

THE ARROGANT SUSPECT

by

William Weston

When Lee Harvey Oswald, the protesting suspect, was handcuffed and escorted out of the Texas Theater, he was put in the back seat of an unmarked police car. Two detectives sat on either side of him and three more sat in front. According to the testimonies of three of the detectives, the following conversation occurred between them and the man whom they arrested: [1]

"I don't know why you are treating me like this. The only thing I have done is carry a pistol in a movie."

He was told that he was under arrest, because he was a suspect in the killing of a police officer.

"A police officer had been killed?" No one answered.

"You can only fry for that." [2]

"Maybe you will get a chance to find out."

"Well, I understand it only takes a second to die."

He did not say anything more after that. He did not respond to any questions concerning his name, address, why he was carrying a gun, or what he was doing at the time Officer J.D. Tippit was killed. An examination of the contents of his wallet was only marginally helpful. There were two names in it: Lee Harvey Oswald and A.J. Hidell. There were also two addresses in it: one in Fort Worth and one in Dallas. [3]

Whoever the man was, he kept his mouth shut for the remainder of the ride to the police station. The detectives were impressed by his quiet demeanor. One described him as "calm, extra calm, he wasn't a bit nervous." Another said that he showed "absolutely no emotion...he gave the appearance of being arrogant." They soon learned that Oswald was his real name, when Texas School Book Depository workers being questioned at the station saw him and pointed him out as a fellow worker. He thus became the prime suspect for both the assassination of President Kennedy and the murder of Officer Tippit.

Other law enforcement officials who came in contact with him that weekend were bewildered by his composure. Assistant District Attorney William Alexander told Anthony Summers in 1978: "I was amazed that a person so young would

have had the self-control he had. It was almost as if he had been rehearsed, or programmed, to meet the situation that he found himself in." Former police chief Jesse Curry said to Summers, "One would think Oswald had been trained in interrogation techniques and resisting interrogation techniques." [4] When Capt. Fritz asked Oswald why he was carrying a pistol, Oswald's reply was, "You know how boys do when they have a gun, they just carry it." [5]

From the time the police learned that Tippit had been shot to the time of Oswald's arrest, the duration of the hunt was only 35 minutes. The following chronology—taken from a transcript of Dallas police radio transmissions—is an indication of the frenzied activity of the police as they searched for the killer:

1:16 A citizen using a police car radio notifies the dispatcher that a patrolman had been shot at 404 E. Tenth. Numerous squads respond.

1:19 Dispatcher: "Suspect last seen running west on Jefferson."

1:22 First description of suspect: "White male about 30, 5 ft. 8 in., black hair, slender, wearing a white jacket, white shirt and dark slacks."

1:25 Police find a white jacket in a parking lot behind a service station at 401 E. Jefferson. They believe that it belonged to the suspect.

1:35 Detective C.T. Walker: "He is in the library, Jefferson and Marsalis."

1:36 Sgt. Owens: "We are all at the library."

1:37 Police learn from "an eyeball witness" that the suspect is armed with a .32, dark finish automatic.

1:39 Police find out that the man at the library was the wrong one.

1:40 Detective Gerald Hill: "The shell found out the scene [of the shooting] indicates that the suspect is armed with an automatic .38 rather than a pistol."

1:45 Dispatcher: "A suspect just went in the Texas Theater on west Jefferson."

1:51 Detective Gerald Hill: "Suspect on shooting of police officer is apprehended and en route to the station." [6]

The police had taken from Oswald a .38 Smith & Wesson revolver, fully loaded with six rounds of ammunition. But according to the evidence at the scene and the observation of at least one witness, Tippit was shot by someone using an automatic. There is a great deal of difference between that

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type of gun and a revolver. An automatic is loaded with a magazine of rounds inserted into the stock of the gun, whereas a revolver has a revolving chamber in which each round must be loaded in manually one by one; once the rounds are fired, the empty shells must be unloaded manually. An automatic has extractor and ejector mechanisms that eject empty shells as they are fired. One way to tell whether a shell has been fired from an automatic is by the scratches or markings left on the shell as a result of getting extracted and ejected out. Shells fired from a revolver will not have such markings. Another indication that empty shells were fired from an automatic is the wide scatter pattern on the ground as a result of the ejector mechanism propelling them out. The fact that Oswald was armed with a revolver—combined with the fact that Tippit was killed with an automatic—is an important clue in leading us to doubt that Oswald shot Tippit.

