

AT THE BOOK DEPOSITORY

Statements of Witnesses - Miss Victoria Elizabeth ADAMS  
Deposition - April 7, 1964, 6 H 386-93

Miss Adams is a 23-year-old employee of the Scott, Foresman Co. who previously had "entered the Ursuline Order in St. Mary's, Ohio, and I left there as a novice in 1961." She taught school in Atlanta and had other employment before coming to the Scott, Foresman office in the Book Depository Bldg. She was looking at the motorcade through the 4th floor window (p.387). She identifies this window as in the third pair from the east, and the westernmost of these two, of the 6th window

She was standing with <sup>3</sup> ~~two~~ other women, Sandra Styles, Elsie Dorman, and Dorothy May Garner. She testified to watching the motorcade turn onto Houston from Main and onto Elm from Houston, recalling a good view of the President and Mrs. Kennedy because "both turned abruptly and faced the building," apparently in response to a call ~~for~~ <sup>from</sup> the crowd.

The testimony that immediately follows I consider of the highest significance:

"Mr. Belin. Where was their car as you got this good view, had it come directly opposite your window? Had it come to that point on Elm, or not, if you can remember?

Miss Adams. I believe it was prior, just a second or so prior to that.

Mr. Belin. All right.

Miss Adams. And from our vantage point we were able to see what the President's wife was wearing, the roses in the car, and things that would attract women's attention. Then we heard - then we were obstructed from the view.

Mr. Belin. By what?

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Miss Adams. A tree. And we heard a shot, and it was a pause, and then a second shot, and then a third shot. It sounded like a fire-cracker or a cannon at a football game, it seemed as if it came ~~right~~ from the right below rather than from the left above. Possible because of the report." (p.388)

Note the explicitness of the testimony showing that she heard the shot and her view of the President and his car was blocked by the tree. This bears on the belief I have expressed on a number of previous occasions, Larry, that all the hocus-pocus of the FBI and Commission reconstruction avoiding the most obvious means, was intended only to establish the possibility of the first shot having been fired subsequent to the time it was actually fired. If this shot was fired at a time when Miss Adams' view of the car was obstructed by the tree, then it was fired either much earlier than frame 210, if it originated on the sixth floor, which I do not believe - and this is disproved by the Zapruder motion pictures - or it had to originate from elsewhere.

Notice that Belin ignores her observation. In so doing, he lets it stand unchallenged. He proceeds instead with what she did after hearing the third shot.

Note also, and I think this is conspicuous, Larry, <sup>and</sup> ~~is~~ such an obvious fault that it cannot be considered accidental, that Belin has failed to refer to Dillard Exhibit D, the photograph of the front of the building taken perhaps only seconds after the third shot, R 67, which shows that of all the windows visible on the fourth floor, and there are 5 pairs visible, only the window from which Miss Adams said she was looking is open. Objects are visible in both of the windows in this pair, that is, the fifth and sixth from the east end of the building. I cannot make them out with a magnifying glass. The Commission has

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chosen to ignore it. She said the other employees accompanied her as she ran down the stairs. She was wearing 3-inch heels. She noticed that the elevator was not moving. Asked how she knew, she specified, "Because the cables move when the elevator is moved, and this is evidenced (evident) because of a wooden grate." Belin even goes into a description of the slats through which the cables are visible.

As she ran down the stairs, she saw no one, including on the parts of the other floors that were visible to her. On the first floor she saw Shelley and Lovelady. (p.389)

Belin then shows her what he describes as "Commission Exhibit No. 496, which includes a diagram of the first floor ..." to get her to identify where she encountered Lovelady and Shelley. Exhibit 496 (19 H 210) is not as described. It is the October 15, 1963, application for employment at the School Book Depository by Lee Harvey Oswald.

To show how highly organized and scientifically conceived the confusion in the hearings is, I consulted the last volume where, beginning on p.862, is a document entitled, "Commission exhibit numbers assigned to previous Commission documents." Notice it doesn't say previous Commission exhibits. There is a floor plan in the Report on p.148 giving <sup>en</sup> the number of Exhibit 1061. I had hoped by that to locate the exact exhibit Belin had shown Miss Adams, but in the listings in Vol. XXVI after 1061 appears only this: "Floor plan of first floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building."

What useful purpose does such a document serve? Only to pad the volume, and only to make them more difficult to use. In fact, the Commission might even point to this list in a manner making it seem as though by use of the list you can find the exhibits. Of course, this clearly isn't the case.

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This pretty effectively precludes any use of the exhibit in following Miss Adams' testimony. The choices are to look through thousands and thousands of pages to try and find it unless you have the kind of memory that enables you to remember one particular page from among all these thousands.

