

FILE

- Q. I have reverend Kyle describing what happened.
- K. - and I turned and came back. So when I turned all I saw was this much of the body because he was behind the wall here. I couldn't see. And I came to about where Andy was and looked at the wound. I don't remember if Ralph was there then or not. But I looked at the wound and it was just - you know, all this was gone, this here.
- Q.
- K. And then I went in and picked up the phone.
- Q.
- K. The way I am now.
- Q. Yes. That must be after you called, though.
- K. Yes. But I couldn't get the darned phone. So I came out and hollered. I came out the hall. The police were coming from everywhere, you know, in a matter of seconds. I said, Call an ambulance. I can't get the phone. And then an ambulance came about - I guess in about five minutes.
- Q. You guess it was about five minutes.
- K. This was a guy from the New York Times calling.
- Q. Rev. Kyle is looking at Life magazine' spread as he tells the story.
- K. Then an ambulance came about - I guess it was about five minutes. This was a guy from the New York Times calling?
- Q. Who is this man up here, do you have any idea? The one in that upper window there?
- K. He's uh - he was with a band, from Chicago. That's the Breadbasket Band. And they had been playing up here where the I was up there singing with them. So - I think it was a minister, a Lutheran minister -
- Q. Looks like he has a collar on.
- K. Yes. He was beating the drum. This was part of the band. This was about 8 or 10 minutes after it - 8 or 9 minutes after it happened.
- Q. The picture at the bottom of p.76.
- K. Now this is right - much earlier, because we hadn't put the cover on him. I took two spreads off the bed and covered him.
- Q. How - how soon would you say that picture was?
- K. This?
- Q. Yes.
- K. Maybe two minutes, three minutes, here.
- Q. The picture at the top of p.76.
- K. And this one was about 3 to 10 minutes, here.
- Q. Here they are getting the body down the stairs.

- K. Now, this is a fellow here. He's from Jeffer - or from Community Relations, Justice Department, down here.
- Q. Do you know his name?
- K. Yes -
- Q2. It looks like Jim Lowry(?) to me. Yes, that's him.
- K. Yes.
- Q. Jim Lowry, from the Justice Department?
- K. He came out in his room.
- Q. Where does he work out of - Washington?
- Q2. New York, I believe.
- Q.
- K. Yes. Now I say -
- Q. We're on page 78.
- K. - for the to see anybody from the street, he'd have to look through the entrance ^{which is down} here. He couldn't see that he was standing. And he was standing - well, the car - this is the car he was going to - no, next to it, maybe. The car was in this area. You can't see it here.
- Q. The car that Dr. Stevens - that is it, isn't it? Four-door?
- K. Anyway, it's like this. So in falling he was someplace in here, which means that if he did see it he would have had to see it ~~through~~ through the drive here.
- Q. Is this a policeman down here?
- K. Yes. They came after us. What happened and where'd the shot come from? Now, see they're back here and this is the fire station. And this is how the buildings run into the fire station. They were in all this area here.
- Q. p.78.
- K. They were in that area.
- Q. Now the police came out of the bushes here, above the wall?
- K. Yes, they were jumping down the wall here.
- Q. Jumping down the wall.
- K. It may have been a car passing about that time. I don't know, because if I'm not mistaken, the police did call the ambulance, 'cause I hollered back, get an ambulance.
- Q. Well, those bushes are very heavy in there. They must have really had to work their way in because I couldn't walk through that area.
- K. This way, mainly, and from across the street.
- Q. You think there were some up in those bushes and jumped down.
- K. Yes, that's my thought. But it sounded just like the shot came from - you know, it sounded like an explosion in here.

Q.

K. I only heard one shot.

Q. - exploding bullet.

K.

Now that's what Jesse Jackson said. Jess Jackson said it was. Said it didn't explode until it hit him. I know there's a kind that would tear you apart, you know, because the wound that I saw, all this was gone. The necktie was gone, you know, this way, it was cut off. And then Ralph said beneath the shirt, when they got to the hospital, there was - there was a larger wound under the shirt that we couldn't see.