One of the purposes of this article is to present arguments which show that Oswald could not have been the one who shot Tippit. But focusing only on this aspect of the case does not bring us very far in understanding Oswald's movements during this crucial time period. Why did he stop at his rooming house to change his shirt and get his revolver? What was Oswald doing at the time Tippit was killed? What reason did he have to go to the Texas Theater? Was he meeting someone there or did he just want to see a couple of war movies? How did he get there? Did he walk, take a bus or ride in a car driven by an associate? Tippit was shot near the corner of Tenth and Patton some time between 1:05 to 1:15 pm; Oswald was arrested at the Texas Theater at 1:50 pm—a distance of only a half mile and a duration of only 35 to 45 minutes. Both events must be connected in some way; the latter must be dependent on the former. To try to analyze them separately would lead only to confusion.

In order to explore the circumstances connecting the arrest at the theater with the Tippit shooting, I will develop an idea that was first introduced in an earlier article ("The Furniture Mart," Jan. 1994), in which I presented my hypothesis that Oswald had full knowledge of his patsy role prior to the assassination, and that he fully cooperated with the organizers of the plot in making the patsy role a success. Oswald was not an innocent victim of a frame-up trap that was beyond his power to escape; Oswald was a sham patsy, deliberately aiding the conspiracy by making himself the focus of law enforcement investigations. The critical weaknesses in the material evidence and the doubtfulness of eyewitness identi-

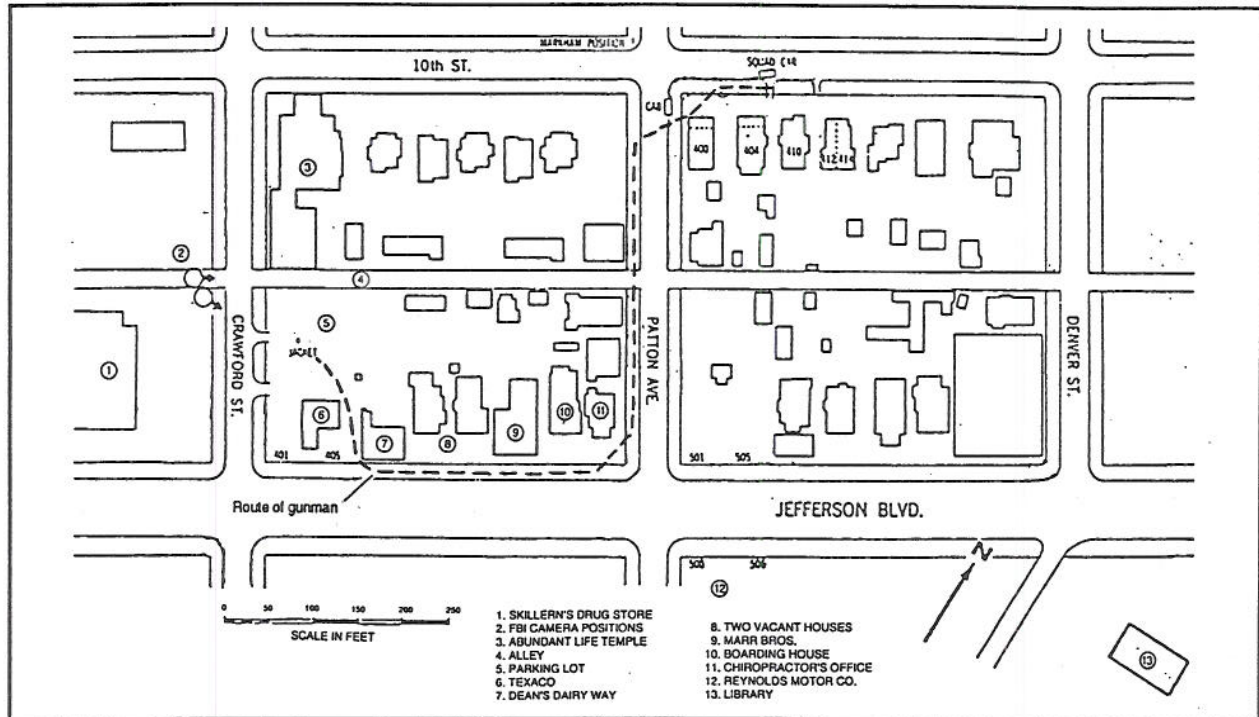
fications of him as the culprit were the tokens of assurance Oswald received from the plotters that he would never be convicted. Tied to these assurances may have been promises of considerable rewards. What he did not count on was a double-cross in the form of a .38 caliber bullet fired from a snub-nose revolver.

