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220 - CASE CLOSED  
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November 19 and 20.<sup>102</sup> There was no change in the motorcade route, and there was no doubt about the Elm Street crossing.\* Whether Oswald learned of the route on the day first published, the nineteenth, or on the next day, when he followed his routine of reading day-old newspapers in the first-floor lunch room of the Depository, it is hard to overestimate the impact of that discovery. Oswald, who thought his contribution to his revolutionary cause would be the death of Walker, was suddenly faced with the possibility of having a much greater impact on history and the machinery of government. Failed in his attempts to find happiness in Russia or the U.S., rejected by the Cubans, barely able to make a living in America, frustrated in his marriage, and hounded, in his view, by the FBI, he was desperate to break out of his downward spiral. He had endured long enough the humiliations of his fellow Marines, the Russian and Cuban bureaucrats, the employers that fired him, the radio ambush in New Orleans, the refusal of V. T. Lee and other Communist leaders to acknowledge his efforts and letters. Lee Oswald always thought he was smarter and better than other people, and was angered that others failed to recognize the stature he thought he deserved. Now, by chance, he had an opportunity that he knew would only happen once in his lifetime.

On Thursday, November 21, Oswald broke his routine of eating a meager breakfast at the rooming house. Instead, he treated

\*Some critics charge there were last-minute changes in the parade route and as "proof" cite a November 22 edition of the Dallas Morning News, which had a map of the motorcade that showed the cars proceeding straight along Main Street and not turning onto Houston. They contend that those responsible for the motorcade route altered it at the last moment so Oswald could have a clear shot. There was no last-minute change. Anyone familiar with Dallas traffic would immediately know that the only access from Main Street onto the Stemmons Freeway, the route the motorcade needed to take to get to the Trade Mart, was to turn right from Main onto Houston Street, then proceed one block to Elm, where a left turn would put the car less than a thousand feet from the Stemmons entrance. If the motorcade proceeded straight along Main Street, it would be forced to cross a concrete divider in order to enter Stemmons. In any case, Main and Elm are parallel roads that run through Dealey Plaza. Both afforded Oswald a clear shot from the Depository. Elm Street provides a direct-line shot, while Main Street provides a longer cross-shot.

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