

23 NOV 1964
550 PCS

££(1,000) MRS. CONNALLY TESTIMONY

WASHINGTON, NOV. 23 (AP)-HERE IS A PARTIAL TEXT OF TESTIMONY APRIL 21 BY MRS. JOHN B. CONNALLY BEFORE THE WARREN COMMISSION: (ABOUT 1,000)

ARLEN SPECTER, ASSISTANT COMMISSION COUNSEL: MRS. CONNALLY, TELL US WHAT HAPPENED AT THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION.

MRS. CONNALLY. WE HAD JUST FINISHED THE MOTORCADE THROUGH THE DOWNTOWN DALLAS AREA, AND IT HAD BEEN A WONDERFUL MOTORCADE. . . IN FACT THE RECEPTIONS HAD BEEN SO GOOD EVERY PLACE THAT I HAD SHOWED MUCH RESTRAINT BY NOT MENTIONING SOMETHING ABOUT IT BEFORE.

I COULD RESIST NO LONGER. . . "MR. PRESIDENT, YOU CAN'T SAY DALLAS DOESN'T LOVE YOU."

THEN I DON'T KNOW HOW SOON, IT SEEMS TO ME IT WAS VERY SOON, THAT I HEARD A NOISE, AND NOT BEING AN EXPERT RIFLEMAN, I WAS NOT AWARE THAT IT WAS A RIFLE. IT WAS JUST A FRIGHTENING NOISE, AND I CAME FROM THE RIGHT.

I TURNED OVER MY RIGHT SHOULDER AND LOOKED BACK, AND SAW THE PRESIDENT AS HE HAD BOTH HANDS AT HIS NECK. . . HE MADE NO UTTERANCE, NO CRY. I SAW NO BLOOD, NO ANYTHING. IT WAS JUST SORT OF NOTHING, THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE, AND HE JUST SORT OF SLUMPED DOWN.

THEN VERY SOON THERE WAS THE SECOND SHOT THAT HIT JOHN. AS THE FIRST SHOT WAS HIT, AND I TURNED TO LOOK AT THE SAME TIME, I RECALL JOHN SAYING, "OH, NO, NO, NO." THEN THERE WAS A SECOND SHOT, AND IT HIT JOHN, AND AS HE RECOILED TO THE RIGHT, JUST CRUMPLED LIKE A WOUNDED ANIMAL TO THE RIGHT, HE SAID, "MY GOD, THEY ARE GOING TO KILL US ALL." . . . I NEVER AGAIN LOOKED IN THE BACK SEAT OF THE CAR AFTER MY HUSBAND WAS SHOT. MY CONCERN WAS FOR HIM, AND I REMEMBER THAT HE TURNED TO THE RIGHT AND THEN JUST SLUMPED DOWN INTO THE SEAT, SO THAT I REACHED OVER TO PULL HIM TOWARD ME. I WAS TRYING TO GET HIM DOWN AND ME DOWN. THE JUMP SEATS WERE NOT VERY ROOMY. . .

B20

I JUST PULLED HIM OVER INTO MY ARMS BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO GET US REALLY BOTH DOWN WITH ME SITTING AND ME HOLDING HIM. SO THAT I LOOKED OUT, I MEAN AS HE WAS IN MY ARMS. . . ALL I COULD SEE, TOO, WERE THE PEOPLE FLASHING BY. I DIDN'T LOOK BACK ANY MORE.

THE THIRD SHOT THAT I HEARD I FELT, IT FELT LIKE SPENT BUCKSHOT FALLING ALL OVER US, AND THEN, OF COURSE, I TOO COULD SEE THAT IT

WAS THE MATTER, BRAIN TISSUE, OR WHATEVER, JUST HUMAN MATTER, ALL OVER THE CAR AND BOTH OF US.

I THOUGHT JOHN HAD BEEN KILLED, AND THEN THERE WAS SOME IMPERCEPTIBLE MOVEMENT, JUST SOME LITTLE SOMETHING THAT LET ME KNOW THAT THERE WAS STILL SOME LIFE, AND THAT IS WHEN I STARTED SAYING TO HIM, "IT'S ALL RIGHT. BE STILL."

NOW, I DID HEAR THE SECRET SERVICE MAN SAY, "PULL OUT OF THE MOTORCADE. TAKE US TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL," AND THEN WE TOOK OUT VERY RAPIDLY TO THE HOSPITAL. . .