Before considering the reasons which demonstrate that Oswald was not the one who shot Tippit, let us first examine the details of the manhunt itself as seen through the eyes of two men who saw it from two critically important perspectives: Warren Reynolds [7] and Johnny Brewer. [8]

On the southeast corner of Patton St. and Jefferson Blvd. is a used car lot owned by Johnny Reynolds. He had a 28-year-old brother named Warren who worked as a handyman on the lot. On the 22nd of November, shortly after one o'clock, the sound of gunfire brought Warren Reynolds out on the balcony of his second-story office. Approaching the car lot was a man running down Patton Street, armed with a pistol in his right hand. He stuck the gun into the waistband of his pants. At the corner diagonally opposite to Reynolds' car lot, he turned west, cutting across the lawn of an old two-story house, which served as an office for a chiropractor. After turning the corner, the man slowed down to a brisk walk. Reynolds and another employee named B.M. Patterson decided to chase after him to keep him in view until the police arrived.

The section of town that they were passing through was part of a long string of business establishments that lined each side of the boulevard. Next to the chiropractor's office was another old building, two-stories high, white in color, which was used as a boarding house. After that was the Marr Brothers gasoline engine shop. Further on was a pair of vacant two-story houses, which were used for the storage of second-hand furniture. Beyond them was Dean's Dairy Way, a drive-in market. At the end of the block was the Texaco service station on the corner of Jefferson and Crawford. Behind the gas station was a private parking lot with about 60 to 75 cars in it. These cars belonged to the employees of the telephone company on the corner catty-corner to the station. The parking spaces were leased on a monthly basis from Texaco. [9]

As the gunman strode westward on the north side of Jefferson Blvd., Reynolds and Patterson were running on the south side. The distance between them was closing rapidly. Soon the pursuers were almost even with the pursued. Aware of the two men following him, the gunman swiftly turned the corner of the drive-in market, disappearing between that



building and the Texaco station. Reynolds and Patterson crossed the boulevard and came up to the gas station. A woman and a service station attendant told them that the man had gone into the parking lot behind the station. [10]

Reynolds and Patterson ran to the back and looked around. The gunman was nowhere to be seen. They figured that he could not have gone very far and that he must be hiding somewhere in the parking lot. He could not have had the time to cross the wide extent of open area all around the Texaco station. Beyond the parking lot on the north side was an alley. On the other side of the alley was a massive, four-story, brick building belonging to a church called the Abundant Life Temple and Bible College. Next to the church on the east side were the apartment buildings that fronted onto Tenth Street near where Tippit was shot. In order to find shelter from his pursuers on the other side of the alley, the man would have had to zigzag his way among the parked cars, cross the alley and scale a chain link fence that ran all along the alley. An alternative route would be to go around to the west side of the church and try to find an entrance somewhere on the Crawford Street side. Whichever way he went, he would have had to cross a distance of about 45 to 50 yards. It would have been impossible for him to increase his speed sufficiently to get across the parking lot during that brief interval of time when he

was out of view of his pursuers.

Neither was it possible for him to escape across Crawford Street. Beyond Crawford Street was still another parking lot. On the other side of this lot was a fairly large building called Skillern's Drug Store. The entrance to the store was about 70 yards from the rear of the Texaco station. The only hope the gunman had of evading his pursuers was among the cars parked immediately behind the Texaco station.

