

Testimony of Witnesses - BONNIE RAY WILLIAMS (3 H 161-84)
HAROLD NORMAN 186-98)
JAMES JARMAN, Jr. 198-211)

These three Negro employees of the Texas School Book Depository are the 3 men whose photographs appear in Dillard exhibits printed in both the report and the hearings. In general, their stories are consistent. After lunch, they were looking at the motorcade from the fifth floor windows, as illustrated, heard 3 shots, after the shots some minor debris described variously as dust or ~~debris~~ ^{cement}, was seen in Williams' hair, they went over to the west window and looked out of it after they saw ^w peop_le on the ground running in that direction, subsequently they went down to the first floor where Williams left the building alone and the other two left together.

There are some inconsistencies in their story; there are also some things the Commission ignores in its report which are worthy of note.

They agree, as did almost all of the sheriff's department employees, that there was an interval between the first and second shots, and that the second and third shots were quite close together. Jarman and Norman agree that they saw Brennan talking to a police officer when they left the building. If not both Norman and Jarman, at least one recalls Brennan identifying them.

In the discussion about the falling debris, the Commission ignores the fact that the man upon whom it fell and the only one of the 3 upon whom it fell was farthest away from the point on the floor above from which the shots were fired. Nor does anyone at any time ever ask whether in an old building of this character, and the character is carefully delineated, including the spaces between the floorboards and the spaces between floor and the walls, on any other occasion dust, debris, etc., ever fell down.

Williams is asked on p.165 if he had seen Oswald in a sixth floor

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window on the morning of the assassination, and in reply, saying he had, he said also, "But he wasn't in the window that they said he shot the President from. He was more on the east side of the elevator..." On p.166 he said that he really "am not ~~sure~~ ^{really} sure that he was/on the sixth floor." He repeats his recollection is that it was closer to the elevator, which is on the opposite side of the building.

On p.167 and elsewhere, he describes the movement of the stock in storage on the sixth floor, including ^{to} the area from which the rifle ~~from which~~ ^{dl} was allegedly shot as necessary for the laying of the floor. On the day of the assassination, he left the sixth floor about 5 minutes before 12, perhaps 10, and while they were on the way down, he heard Oswald request the gate on the elevator be closed so it could go back up again.

He returned to the sixth floor to eat his lunch and, contrary to the published reports about the debris of the chicken, he testified, "I ate my lunch - I'm not ~~sure~~ sure about this, but the third or the fourth set of windows, I believe." (p.169) That is a considerable distance away from where the shots were fired. He refuses to be pinned down on exactly how long it took him to eat his lunch, but on p.173, when asked what time he left the sixth floor and joined his companions on the floor below, he said, "Approximately 12:20, maybe." At this point I want to note another consistency in the testimony of all 3 of these witnesses. Not one of them heard anybody walking or running on the floor above prior to, during or following the time of the shots. They also testified they remained on that floor for several minutes. They may have had no reason to have noticed anybody walking before the shots, but after the first shot, and they all testified they were frightened and that's why they didn't go up to the sixth floor, they certainly had

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every reason to be sensitive to any noises coming from the sixth floor. They all insisted they heard none. Nor did any of them hear or see anyone going down the stairs or elevators.

Note that if, as is now clearly possible, someone was in the area of the windows from which the shots were fired as late as 12:20 and the shots were fired at 12:30, there was little time for the assembly of the allegedly disassembled rifle and the other preparations, including the approaching and leaving the window which Brennan says he observed on the part of the alleged assassin. Certainly, it didn't leave enough time for the preparations, such as the stacking of the boxes, etc., and I recall no Commission interrogation of these witnesses to learn whether, in fact, they had noticed boxes stacked in the fashion that the Commission considers constituted a gun rest.

Norman, Williams says, is the one who heard the shells ejected from the gun, etc. (p.175) Norman also reported afterwards that "he could hear the rifle ... " (p.176)

Dulles, on p.178, asked Williams, if "when you were on the sixth floor eating your lunch, did you hear anything that made you feel that there was anybody else on the sixth floor with you?" Williams assured him he did not. He says, "That is one of the reasons I left - because it was so quiet:" His testimony about hearing nothing after the shots appears on p.179, and his testimony about hearing no footsteps when they were at the window is on p.181.

