

Statements of Witnesses - S. M. Holland, 20 H 163

Affidavit to Sheriff's office on November 22, 1963

Holland is a signal supervisor for the Union Terminal and was inspecting switches and stopped to watch the parade. "I heard what I thought ^{for the moment} was a firecracker and he slumped over and I looked over toward the arcade and trees and saw a puff of smoke come from the trees and I heard three more shots after the first shot but that was the only puff of smoke I saw. I immediately ran around to where I could see behind the arcade and did not see anyone running from there. But the puff of smoke I saw definitely came from behind the arcade through the trees."

1/3/68

To Andrew Sciambra
From Harold Leibberg
Prospective witnesses - G.M. Holland.

He can be an important witness on the presence of people on the grassy knoll, ignored by the Commission and the Federal investigative agencies, and the "puff of smoke", which can be a very great bomb-erang if used as Mark did. He also presents a very great liability, again because of the knowing mis-~~use~~ use of his for a cheap, dramatic effect.

No one expects the witnesses of great dramatic events to have infallible recollection of the most intimate details. Holland makes one very gross error. It is dramatic as it can be in the absence of cross-examination. I went into this with Schiller, who missed it, but the essence is a matter of record and was known to the Commission, for it is in his interview.

He says, with some emotion, that a Secret Service man in the President's car got up and waved a machinegun around. Mark knew better and the FBI and Commission lawyers know better. Holland is undoubtedly sincere. He is also close to right. It happened, but in the next car. The existing photo record of the President's car makes clear that Greer kept sitting with his hands on the wheel and Melserman's only movements were in turning. They were the only agents in the President's car. By showing that this did happen in the followup car, which was tailgating, the testimony being that at that time of the shooting it was but five feet away (as Nix, Buchanan and Caprudor also show), I think this error can be removed from Holland and, to the judge at least, he can be made credible.