Leaving Patterson at the rear of the station to watch the south end of the lot, Reynolds ran to the alley on the north end. Whether he realized it or not, this position in the alley cut off the only means the gunman had of escaping unseen. It might have been possible to scurry unseen below the level of the car windows. Upon reaching a spot near the alley, the man could have waited for an opportunity to make a quick dash around the corner of the church. But with Reynolds' occupation of the alley, the gunman had nowhere to go without exposing himself. The trap was complete.

Reynolds was not content with just standing around in the alley until the police arrived. He began making his own search, moving from car to car, looking first inside and then underneath. This was of course a very dangerous thing to do and it was only afterwards that Reynolds realized the foolishness of it. However it was not long before the police arrived

on the scene. Reynolds told them what he saw and insisted that the gunman was still in the parking lot. The police immediately squared off the block, posting men at key locations along the four sides of the block: Crawford St. on the west, Jefferson Blvd. on the south, Patton St. on the east and Tenth St. on the north. No one was permitted to enter the block, and anyone who tried to come out would be stopped and questioned.

A preliminary search of the parking lot by two men—Captain Westbrook and a companion whose identity remains unknown [11]—resulted in the discovery of a white jacket believed to have belonged to the suspect. Westbrook's companion saw it underneath a parked car in the third row of cars away from the alley. This discovery was reported to the dispatcher at 1:25 and it confirmed Reynolds' belief that the suspect was still in the parking lot. The arrest of the suspect seemed imminent. It was a momentous occasion and even the news media were on hand to record this memorable exploit of the Dallas Police. With the manhunt going on in the background, Reynolds was interviewed by a camera crew from a television station. He was also interviewed by a news reporter from a local radio station.

In spite of the intensity of the search, the suspect somehow got away. What was supposed to be an easy capture, turned into a major setback. What happened?

The first indication that something was going wrong with the manhunt was the fact that the police did not begin their search in the parking lot. Instead they started with the two vacant buildings that were used to store second-hand furniture. [12] After making sure that no one was in these buildings, some of them moved on to the church. They questioned two women employees of the church who told them that they were there the whole day and that no one had tried to enter the building. Nevertheless, the police were determined to do a full search of this building, beginning with the basement. [13] Other police officers were grouping around the big, white boarding house near the chiropractor's office. [14] To Reynolds, "This was all a bunch of confusion. They didn't know what was going on." Sooner or later, the police would have to begin a complete and thorough search of the parking lot—at least to the satisfaction of their main witness, Warren Reynolds.

Then something happened which sent the police on a mad stampede to a location three blocks away. At 1:35 pm, a detective named C.T. Walker radioed the dispatcher that a person fitting the description of the suspect was seen running

into the Oak Cliff Library. Every police officer engaged in the hunt behind the Texaco station dropped whatever he was doing to respond to this call. No one stayed behind to keep an eye on the parking lot in case the call to the library turned out to be a false alarm. One minute later, Sgt. Owens informed the dispatcher: "We are all at the library." The frantic departure of the police must have been an extraordinary spectacle: numerous police men scrambling from all directions to their cars and roaring off to the library, the red and blue lights of their cars flashing like Christmas trees. Reynolds told the Commission, "And everyone of them left to go there. So when they left, well, I did too." [15]

As it turned out, the suspicious person at the library did not even remotely resemble the description that was broadcast over the police radio. He was just an ordinary teenage employee who ran into the library to give people inside the latest news on the assassination of the President.

A careful examination of the police activities that afternoon cannot shake the suspicion that the manhunt was being manipulated by someone in authority who did not want the suspect in the parking lot to be caught. The failure to search it properly gave the hiding man the opportunity to make his getaway. Reynolds never wavered in his belief that the gunman had been in the parking lot. Looking at the situation from Reynolds' point of view, we are faced with two significant implications which cannot be ignored: (1) the suspect was unable to cross Crawford Street until after everyone had left, and (2) the man who was in the parking lot could not have been the same man who was arrested at the Texas Theater.

