

the building.

The Report has no witnesses to Oswald's presumed trip from the sixth to the second floor. But the Commission had witnesses who gave evidence proving it impossible. Jack Dougherty was working on the fifth floor at the stairway where both elevators were then located. He saw no one going down the stairs. Three employees were at the windows on the fifth floor underneath the one from which the Report says the shots were fired. They testified they heard the empty cartridge cases hit the floor and the slight clicking of the operation of the rifle bolt. But all agreed that even after the shooting, when they were alerted and in some fear, they heard no one moving around on the sixth floor (3H181). Nothing but silence (3H179). Ten minutes before the shooting, Bonnie Ray Williams, one of the trio, had eaten his lunch next to this sixth-floor window (3H173). Asked "... did you hear anything that made you feel that there was anybody else on the sixth floor with you?", he explained, "That is one of the reasons I left - because it was so quiet" (3H178).

Placing Oswald at that sixth-floor window was one of the most unsuccessful tasks of the Report. They had the testimony of but a single man, Howard Leslie Brennan. Congressman Gerald R. Ford, Commission Member, was to describe Brennan as the most important of the witnesses in an article in LIFE dated October 2, 1964. Brennan had already described himself as a liar when lying served his purposes, as his own words will show. The Report has a section mislabeled "Eyewitness Identification of Assassin" (R143-9).

This section begins with a prime example of the use of words to convey meaning that is the opposite of the truth. It says, "Brennan also testified that Lee Harvey Oswald, whom he viewed in a police lineup the night of the assassination, was the man he saw fire the shots from the sixth-floor window of the Depository Building." It is true that Brennan "viewed" the lineup, although he appears to be the one person of whose presence the police have no written record. But he did not identify Oswald. Two pages later the Report, in its own way, acknowledges this by admitting "he declined to make a positive identification of Oswald when he first saw him in the police lineup". The fact is that Brennan at no time at the lineup made any identification (3H147-8). The next sentence reads, "The Commission, therefore, does not base its conclusions concerning the identity of the assassin on Brennan's subsequent certain identification ..." How certain Brennan could be of anything he saw or alleged he saw his own testimony will reflect better than any description. But the fact is that the Commission had and quoted no other so-called eyewitness. In the balance of this section it refers to the testimony of a number of people, none of whom identified Oswald. Congressman Ford's article stated without semantics or equivocation that Brennan "is the only known person who actually saw Lee Harvey Oswald fire his rifle at President Kennedy". Nobody did, as Brennan admitted.

The Report imparts a new meaning to words in saying "the record indicates that Brennan was an accurate observer ..." (R145). It says his description "most probably" led to the description broadcast by the police (R144), having forgotten its earlier and contradictory version that this broadcast was "based primarily on Brennan's observations" (R5). The earlier version also concedes Brennan was the "one eyewitness". Between the 12:45 police broadcast and Brennan's statement to the police the same day, there were changes in Brennan's description, but the Report calls the two descriptions "similar". The Report quotes the police broadcast of the suspect as "white, slender, weighing about 165 pounds, about 5'10" tall, and in his early thirties". Of his account to the police, the Report says "he gave the weight as between 165 and 175 pounds and the height was omitted". This information is footnoted. The source referred to in the footnote contains no description of any kind. It