Q. So there were two holes -

K.

The one we saw - it must have been - it didn't go all the way down, as I seem to remember. The collar was intact, but the necktie had been blown off, so the impact here tore all this out, and then Ralph said under the shirt, about in here, there was a larger wound where it - where it really exploded, and I was asking the police officer about what kind of bullet was it.

Q. The self-same kind of bullet that they got Kennedy's head with.

K. Called hollow-point hollow -

Q. Hollow -

K. Yes, called hollow-head, or something.

Q. A dumdum explodes from the impact. There are also bullets that have a charge - that carry a charge, that explode from a natural powder charge.

K. When I saw the wound, it was just terrible. It's something I'll never forget.

Q. He was dead instantly, don't you think?

K. I would think so. His eyes uh - were not closed, and they did move within - it seemed to me, you know, that he was looking up at - they moved; I know, I saw them move.

Q. Quickly, like this?

K. No, not quickly. Just slowly.

Q. Slowly.

K. Real slowly. Like ^{as if} he was controlling them at that point. I don't know if ~~ixas~~ - you know, he looked this way and he looked that way. Well, Ralph was there - I don't know - I can't remember whether Ralph got -
wound

Q.

K. Yes. We couldn't see.

Q. But the shirt wasn't like torn open or anything like here?

K. No. ~~The~~ thing went in but -

Q.

Q2. It sounds like an internal explosion and then coming all ~~the way~~ ~~in~~ out.

Q. They must have performed an autopsy,

but there's no - you can't see that ...

Q2. Well, we've got to go talk to the doctors in the hospital.

K. Well, these people were - were telling the police. They were answering them. They just no - they kept asking, where did it come from, who was it, and all that kind of stuff. And they were pointing the shot came from across the street. Well, all them converging this way, and we tried to tell them like you know, get out there and go that way. That's what they were saying, because it just sounded to me like it was right in here. Even Andy said it didn't sound like - he never heard a shot from across the street.

Q. Hm. hm.

K. Now, here, this scene ; this was maybe 4 or 5 minutes, because we covered him - no, it isn't. We covered him a while before they got there.

So right away we put - Moses came out of his room. Now here, they had been - they had been in conference most of the day down here, room 2-0 - one of those rooms - over here. I don't know what - what time Moses came back to his room. But they had been in conference downstairs. I went in the room about 5:30 or 5:35, and we had just a very pleasant conversation. Talked about normal things; talked about his father in a real beautiful sort of way - tender, about dad. Then we talked about soul food. He teased me about he didn't want to go to my house like he went to another preacher's house. He went out to his house and didn't have any - had had - a big ham but there was no meat on the bone and the Koolaid wasn't sweet. Said, don't do us like that, are you? And he teased about - he and Ralph teased about whether my wife could cook soul food or not. Then he talked about - he asked me what I thought made the people of Memphis come together so much on - you know, backing the garbage workers. He was real enthused over the way the community had come together supporting them. This was the kind of conversation we made. He was in just a real good mood. And by the time we came out, I said, all right, we are getting late. He said no, we are on

time. I had told them 5 because I know how slow he and Ralph were and - and when I had called the house for him and Gwen had said 6, I told Gwen 6 but I told them 5. But he said, oh no, we had plenty of time. And they were - they got ready. He put a shirt on that was too small; too tight to button up. And he said, oh ... I said, you're getting fat. He said, oh, I got to take this shirt off. Ralph said, you mean you not going to wear that shirt after I washed it? That's the shirt I washed for you. He said, yes, but I can't wear it. And he - he dressed. Ralph was dressed at the time. We talked about who was going to run his revival. Ralph talked about his revival. Ralph talked about he had taken an^{after} offering in his church Sunday of \$300 and some odd dollars. Something had come up. I think to help somebody or something.