At about the same time that the police heard the call that the suspect was three blocks to the east of the Texaco station, an entirely new phase of that tumultuous afternoon was about to erupt four blocks to the west. This was the vicinity in which Hardys Shoe Store was located. The 22-year-old manager of the store, Johnny Brewer, had been listening to news bulletins about the critically wounded President on his transistor radio. He also heard a seemingly unrelated report about the shooting of a patrolman somewhere near his store in Oak Cliff. When he heard the siren of an approaching police car, Brewer wondered whether it had something to do with the Oak Cliff shooting. As the siren grew louder, he noticed a man moving quickly into the open air entranceway that led to the front door. The man did not come into the store; neither did he seem to be interested in the shoes visible through the display window. He simply stared into the interior of the store with his

back toward the street. Brewer could see his face clearly through the window, for there was only a distance of ten feet between them. His hair was messed up and he looked like he had been running. Brewer thought he looked scared. He was a man about the same age as Brewer, about 5'9", with brown hair. He wore a brown salt-and-pepper shirt with the shirt tail hanging out. The top two buttons of his shirt were unbuttoned. Underneath the brown shirt was a T-shirt.

The police car did not pass the shoe store. Instead it sounded like it had made a U-turn at a nearby intersection and headed back the other way. As soon as the siren of the police car began to subside, the man quickly looked over his shoulder, turned around, went out to the sidewalk and started walking towards the movie theater. This suspicious behavior prompted Brewer to step outside his store and see where the man was going.

The man was walking at a faster than normal pace. He was near the theater, when another police car with flashing lights and siren came screaming out of the east side of Oak Cliff. At the sound of the approaching police car, the man quickly ducked into the entranceway of the theater. The cashier in the ticket booth, Julia Postal, noticed the man standing with his back to the inside wall of the entranceway, but she was distracted by her employer rushing out to his car parked out front. [16] He told her that he was going to follow the police car, in order to find out what was going on. Postal stepped out of her booth to watch her employer drive off, and perhaps to get an idea of how far away the disturbance seemed to be. While she was staring in that direction, Brewer came up from behind, got her attention, and asked her if she sold a ticket to a man wearing a brown shirt. It was at this point the Postal realized that the man had sneaked into the theater without paying. She remembered that he had a "panicked look on his face." It was obvious that the man was trying to avoid the police.

Not knowing how much Brewer knew, Postal told him that the President had been assassinated. She said "I don't know if this is the man they want in there, but he is running from them for some reason. I am going to call the police and you and Butch (Warren Burroughs, the ticket taker) go get on each of the exit doors and stay there." Brewer went inside and found Burroughs behind the candy counter. Burroughs did not see the man come in, for he had been busy stocking the shelves with more candy. The man could have gone up the stairs to the balcony section without having to pass Burroughs. To go unnoticed from the balcony to the main seating area was not

difficult, for there was another stairway on the opposite side. [17]

While American soldiers were battling the Chinese in a Korean War movie called War Is Hell, Brewer and Burroughs checked the exits. If someone had exited the theater, the double doors would have remained ajar. They saw that the double doors had not been opened. Brewer stood at the exit near the stage, and Burroughs stood at the exit near the lobby. While Brewer was guarding the exit, he heard a noise outside. He opened the door to investigate. The alley was filled with policemen and squad cars. Two of them grabbed Brewer and asked him what he was doing there. Brewer told them about the suspicious man who was inside the theater. The police wanted Brewer to accompany them inside and point the man out.

Entering the theater, Brewer and two police officers walked up onto the stage. The lights had been turned on, but the movie was still running. There were about fifteen people in the audience. Brewer could see the man, seated in the third row from the back, and indicated his location to the police officers. The man of course could see clearly everything that was going on. The police began advancing up the two center aisles. To make sure they did not miss anybody, they moved towards the two men sitting near the front and began frisking them for weapons. One of the officers was Nick MacDonald. As he searched one of the two men in front, he looked over his shoulder at the prime suspect. MacDonald told the Commission, "He remained seated without moving, just looking at me." [18] After satisfying themselves that the two men in front were not armed, MacDonald and other police officers once again moved up the aisles.