She describes this place as somewhat to the south and a little bit to the east of the east elevator, and saw no one else, employees or other. On her way down the stairs, she heard no one else using them. She heard no one calling for the elevator, nor did she see Truly or a motorcycle policeman. Thereafter she went down toward the railroad tracks where there was an officer who directed her back to the building.  
(p.390)

Belin has made two errors, if he has any ulterior motive, and I believe he has, in this line of questioning of Miss Adams. On p.388, he has not asked nor has she volunteered the interlude between the time she heard the last shot and the time she went down the stairs. (and recall the objects visible in the picture taken after the third shot which may or may/<sup>not</sup>enlarge into people.) Also, the testimony of Lovelady and Shelley shows that before they returned to the building, they made an exploration on the outside which took some time. In this case, the presence of a policeman turning people away from the tracks again shows that a considerable amount of time had elapsed. If Miss Adams didn't see Truly and the cop, it could only be because she did not leave the fourth floor immediately. By this time, Truly and the cop had advanced to a higher floor. With the testimony of Lovelady and Shelley, it is something that Belin should very well know, and since the members of the Commission were not present at the taking of the deposition, in effect, he is engaging in a deceit of the members of the Commission.

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Miss Adams did not return immediately to the building by means of the front door and the front street, but she encountered and spoke to other employees.

She said she listened to the police radio from a motorcycle parked in front of the building and panicked when she thought/<sup>she</sup>heard a report saying the shot could have come from the fourth floor window because "I was at the only open window on the fourth floor."

Of course, Miss Adams could have misunderstood the radio, which she also understood to report ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> possibility of the second ~~floor~~ <sup>floor</sup> as the source. I recall no police broadcast indicating the ~~source~~ <sup>if</sup> fourth floor as the source of the shots, and if this is the case and Miss Adams' testimony is correct, (with regard to the fourth floor, she certainly had grounds for remembering it) then again there is reason to believe the log presented to the Commission was incomplete.

At the time she returned to the building, guards had not yet been posted on the front steps and the policeman inside ~~said~~ "he was prohibiting people from entering the building", but he let her in when she said she worked there. Some security!

She said the pushbutton elevator had had its power cut off, so she walked to the second floor. After visiting in the Book Depository office, she took the other elevator where she found two men she assumed to be plainclothesmen, ~~but~~ the elevator wasn't working "so the gentlemen lifted the elevator gate and we went out and ran up the stairs to the fourth floor."

Belin appears to have no further interest in these gentlemen. They clearly were men unknown to her. He drops it completely and at this point by asking her if she went to the Scott, Foresman office and then by beginning the reconstruction of her actions (p.391).

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In this he asks her for the amount of time "between the time the shots were fired and the time you left the window ..." We perhaps should assume he meant the third shot, although he should have said. She said, "Between 15 and 30 seconds." She thought the trip to the first floor could have taken "no longer than a minute at the most." If this is correct and if, as she repeats at this point, she saw neither Truly nor the motorcycle policeman, there would remain the possibility she got to the first floor before they entered. But if this is true (and it is in contradiction to the testimony of Shelley and Lovelady) then there is real significance in Belin's following question: "You heard no one else running down the stairs?" and her reply was, "Correct."

This is one time sequence the Commission chose not to reconstruct, but it would certainly seem that she could have run and gotten on the steps earlier than someone on the sixth floor, because she had no rifle to wipe clean of fingerprints and hide, and even the Commission concedes in its reconstruction that Oswald did not run.

She did not know and had had no dealings with Oswald. Belin asked her specifically if she bumped into Oswald on the steps on the way down, and she replied negatively.

Asked if she can think of anything else that might be relevant, "to anything connected with the assassination", she said that when she left the Houston Street dock there was an officer about 2 yards from the <sup>rb</sup>cup, of whom she says "when we were running out the dock, going around the building, the officer was standing there, and he didn't encounter us or ask us what we were doing or where we were going, and I don't know if that is pertinent." Belin paraphrases this to say, "No one stopped you from getting out of the building when you left?" and  
(p. 392)

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she replied, "That's correct." Belin said, "That is helpful information."

He didn't mean it. The Commission completely ignored the existence of the loading dock doors in its report. It referred to merely a single "back" door. Belin asked if she had any other information, and she gave this reply, which may be fantasy:

"Miss Adams. There was a man that was standing on the corner of Houston and Elm asking questions there. He was dressed in a suit and hat, and when I encountered Avery Davis going down, <sup>a</sup> we asked who he was, because he was questioning people as if he were a police officer, and we noticed him take a colored boy away on a motorcycle, and this man was asking questions very efficaciously, and we said, 'I guess he is maybe a reporter,' and later on on television, there was a man that looked very similar to him, and he was identified as Ruby. And on questioning some police officer, they said they had witnesses to the fact that he was in the Dallas Morning News at the time. And I don't know whether this is relevant or what.

Mr. Belin. That is all right, we want to get that information down. Was this before you got back in the front door of the building that you saw ~~xxxx~~ this?

Miss Adams. Yes, sir; while I was standing by the motorcycles."

(p.393)