Q. ...

K. And this was the kind of conversation we had, you know. He stepped out and we stood here about 3 minutes, you know, talking to different people. I didn't see Chauncey, but "Hi, Chauncey, I haven't seen you." and I talked to some people and he talked to some people. Uh - and we must have been out there a good three or four minutes. And he said, all right, load up, we're getting ready to go. And at that point I turned and walked down this way.

Q. ...

K. Much - no, I hadn't, I know I hadn't gotten here.

Q. You hadn't gotten to the stairway.

K. No, I hadn't gotten to the stairway. I was still on the same level. And when I heard the shot, I simply looked - I looked down. I didn't think for sure I had heard an explosion and - and when I - I heard - and when I looked down I heard somebody say, oh, they've got Martin. When I turned I don't know if I turned left or right, but I turned and came back and this is as much as - when I turned I couldn't - this is all I could see.

Q. You couldn't see his head because it was behind the corner.

K. No; no. That's right.

Q. Is there -

K. But I came and looked. I looked at the wound. I went immediately in to call the ambulance. I tried to call the ambulance but couldn't get the operator.

Q. Then you came out -

K. I came out here.

Q. - would you say it was a minute, 60 seconds, 30 seconds -

K. It wouldn't be more than a minute. It wouldn't be a minute. It wouldn't have been a minute. Because I turned immediately and came back. Went in the room - it seemed the police came almost simultaneously with the shot, they were that close. Now whether they heard one over there, you know, I can't tell. But all I heard was one that sounded like it was in this area. And then uh, when I couldn't raise anybody on the phone, uh, I came back out and hollered for the police to get an ambulance on their radio and what's taking them so long? I don't know if an ambulance is stationed at that fire station. ...

Q. ... I believe it's down on Front Street.

K. And I kept hollering, get the ambulance. At that point uh, this fellow came up with a towel and uh -

Q. ...

K. Ralph was there, you know, Ralph took him and patted his face and said, Martin, this is Ralph. Can you hear me? But he never made a sign.

Q. First reports said that he walked into the hospital holding his heart. This was the report we got in New Orleans, we thought he might make it.

K. Oh, no. It was uh -

Q. Yes.

K. There was a report that both of his shoes were knocked off, but that wasn't true, because both of them were on there.

Q.

K. He was in just a reall good mood. W_h must have talked 20 minutes or half an hour. And leaning over this rail and -

Q. was that?

K. No, the shot didn't make me. The noise made me look over here to see what it was. You know, it might have been a car backfiring or a firecracker. You know, I just didn't associate it with being a shot, even though I was apprehensive, too.

Q. The police got there immediately.

K. Oh yes. They came - they were coming there. I guess but appar - I turned immediately and went back to the room and picked up the phone but couldn't raise anybody. I left the phone off the hook, I think, I don't know, but I went out and hollered, somebody got an ambulance. And I said, call ~~in~~ ambulance on the radio. I could see them myself coming from this point.

Q.

K. They were coming from a place, you can't see that area.

Q. Pretty much from the direction of the firehouse.

K. Yes. Pret - yes. Like - I don't know whether they were steps over there or not. But they were coming from that direction, and they were in there within minutes - within seconds, really. Because it wasn't four minutes that we had -

Q.

K. No, I dont.

Q.

K. I don't know who was in charge there. I had spoken to some guys the day before. They were plainclothes men. They were sheriff's deputies, now this is a sheriff's deputy here, and city policemen. City policemen and sheriff's deputies. O_n, they were mixed. But as they put him in the ambulance, his color had changed already. I looked at him as they passed him in.

Q. Well, they sure ...

K. And they stationed two guys here after they moved the body. I was trying to come down to this room for something, and they kept shouting at me, get out of here, you can't disturb the scene, or something. I just looked at them and kept walking.

Q. Umhm. Did they bring the squad in right away to look at the - at the scene and take evidence -

K. No. I was on the phone from that time on ...

Q. There's some talk about a bullet lodged in the wall but obviously it was an exploding bullet. You couldn't tell anything about trajectory.

K. I think it was later that evening that - they got involved by that time, that they looked. They looked. I don't know what they were looking for, but they looked.

Q.

K. Oh.