compiled on Revill's instructions within a few hours of the assassination (5H 34). The list is in a memorandum dated "22 November 1963" and addressed to Captain W. P. Gannaway, through Lt. Jack Revill, and signed by Detectives R.W. Westphal and P.M. Parks. At the very top of the page, there is a handwritten notation

from Gannaway to Fritz: "All contacted except as noted." (GE 2003, page 127). The list consists of about 55 names, of which 12 are marked in the margin "not home." All the others, according to Gannaway's handwritten message, had been contacted. The very first name on the list, without any notation in the margin, is

Harvey Lee Oswald.....605 Elsbeth

Where in the world did Westphal and Parks get that address? They were not asked to give an explanation by the Warren Commission, since they were not among the witnesses who gave testimony. Taylor and Gannaway were not witnesses either. The only police officer who was involved in any way in the anachronistic entry of the Elsbeth Street address was Carroll; but he testified before Revill, and was not summoned back to be questioned on the address which he or Taylor apparently provided Revill, before either one had any legitimate access to such information about Oswald.

The quality of the investigation conducted by the Warren Commission is obvious from this aspect of the case—one highly suspicious entry overlooked completely, and the explanation for a corresponding entry not obtained or suppressed. This is the kind of detective work we might expect in a Marx Brothers film. We are entitled to something better from the Commission charged with determining the truth about one of the most solemn and horrifying events in American history.