Norman remembers seeing Oswald about 10⁰ or 10:15 that morning on the first floor (p.188). He heard the shell hulls hitting the floor (p.190). After the shots were fired, there were several minutes before these men left the fifth floor. During this time, neither Norman (p.193) nor Jarman saw Mr. Truly or a police officer on that floor or going up.

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Williams had testified he saw only the white helmet of a traffic cop.

Now what this means is that Williams, Jarman and Norman remained on the fifth floor until after Oswald was seen on the second floor and they did not hear anybody running or walking above them or coming down the ancient steps or using the creaky elevators. If this testimony means anything, it means that neither Oswald nor anyone else left the sixth floor until after Williams, Norman and Jarman did. It would certainly seem to confirm Oswald's statement to the police that he was on, as I recall it, the first floor. And it would clearly mean that whoever fired the rifle remained on the sixth floor. Williams's testimony about seeing the police officer occurs in a reference to his questioning by FBI Agents Odum and Griffin on p.180.

One other point on ^{which} all the witnesses agree is that none of them knew about the motorcade until after they had gotten to work that morning.

On p.196 Norman denies he had ever told an FBI agent that he had put his head out the window.

Jarman has had 8 years of military experience.

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He recounts a conversation with Oswald, again on the first floor, which again is consistent with Oswald's statements to the police. It is also consistent with other testimony from these witnesses about the location of the books with which Oswald worked. They were stored on the first floor. And this, also, is what Oswald told the police. Between 9:30 and 10 o'clock on the morning of the day of the assassination, Oswald asked Jarman why all the people seemed to be gathering, "and I told him that the President was supposed to pass that morning, and he asked me did I know which way he was coming, and I told him, yes; he probably come down Main and turn on Houston and then turn back again on Elm. Then he said, 'Oh, I see,' and that was all."

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While this may mean nothing, taken together with Marina's statement that Oswald the night before had appeared to know nothing about the motorcade and didn't even know on what television station to tune in order to view the President, it might. It means as least as much as the Commission's presumption, totally unsupported by any testimony that Oswald ever read the local papers, that Oswald was aware of the motorcade route because it had allegedly appeared accurately in the papers. And at no point in my researches thus far has the Commission even undertaken to show that Oswald ever read the local papers, although he was known to be an avid reader. I don't believe he was even shown to ^have had a radio. Nor has the Commission produced ^{the} a witness with whom Oswald discussed ^o the details of the motorcade route prior to the morning/^{of}the assassination.

On p.201, Jarman says Oswald did not have lunch with him.

Jarman says that when he returned to the fifth floor from outside prior to the appearance of the motorcade, they "pulled the gate down. That was in case somebody wanted to use it." The significance of this testimony has to do with the statements attributed publicly to Truly and the officer who accompanied him that the elevators were unavailable.

I forgot to note ⁱⁿ ~~that~~ Williams' testimony (p.165) that he saw Oswald just before noon. When he was testifying about this, Asst. Counsel Ball said, "We will come back to that in a moment." Then on p.168 is the testimony already referred to, that Oswald asked ~~h~~ him to send the elevator back up. One of these elevators had to be operated by hand and the other was automatic. The one that could be sent up obviously was the automatic one. Note also that the elevator was available for the men to use just before the assassination and that when they used it they put it in condition for someone else to call

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for from a different floor.

On p.205 Jarman also quotes Norman as having heard the rifle cartridge hit the floor and hearing the action of the rifle and it is at this point also that Jarman testifies he heard no footsteps or anybody running on the floor above;~~was~~ no noise at all. Jarman also testifies that, when they went to leave the fifth floor, "but the elevator had gone down." (p.207)

At the time Oswald was discovered missing, he was not the only missing employee, contrary to public accounts. Charles Douglas Givens also was missing (p.208).

On this same page, Mr. Ball returns to the period of the shooting and asks, "did you hear any noise from upstairs?" to which Jarman again replies, "No, sir." Asked if he has had military experience, he replies in the affirmative and he also says he can recognize rifle shots when he hears them, and that he did not catch the sound of the bolt. He thought the first shot had come from below and to his left.(p.209) On the question of the securing and security of the building, he is asked 2 questions by the Chairman. The first was, "did anyone stop you as you went out the building?" to which he replied negatively, and the second was, "You could have gone right away if you wanted to, could you?" to which he replied affirmatively. (p.211)