

MEMORANDUM FOR FILES

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[Handwritten initials and signatures]

Senator John S. Cooper of Kentucky, Mr. David Belin of the President's staff, Inspector James Malley of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Inspector Tom Kelley of the Secret Service departed Washington, D. C., at 6:00 PM, Thursday, May 7, 1964, for Dallas.

On arrival at approximately 7:00 PM, the party was met by SA Howlett in a borrowed Lincoln Continental and Mr. Belin, Senator Cooper and Inspector Kelley drove over the route of the motorcade on November 22, and then to the Sheraton Hotel. In the meantime, Inspector Malley was taken directly to the Sheraton Hotel by Mr. Gordan Shanklin, SAC of the FBI in Dallas. SA Patterson took the baggage of the party directly to the hotel and SA Roger Warner waited at the airport for the arrival of Commission member John J. McCloy, who arrived from New York City at approximately 8:30 PM and was driven directly to the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel where he conferred with Senator Cooper.

On the morning of May 8, Senator Cooper, Mr. McCloy and Mr. Belin, driven by SA Howlett in the Lincoln and SA Patterson, Inspector Malley and Inspector Kelley, in a Dallas Secret Service car drove to Parkland Hospital where they viewed the emergency rooms, ^{then} then to the vicinity of the Texas School Book Depository where the assassination scene was viewed. During the on-sight inspection, there were a number of color slides taken from the ^{ZAPKUS-} Zepher film which ^{was} displayed to the Commission.

members and the position of the various witnesses who had already testified before the Commission were pointed out to the Commission. Commission members also walked to the triple overpass and to the grassy area, north side of Elm Street, for the purpose of ascertaining whether it was possible for the wounds inflicted upon Governor Connally and the President to be the result of rifle shots from those positions. After returning from the Texas School Book Depository they went to the Sheraton Hotel for lunch. The party was joined after lunch by Commission member Allen Dulles, who arrived at approximately 1 PM, and was driven directly to the hotel.

The party then journeyed to the Paine residence. The Paine home was viewed from the outside since no one was home at the time. The party then proceeded to the Randle residence where too no one was home but the general area was viewed as was the car port and the vicinity where the Frazier car was parked on November 22. The party then went to 1026 North Beckley Street where they viewed the room occupied by Oswald in the days prior to the assassination. Mrs. Johnson was interviewed there. The party then drove to the Neely street address and to the vicinity of the apartment occupied by Jack Ruby on November 22, 1963.

The party then drove to 10th and Patton Street where they viewed the scene of the Tippett slaying. They viewed the path of Oswald's flight from the Tippett slaying to the Texas Theater.

The Texas Theater was entered and the general view of the Theater was had without interrupting the performance. During the afternoon the Commission requested that a series of meetings or courtesy calls be arranged with the United States Attorney, the Dallas County District Attorney, the Mayor of Dallas and the Dallas Chief of Police.

Mr. Erik Johnson, present Mayor of Dallas was called upon in his offices of the Republic National Bank. Mr. Johnson related to the Commission members the events preceding the visit of the President to Dallas, that is, how the President's visit came about, who the sponsors where (The Dallas Citizens Council).

Since time was running short the members of the United States Attorney's office, in the absence of Barefoot Sanders, United States Attorney, came to the Republic National Bank where they had a discussion with the Commission members. The members then went to the office of the Dallas County District Attorney where in the absence of District Attorney Wade, Assistant District Attorney Alexander and Bowie, were interviewed. Members were advised that in the opinion of the Dallas County District Attorney's office, Jack Ruby could and should be interviewed as soon as possible. That in their opinion, Ruby would be cooperative in an interview with the Commission and that it would not impose any problems for the District Attorney's office as to their future prosecutions of Ruby or the development of the insanity case against Ruby. They

stated that in their opinion, Ruby would not take an interview by the Commission as an opportunity for a display of insanity symptoms, nor would he make a scene at the hearing in order to secure sympathy for his position as to his mental condition.

The Commission seemed to be well pleased with the result of the interview with the Dallas County authorities.

The Commission then went to the Dallas City Hall where Police Chief Curry took them on a tour of the Dallas Police Homicide Squad facilities and the city jail. He took them over the route Oswald traveled before he was shot by Ruby.

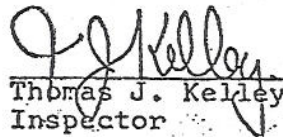
At the conclusion of the visit to the Dallas Police Department, the Commission members returned to their hotel and at approximately 7:30 PM the Commission members attended a dinner at the Chapparal Club in the Southland Center, adjacent to the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel. The host at the dinner was Dean Storey. It was attended by a number of civic leaders in Dallas and the three members of the Commission. Mr. Belin, Mr. Malley and myself did not attend this dinner.

On Saturday, May 9, the Commission members spent the morning beginning at 8:30 AM in a survey of the Texas School Book Depository. They viewed the site where the assassin sat and fired the rifle; his route of escape; the people who had seen or contacted Oswald during his presence in the building, and while he was ⁱⁿ department from it, where present and were interviewed. Officer Baker was also present and reenacted his entry of the building and his encounter with Oswald.

The Commission members stood on the fifth floor and heard SA Warner operate the bolt action on the same type rifle on the sixth floor; also they heard at this time the noise of the empty shells dropping on the floor of the sixth floor. Additional observations were made from the street level of Elm Street and the views of the various witnesses on the street were pointed out to the Commission members. Commission member McCloy departed Dallas for Mexico on a private plane approximately 11:00 AM, Senator Cooper and Mr. Dulles departed Dallas at approximately 12:45 PM for Washington.

During the tour the principle guide was David Belin, who was familiar with the testimony of the various witnesses ^{who} which appeared before the Commission, ~~and~~ who had been in Dallas previously and had been taken over the various routes and the scenes of activities ^{by} with SA Howlett. Belin was an articulate and a well informed guide. The Commission members expressed their pleasure at covering so much ground so rapidly. This was only accomplished by the cooperation of the Special Agents of the Dallas Secret Service office who equipped with portable radio sets, could anticipate the needs of the Commission and relayed their requests for advance meetings, etc., and thus, there was no wasted time during the day. The schedule was full and complete and advantage was taken of every opportunity to keep the Commission members busy and satisfied. Relations with the press seemed to be excellent and they were handled

between the Commission members and the press on an amicable basis. It was apparent that the Commission members wanted to be as cooperative as possible with the members of the press; they answered questions freely as to their activities and the purpose of their visit to Dallas.


Thomas J. Kelley
Inspector