WE ARRIVED AT THE HOSPITAL AND SAT THERE WHAT SEEMED TO ME LIKE AN INTERMINABLE TIME, AND FROM WHAT I KNOW WAS JUST A FEW MINUTES, BUT THE THOUGHTS THAT WENT THROUGH MY MIND WERE HOW LONG MUST I SIT HERE WITH THIS DYING MAN IN MY ARMS WHILE EVERYBODY IS SWARMING OVER THE PRESIDENT WHOM I FELT VERY SURE WAS DEAD, AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I COULD SIT AND WAIT NO LONGER, JOHN JUST SHORT OF HEAVED HIMSELF UP. HE DID NOT RISE UP IN THE CAR, HE JUST SORT OF HEAVED HIMSELF UP, AND THEN COLLAPSED DOWN INTO THE SEAT.

MR. SPECTER. DID PRESIDENT KENNEDY SAY ANYTHING AT ALL AFTER THE SHOOTING?

MRS. CONNALLY. HE DID NOT SAY ANYTHING. MRS. KENNEDY SAID, THE FIRST THING I RECALL HER SAYING WAS, AFTER THE FIRST SHOT, AND I HEARD HER SAY, "JACK, THEY HAVE KILLED MY HUSBAND," AND THEN THERE WAS THE SECOND SHOT, AND THEN AFTER THE THIRD SHOT SHE SAID, "THEY HAVE KILLED MY HUSBAND. I HAVE HIS BRAINS IN MY HAND," AND SHE REPEATED THAT SEVERAL TIMES, AND THAT WAS ALL THE CONVERSATION.

B21

MR. SPECTER. WHAT HAPPENED THEN AFTER YOU GOT TO THE HOSPITAL?

MRS. CONNALLY. WE GOT TO THE HOSPITAL AND, LIKE I SAID, JOHN HEAVED HIMSELF OVER. . . SOMEONE SCOOPED HIM UP IN THEIR ARMS AND PUT HIM ON A STRETCHER. THERE WERE TWO STRETCHERS THERE, AND THEN THEY TOOK HIM OFF IMMEDIATELY TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM, AND THEY RAN DOWN THE HALL WITH THE STRETCHER, AND I JUST RAN ALONG WITH THEM. . . RIGHT BEHIND US CAME THE PRESIDENT ON A STRETCHER, AND THEY TOOK HIM AND PUT HIM IN A ROOM TO THE RIGHT. THERE WAS MUCH COMMOTION AND CONFUSION. THERE WERE LOTS OF WHAT I ASSUMED WERE SECRET SERVICE MEN RUSHING IN WITH MACHINE GUNS, I GUESS, OR TOMMYGUNS. I AM NOT REAL SURE, THEY WERE BIG ARMS OF SOME SORT. . . THERE WAS NO ONE WITH ME AND, OF COURSE, MY THOUGHTS THEN WERE, I GUESS LIKE ANY OTHER WOMAN, I WONDERED IF ALL THE DOCTORS WERE IN THE ROOM ON THE LEFT, AND THEY WERE NOT TAKING TOO GOOD CARE OF MY HUSBAND ON THE RIGHT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED

ABOUT THAT, SHOULD I?

I KNEW NO ONE IN THE HOSPITAL AND I WAS ALONE. TWICE I GOT UP AND OPENED THE DOOR INTO THE EMERGENCY ROOM, AND I COULD HEAR JOHN AND I COULD SEE HIM MOVING, AND I KNEW THEN THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE. . .

AS SOON AS DR. SHAW FOUND THAT . . . THAT THE WOUND WERE NOT AS EXTENSIVE AS HE HAD THOUGHT THEY COULD BE OR MIGHT BE, HE SENT THAT WORD TO ME FROM THE OPERATING ROOM, AND THAT WAS GOOD NEWS.

I THEN ASKED IF I COULDN'T GO SEE MRS. KENNEDY, AND THEY TOLD ME THAT SHE HAD LEFT THE HOSPITAL.

MR. SPECTER. WERE YOU VISITED AT THE HOSPITAL BY MRS. JOHNSON?

MRS. CONNALLY. YES, I WAS.

MR. SPECTER. MRS. CONNALLY, WHAT WAS YOUR IMPRESSION, IF ANY, AS TO THE SOURCE OF THE SHOTS?

MRS. CONNALLY. WELL, I HAD NO THOUGHT OF WHETHER THEY WERE HIGH OR LOW OR WHERE. THE JUST CAME FROM THE RIGHT; SOUNDED LIKE THEY WERE TO MY RIGHT.

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