The next one to be searched was the suspect himself. MacDonald came up to him and ordered him to stand up. When he did so the suspect threw a punch at MacDonald's face, sending him reeling back onto the seats. A scuffle broke out with several uniformed and plain clothes officers piling on the suspect.

Brewer had seen all of this, including the first punch that the suspect delivered to MacDonald. As he watched the police try to subdue him, he saw a hand holding a gun projecting out of the fray. Someone hollered "He's got a gun." Several hands were trying to grab it from him. The click of the hammer was heard, but it had misfired. It was pointing harmlessly towards the screen when the hammer came down. [19] Finally, one of the detectives standing by grabbed it away from the jouncing

hand. Brewer heard one of the policemen exclaim: "Kill the President, will you?" Fists were flying, and they were hitting him. The man still kept fighting back. After an immense effort, the police managed to put handcuffs on him. As the man was led out of the theater, Brewer heard him shouting "I am not resisting arrest." Later that day, Brewer learned that his name was Lee Harvey Oswald.

It was not long after Oswald was brought into police headquarters that law enforcement officials began making statements to the press that they had apprehended the man who shot the President, the Governor and Police Officer Tippit. Although the case seemed to be "clinched," there were still a lot of loose ends. The evidence connecting Oswald to these capital crimes was shot through with too many defects and weaknesses. Here I will dwell on just a few of the salient points pertaining to the Tippit case which demonstrate that Oswald was not the one who did the shooting.

The shells found at the site were originally identified as coming from an automatic. Yet the shells exhibited in the Warren Commission volumes are from a revolver. Since Oswald's weapon was a revolver, it is possible that the police just made a mistake—provided, of course, that the chain of possession from the moment of discovery to the time it became a Commission exhibit is unbroken.

Two of the four Tippit shells were not recovered by the police, but rather they were delivered to the police by Barbara and Virginia Davis, who said they found them in the front yard of their apartment. The other two shells were found by Domingo Benavides, who gave them to Officer J.M. Poe at the scene of the crime. The officer scratched his initials in the shells according to routine police procedures. However the shells exhibited by the Commission do not have Poe's initials. [20] There is no other way of explaining this difficulty than to acknowledge that the chain of possession had been broken by substituted shells, which in turn taints whatever value the two shells recovered by the Davis sisters might have had. The mishandling of important evidence such as this signifies the hollow substance of the case against Oswald.

Another difficulty that would have stumbled the prosecution in a court of law was the discrepancy between the clothing and appearance of the gunman (as perceived by witnesses at the scene) and the actual clothing and appearance of Oswald. According to the first police description, the suspect was a "white male about 30, 5 ft. 8 in., black hair, slender, wearing a white jacket, white shirt and dark slacks."

In the Dallas Morning News, it was reported that "Witnesses to the shooting described a bushy-haired man about 30 as Tippit's slayer. They said he wore a white cotton jacket." [21] This newspaper report was corroborated by Helen Markham, who told Mark Lane that the gunman had bushy-hair. She also said that he was short and stocky. [22] Detective Gerald Hill remembered the description of the suspect as having brown bushy hair. [23] J.M. Poe remembered Mrs. Markham and the Davis sisters telling him that the suspect was 5'7" or 5'8". [24] Thus we have a fairly consistent picture of a gunman who was short, stocky, with bushy hair, around 30 years old, wearing dark slacks, a white shirt and a white jacket.

The same witnesses who were close enough to see what the gunman looked like later identified Oswald as the man involved in the shooting. These witnesses include Helen Markham, the two Davis women, Domingo Benavides, B.M. Patterson and Warren Reynolds. Yet Oswald was neither short, stocky, nor bushy haired. He was not 30 years old; he was 24. Although he was wearing dark slacks, he was not wearing a white shirt; instead he wore a tan or gray jacket. Such a wide degree of discrepancy in the details of what the witnesses actually reported to have seen and the actual clothing and physical features of the man whom they accused would have made a very confusing issue had Oswald come to trial.

