



DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2700 TULANE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS 70119



JIM GARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

December 14, 1967

P R E S S R E L E A S E

(The purpose of this press release is to describe and illustrate the underground drainage system in Dealy Plaza, Dallas and to indicate its apparent relevance in any objective investigation of the assassination.)

The ground beneath the assassination scene contains interconnecting tunnels which lead to sewers alongside the three streets running through Dealy Plaza. From the point of view of someone riding through the streets, these sewers appear to be simply openings along the curb about six inches high. Actually, each of these is in effect a concrete pillbox approximately five and a half feet deep.

A man can fit comfortably in each of these sewers but cannot be seen from the outside because of the darkness within. From within a man obtains a very clear view of the occupants of a convertible. A man firing a weapon from one of these concrete pillboxes would be able to strike the occupant of a convertible anywhere from the chest upwards.

These roadside sewers are connected to a variety of entrances and exits by a network of tunnels. The narrowest tunnels are 15 inches wide and the largest -- the main tunnel which leads out of Dealy Plaza down to the usually dry riverbed -- is 30 inches wide.

In Photograph No. 1 an investigator from this office can be seen descending into one of the entrances into the tunnel complex underneath Dealy Plaza. From this entrance a man can crawl unseen to a sewer alongside Elm Street. The top portion of this entrance (on the picket fence side) is newer cement than the rest of the entrance hole, indicating that this also may have been used as a firing point. (Removal of the upper layer of cement would have permitted firing at the parade from within this tunnel entrance, shooting under the picket fence, although the shooter would be invisible to anyone above ground.)

Photograph No. 2 shows how this type of sewer looks to a person outside. Since sunlight cannot enter, the inside appears black.

Photograph No. 3 was taken by an investigator of this office from inside one of the sewers at Dealy Plaza.

The sewer from which this photograph was taken is on the north side of Elm Street and can be entered either by the tunnel from behind the picket fence or by a manhole above the sewer. In the latter connection it is to be noted that about an hour before the assassination a small truck was parked for an unusually long period with its right wheels up on the sidewalk -- making it easy for anyone to have crawled under the truck, down into the sewer.

It must be understood that the development of the likely use of portions of this drainage system by President Kennedy's assassins does not conflict with the picture of the other major shooting points, as is now generally recognized: There was shooting from a building on Houston Street, from the book depository and from at least two points on the grassy knoll (behind the low stone wall and behind the picket fence).

As a matter of fact, the development of the sewer aspect is a probable answer to the question of why all the shots did not sound alike. At least one of the shots heard on November 22nd had a curious, different sound. Here are a few comments of witnesses (from the Warren Commission testimony and exhibits) regarding the "different" sound they heard:

Garland Slack (exhibit 2909) heard a shot which sounded as if it came "from the interior of a building". He said (exhibit 5323) it made a noise like a shot "from within a cave". Secret Service Agent Clinton Hill (exhibit 1024) said "it had a different sound -- like the sound of shooting a revolver into something hard". He said (page 138 of his testimony) that "it seemed to have some type of echo". He said (page 144 of his testimony) that it had "almost a double sound". Special Agent Paul Landis (page 755 of his testimony) described it as "a muffled, exploding sound". He said the shot seemed to come "from somewhere towards the front, right hand side of the road". Special Agent George Hickey (page 762 of his testimony) describes hearing shots which were "completely different in sound". Witness Abraham Zapruder (in page 572 of his testimony) speaks of the "reverberation". He describes "an echo which gave me a sound all over". Special Agent Greer (page 118 of his testimony) said that he had the feeling that he "may have gotten a little concussion". Reporter Seth Kantor recorded in his notes (Kantor exhibit number 3) that Senator Yarbrough said "you could smell the gunpowder".

Of course, firing by one assassin from the sewer would explain how the .45 caliber bullet landed in the grass south of Elm among fragments from the President's head. The knowledge that this underground complex of inter-connecting tunnels existed was withheld from the people of this country -- just as the .45 caliber bullet (which was found by law enforcement agents ten minutes after the shooting was withheld.

The original discovery of the possible relevance of the subsurface drainage system was made by Lillian Castellano, a well-known critic of the Warren Report who lives in Los Angeles. Separate, and equally useful, development of information was accomplished by Al Chapman of Dallas, who, in recent months, has been working on this project with Harold Weisberg, the well-known author and critic from Frederick, Maryland.

Along with the many instances of burned and destroyed evidence, of evidence concealed for 75 years from the public, the fact of the likely use of this underground structure by the assassins should be added to the increasingly clear culpability of the federal government in Washington.

The man ultimately responsible for this mass concealment of evidence is the man who profited most from the assassination -- Lyndon Johnson.

JIM GARRISON



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