Deposition - TOM C. DILLARD, April, 1, 1964, 6 H 162-7
Questioning by Joseph A. Ball, asst. counsel, Warren Commission

Dillard is a Dallas Morning News photographer and head of its photographic department. As a boy, he was also a reporter. He is 49 years old. He said the sixth car in the procession was to have been closer (as pool press car) to "cover spot news" as "prime photographic car", but "we lost our position at the airport". There are no questions asked about this to me exceedingly interesting point which may or may not be coincidental.

Dillard said they could see the President's car "on very few occasions", in high rises in the ground" for the entire trip in town. He identified the sounds as a rifle shot. Compare this with the agents who referred only to "pops" and "backfires". Others also identified the sounds as rifle shots. Why not the agents who are presumably trained and who certainly were closer?

On p.164 Dillard says he got pictures of the building as soon as the third shot was fired. He had had two cameras ready and was watching the tops of all buildings along the route, "which, of course, is a newsman's chore on a parade like that". I want to point out that, according to those pictures I have seen, this was not the chore of the Secret Service men, even though it should have been their responsibility.

Dillard said he is "a gun nut" and had "a great number of high-powered rifles ... so I know a bit about guns." He said, with respect to the origin of the shots, "We were getting a sort of reverberation which made it difficult to pinpoint the actual direction", and "I very definitely smelled gun powder when the car moved up at the corner."

Could he have smelled gunpowder from a sixth floor shot, if he

really did smell gunpowder? With a "brisk north wind"? Ball drops this line of questioning right there.