Yet there seems to be more going on with the Tippit witnesses than has publicly come out. From the little that we know of them, it appears that an irresistible campaign of intimidation was used to pressure them to change their stories. For example, Benavides was not taken to view the suspect in a police line-up because he "did not think he could identify the suspect because he did not really see him." [25] A month later his brother was murdered in circumstances indicating that the real target was Domingo. When Benavides came to testify, he clearly identified Oswald as the man who shot Tippit. [26] Another example is Warren Reynolds. In a statement he gave to the FBI on Jan. 21, 1964, [27] he said that the man whom he was chasing might have been Oswald, but he would hesitate to identify him as such. This qualified statement was apparently not definite enough to spare him from the horror of getting shot in the head by an unknown assailant two days later. Miraculously, Reynolds survived, and when it came time for him to testify, all his doubts that the suspect was Oswald had vanished. [28] Given the menacing circumstances which faced the Tippit witnesses, it is no

wonder that they had been making inconsistent statements.

When the sum total of facts and details are considered, it is quite evident that Oswald was not the one who killed Tippit. Having come this far, we still have not explained how Oswald happened to end up at the Texas Theater to be arrested. Especially curious was Oswald's ducking-for-cover behavior whenever a police car went by. Also to be noted is the "scared look" on his face prior to his entrance into the theater. This "scared look" is especially baffling when it is compared to how he appeared immediately after his arrest. The officers accompanying him to the police station described him as calm, unemotional, and even arrogant in his attitude to his captors. Why was he afraid of the police just before his arrest, but was quiet and calm immediately after?

That is the ultimate question. It is the last riddle of Oswald the Sphinx. Whoever can answer that question will go far in understanding Oswald's true role in the assassination, penetrating deep into the heart of the conspiracy itself.

To begin answering that question, we need to determine what was the link between Oswald and the man who shot Tippit. A comparison of both men at the time of these events gives numerous revealing parallels:

1. The bushy-haired man was last seen moving westward on foot on Jefferson Blvd. Oswald was first seen moving westward on foot on Jefferson Blvd.
2. The bushy-haired man discarded a white zipper-type jacket behind the Texaco station. Oswald had discarded a dark colored zipper-type jacket [29] somewhere between his rooming house on Beckley and Jefferson Blvd.
3. The bushy-haired man was armed with a .38 automatic, which he had tucked in his belt. Oswald was armed with a .38 revolver, which he had tucked in his belt.
4. The bushy-haired man was dodging his pursuers in the Texaco parking lot. Oswald was dodging the police at the Texas Theater.
5. The bushy-haired man was last seen at 1:20 pm. Oswald was first seen at 1:35 pm.
6. The bushy-haired man was last seen near the corner of Jefferson and Crawford. Oswald was first seen near the corner of Jefferson and Zangs, a distance of four blocks.

These parallels are too precise and too numerous to be coincidental. What they suggest is a coordination of effort

between Oswald and the bushy-haired man, or rather between the handlers of these two men. To achieve such precision in timing would have required some form of short wave communication. Although Oswald did not in the least resemble the man who killed Tippit, this was of no real concern to the conspirators. Oswald's cooperation in his patsy role was contingent upon the confusion of the eyewitnesses. This would eventually lead to Oswald's release.

There was no specific plan of where Oswald would be captured. It was simple happenstance that he got caught in the theater. If the cashier failed to notice that he had gone inside without paying for his ticket, or if no one sounded the alarm, Oswald would have just moved on, continuing to behave suspiciously until someone noticed him and called the police. His "panicky" appearance was merely a masquerade to attract attention to himself.

The assassination was too big an operation to allow an innocent patsy to say and do things unpredictably and thus expose the plot. It was essential to have a cooperating patsy who could be relied upon in a role that was to be extremely sensitive. Oswald's part in this highly complex operation was immensely indispensable. Not only did he give time to the real assassins to make their getaways, but also he was laying down a trail of false clues indicating that the assassination was a Communist plot. Oswald was an experienced agent provocateur in the field of sabotaging left wing organizations. Throughout the weekend following his capture, he had no hesitation in declaring himself to be a Marxist with ties to pro-Castro and socialist organizations. If the assassination was to be regarded as a conspiracy, let the public think that it was a Communist conspiracy. Oswald was neither frightened nor worried about the future. His arrogance was the demeanor of a man who felt himself to be completely in control. He knew exactly what he was doing. With his Marxist background being blatantly proclaimed, he was about to launch a huge public outcry against Cuba and the Communists. But Oswald's plans never came to fruition. As the crack of a single shot reverberated through the basement of Dallas police headquarters, the legend of the lone assassin was born.

