

Mr. Denis Morissette
2729 Le Verrier
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9/28/94

Dear Mr. Morissette,

My tape player finally turned up and I've listened with interest to your conversation with former Dallas Police Sgt. Stavis Ellis. It confirms what you told me, that Curry had told him that he and another policeman he should select would move Oswald at about 2 a.m. and the Mayor Earl Cabell and City Manager Elgin Crull ordered Curry not to do that and to make the move when the media could cover it. The problem is that there is no confirmation and as you say, former detective Jim Leavelle says it is a "tall story." I can see why with no confirmation you could not get it published. And we may never know whether it is true or a tall story.

Some of what Ellis told you is little-known but is true, like that the two motorcycle policemen on Kennedy's right saw bullets impact. He also said the other two also did, Hargis and Martin, but I have no recollection of their being quoted on that.

At the same time I doubt some of what he said. For example, it is my recollection is that Vaughn was alone on the Main Street garage entrance when Ruby is supposed to have entered that way. Sgt. Patrick Dean was on the other side, toward the Commerce St. entrance. It is also not true that Ruby could have been tipped off about the time of the transfer so he could be there to shoot because in fact that transfer was more than an hour after the announced time. Which nobody knew in advance it would be. And as a matter of fact, ~~Ruby~~ Ruby did just make it at that after he wired that money to the stripper. That was only about five minutes before he shot. That he may have entered as part of a TV crew may be what happened but we do not know. If Vaughn knew him he'd have known he was not part of any TV crew.

I doubt that Oswald was ever at Ruby's joint, as Ellis says.

It is interesting and it makes sense that Curry would want the move to be secret, but it has no confirmation and when I spoke to Curry after he retired and was working for a bank he indicated no such thing. Nor did he to clear his name before he died. Nor does he seem to have left any record that would clear his name.

It also makes a kind of sense that public officials, concerned about Dallas' reputation, would have wanted the move to be in public, more or less what was said about Curry when it was said that the decision was his. But I fear there now is no way that Ellis can be confirmed on the Oswald move.

It is interesting and I thank you for it.

Sincerely

Harold Weisberg
Harold Weisberg

I do not recall my source on this. Perhaps Garrison

Interview with MAJOR STAVIS ELLIS
Dallas, Texas 75206

This conversation occurred at Ft. Chaffin, Arkansas during the period 22 July - 5 August. I met MAJOR STAVIS ELLIS at the Fourth U. S. Army ARRA Intelligence School. MAJOR ELLIS stated he was a Dallas Police Officer assigned to the Traffic Enforcement Division as a motorcycle officer.

The conversation involved the Kennedy assassination, and MAJOR ELLIS stated he was in the motorcade that day. His duty that day placed him as the left front motorcycle officer to the immediate left front of the President's automobile. This officer went into great detail about the happenings preceding and immediately following Kennedy's assassination.

MAJOR ELLIS stated the motorcade had strung out and because the police were trying to close up the President's car was going so slow it caused his motorcycle to wobble. He stated further that it became necessary to hold this motorcycle up by using his legs.

The most important point, I believe he mentioned were the happenings surrounding the first shot.

MAJOR ELLIS stated that to his left front near the curb dust flew or was kicked up about the same time he heard the first shot. He observed people in this immediate falling to the ground apparently to avoid any further shots.

The MAJOR stated he believed this was the first bullet and even now he was more convinced. This is because a portion of the curb where he saw the dust fly has been removed. This occurred only a few days after the assassination. The officer went on to state that instead of speeding up as per instructions the cars all slowed down when the shots were fired.

The second part of the conversation was about one of MAJOR ELLIS's fellow motorcycle officers. This officer (as told by ELLIS) stated he was directly under the building when the shots were fired. The officer locked the main entrance and after the supervisor arrived he started up the stairs. The building was the Book Depository. Upon going up the stairs, he and the supervisor encountered someone on either the third or fourth floor. This person was drinking water from the water cooler -- he did not stop because the supervisor advised the officer that the man was an employee. MAJOR ELLIS stated this officer later identified the man by the water cooler as LEE HARVEY OSWALD. This is a summation of the conversation.