

Prospective witnesses- Officer Jim Cheney

1/4/69

Officer Marrison Baker

If you consult the index to WHITEWASH under his name and that of Marrison Baker, you will get two of the most obvious ignored leads. Baker testified, in answer to a question from Taghon Carr, 3H 264, that the Friday before his testimony he got new information at the TSBD. He also testified that Cheney said he saw a separate bullet strike Connelly and had so reported (3H266).

What better reason for not calling Cheney?

Few people recall him, but he was one of the closest eye-witnesses. He is one of the motorcycle police who rode flanker on the JFK car, on its right side. As I recall the existing pictures, I think Altgens in particular, he is shown looking over his left shoulder. It is important, in looking at this picture, to recall what Liebelar was so careful to keep out of the testimony, that Altgens took his picture with a long lens, 135 mm, which has a foreshortening effect.

While this, in itself, was enough to justify the Commission not wanting him as a witness and the FBI not having great interest in him, I suggest that, close as he was to the car, he might have other and significant knowledge.

If you read the chapter "Baker's Bozen" of WHITEWASH II, you will see how easy it is to use Baker to establish that the time reconstruction was faked, that he was part of the fakery, and that despite the faking, it still proved Oswald could not have been at the sixth-floor window. No matter how hard they tried, no matter how much was omitted, no matter how slowly he moved, Baker still got to the "rendezvous" before Oswald could be brought there, and this without taking time to do all the things Oswald is required to have done, like hiding the rifle and leaving no prints, on it or the shells.

If you desire to do this, Roy Truly would be a good addition, for he can and would testify that he was ahead of Baker and saw no one coming down the stairs, not Oswald nor anyone else, and that it was impossible, had he been on the stairs or going into the lunchroom, which has an automatic-closure on the door.

By taking Baker's conjecture, that Oswald had no business in the doorway, which is less probative than the Commission's conclusion the motorcade would not have taken a shortcut because traffic regulations prohibited it, it is also possible to show how easy and likely it was that Oswald went up to the lunchroom from the first floor, the only way he could have gotten there before Baker and Truly, and with the door having closed before either got to the second floor.

Aside from its historical importance, I think that in addressing conspiracy it is desirable to show a conspiracy to frame Oswald. This is one of the ways of doing it. The time reconstruction cannot survive even casual examination. It proves Oswald could have been anywhere in the world except on that sixth-floor perch. Baker's testimony is reported in WHITEWASH, which can also be used as an index to these portions. He also can testify to the strength of the wind, which almost blew him off his cycle (and this ends the possibility of assuming a clear space in the live oak based on a subsequent examination on a quiet day, when the space existed for but a single frame of the Zapruder film, 1/18th second at the longest, hardly enough for a shot).