Notes

1. Warren Commission Hearings and Exhibits Vol. 7, p. 22 (Carroll). References to this source cited hereafter in format 7H22; 7H40-41 (Walker), 7H58-61 (Hill).
2. It is not known what Oswald actually said. To Sgt. Hill,

- it was something similar to "You can fry for that" or "You only fry for that." Walker thought his words were "I hear they burn for murder."
3. A Dallas Public Library card had the signature Lee H. Oswald at an address at 602 Elsbeth St. in Dallas. A Selective Service card had Oswald's name at 3124 W. Fifth St. in Fort Worth. Another Selective Service card had his picture under the name Alek James Hidell. Warren Report 615, 616. References to this source cited hereafter in format WR615, 616.
 4. Anthony Summers, Conspiracy (McGraw-Hill, 1980) p. 128.
 5. WR601.
 6. Dallas Police Radio Log, 23H857-875.
 7. 11H434-437 (Reynolds) and Patterson Exhibit, 21H25.
 8. 7H2-8 (Brewer).
 9. Details concerning the area were obtained by a comparison of a 1964 Dallas criss-cross directory, an aerial view of the area in the Warren Report (WR164), and a telephone conversation with a former Texaco employee named Harold Manord. The two vacant houses used to store furniture were torn down shortly after the assassination.
 10. Brock Exhibits, 19H181-182.
 11. 7H117 (Westbrook). Westbrook had considerable difficulty in trying to remember the identity of his companion. In one place in his testimony he said he was with "some officer, I feel sure it was an officer, I still can't be positive." Later, when he was asked if he knew the man's name, Westbrook said "No, I probably knew his name, but we had so many things that were happening so fast."
 12. 7H48 (Hill).
 13. 7H49 (Hill).
 14. 7H116-117 (Westbrook).
 15. 11H436 (Reynolds). Not all the police had left. Sgt. Gerald Hill and a few others were still on the other side of the church, questioning the two women employees. Nevertheless, the perimeter surrounding the block had been dissolved.
 16. 7H9-14 (Postal).
 17. 7H15 (Burroughs).
 18. 3H299 (MacDonald).
 19. MacDonald said that the gun was pointing at himself and that the gun failed to fire because the fleshy part of his thumb got caught where the hammer came down. But this was contradicted by the others involved in the scuffle (Hutson, 7H32 and Walker, 7H39). As for the gun itself, it is quite probable that it was harmless to begin with. Joachim Joesten heard an unconfirmed report that FBI weapons experts had determined that the firing pin was bent so that it could not strike the shell properly (Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy, p. 115).
 20. 24H415. While doing research for his book, Henry Hurt asked Poe about the Tippit shells. Poe insisted that, even though he could not find his initials, they were indeed the genuine shells. He stated that the reason his marks could not be found was because they were obliterated by other markings. Hurt then went to the National Archives and examined them for himself. There were no obliterated markings. When Hurt confronted Poe with this, Poe said, "I have talked to you all I'm going to talk to you. You already got your mind made up about what you're going to say. I know what the truth is." He then hung up the phone (Reasonable Doubt, p. 153-154).
 21. Dallas Morning News, November 23, 1963.
 22. Markham Exhibit 20H571-599.
 23. 7H47 (Hill).
 24. 7H69 (Poe).
 25. WR166.
 26. 6H452 (Benavides).
 27. 25H731.
 28. 11H437-442 (Reynolds). In 1983, Hurt contacted Reynolds, in order to ask some questions. Reynolds "simply smiled and refused to discuss any aspect of the matter" (Reasonable Doubt, p. 148).
 29. 7H419 (Earlene Roberts affidavit).