

AT THE BOOK DEPOSITORY

Statement of Witnesses - Geneva L. HINE, april 7, 1964, 6 H 393-7

Like Miss Adams, she also has a better than high school education, "Bachelor of Science theology degree from Assembly of God College in Waxahachie, Tex." (p.393)

She has been working at the Texas School Book Depository since 1956. Her work: "I have the credit desk."

Her desk is on the second floor "the inside wall just along by the corridor." She knew Oswald but never met him "but I saw him every day." Where? "The first floor." Frequently he would come in about noontime to ask for change (presumably to use the coin machines in the domino room). But she never saw him use any of the change, saying without prompting or inspiration, "the coke machine isn't in our room ...". No one had said anything about a coke machine. (p.394) She asked Shelley about Oswald once, referring to him as a queer duck, and quotes Shelley as saying of Oswald "that was just his way."

Having seen the President twice and once "I had been very close to him", she volunteered to answer the telephone for the other girls so they could go out and see the motorcade, which they all did.

About 5 minutes before the motorcade went past, Otis N. Williams, who works in her office, also went out.

In the last minute, she also went to look "from the east window in our office." She gives a description of the time of the first shot that seems to me to approximate that of Victoria Adams who was on a different floor: "Yes, sir; going north on Houston Street. I saw it turn left and I saw the President's car coming and I saw the President and saw him waving his hand in greeting up in the air and I saw his wife and I saw him turn the corner and after he turned the corner I looked and I saw the next car coming just at the instant I saw the next car

2 - Hine

coming up was when I heard the shots."

Note o she said the Presidential car had just completed o turning the corner, and the followup car was just coming around the corner at the time the shots were fired.

She said there were 3 shots, which in her opinion came from within the building, "because the building vibrated from the result of the explosion coming in." (p.395)

Lary, I can't pretend to be an expert about this, but it would seem to me her reason for saying the shots were from inside the building prove more that they were from outside. She was on the second floor with all the insulation of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th, floors, together with all the God knows how many books piled up on these floors, yet the building vibrated at her point; whether or not the shots emanated from within the building, the vibrations must have come from outside.

Ball, who is doing the questioning, is careful to avoid any of this, but Miss Hine was in the mood to volunteer and she reemphasized her description of the place of the cars:

"Mr. Ball. That is when you were at the window, is that right?

Miss Hine. Yes, sir; that is when I was at the window, because the next car, you see, was coming up and turning and I looked."

Ball was not about to ask her to locate the precise window from which she had looked. No place will you see from her testimony she was looking out on Houston St. He asked her nothing about the view being blocked by the wall. By the time she said the shots were fired while the followup car was still in the turn, she located the shots much closer to the corner than the Commission ever wanted them to be located. The fact is, she is not even asked to locate precisely where on this floor her office is located. When Ball made the mistake of asking her if she "could see any part of Elm?", she replied, "East, yes, sir." I take this

3 - Hine

to be not only a clear reference to the fact that the wall blocked her view to the west, but she is also saying that she could see Elm St/ to the east of where the Presidential car was at the time of the shots. She described the position of the followup car. She is lead into a really meaningless discussion of what she did - the offices that she ran to shook the doors only to find them locked, and she said she does not believe there was a soul in her office when she got back to it.  
(p.396)

In fact, she went to the office of the Southwestern Publishing Co. and tried to get in so she could see toward the west. She "felt sure" that she saw Mrs. Reid "come back in", whether into the office of the building is unclear, but presumably to the office or the office area. Miss Hine thought 5 or 6 of them were together at that time. Ball quotes Mrs. Reid as having said "she came in alone and when she came in she didn't see anybody there." Miss Hine said it could have happened because "I was talking on the phones and then came the policemen and then came the press. ...". Only one question, whether she was busy on the phones, preceded the following excerpt which is the absolute conclusion of Miss Hine's testimony:

"Mr. Ball. Did you see Oswald come in?"

Miss Hine. My back would have been to the door he was supposed to have come in at.

Mr. Ball. Were you facing the door he is supposed to have left by?

Miss Hine. Yes, sir.

Mr. Ball. Do you recall seeing him?

Miss Hine. No, sir.

Mr. Ball. Do you have any definite recollection of Mrs. Reid coming in?

4 - Hine

Miss Hine. No, sir; I only saw four or five people that came by and they all came and were all talking about how terrible it was.

Mr. Ball. Do you remember their names?

Miss Hine. Yes, sir.

Mr. Ball. Who were they?

Miss Hine. Mr. Williams, Mr. Molina (spelling), Miss Martha Reid, Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Sarah Stanton, and Mr. Campbell; that's all I recall, sir." (p. 397)

It is not possible to reconstruct exactly where Miss Hine was at what time because the Commission has been extremely careful to leave all of the places she ~~lik~~ talked about, including her own location, out of its Exhibit 118, which is represented as the diagram of the second floor (R 150). It marks a location where Mrs. Reid says she was (but it doesn't say that Mrs. Reid says so; it says, "location of Mrs. Reid when she observed Oswald approximately 1:32 p.m.") There is apparent conflict between the testimonies of these two women. I haven't yet read Mrs. Reid's. It does not appear with all of the others, but just as Miss Hine was not asked what window she was in or what office she was in or where along what corridor her desk was located, she is also not asked about what time she returned to the desk ~~from~~ <sup>on</sup> which the telephones were located. In view of the ~~prev~~ previous testimony of Mrs. Reid, Ball's failure to do so cannot be regarded as an oversight. He had already made up his mind he wanted to authenticate Mrs. Reid and Miss Hine didn't want ~~her~~ <sup>Miss Hine</sup> to dispute her. His questioning, both in what he asks and in what he doesn't ask, makes this clear.

Note o this other interesting item which Ball "overlooked". In the above excerpt, when he asked if she saw Oswald come in, she replied that her back would have been to the door "he was supposed to have come

5 - Hine

in at."

That meant that her face was pointed in the direction of entrance of all of the other employees, including Mrs. Reid.

The Commission completely ignores Miss Hine's testimony. It discusses "Oswald's departure from building" (R. 154-5) and Mrs. Reid has her testimony represented in very strong and positive language, but the time is not alluded to at all.

When she said she saw the motorcade from the east window of her office, I believe there is only one window or pair of windows this could have been, and it or they face Houston St. If she saw, as she swore she did, the followup car turning into Elm at the time of the first shot, the Presidential car had to be very close to the corner. She could not possibly have seen as far to the west of the intersection as the projection of the east wall of the building. <sup>where</sup> /She discusses moving to be able to answer the phone, she said she went to "the middle desk on the front row" (p.395). From her testimony that her back would have been to the door by which Oswald "was supposed" to have entered, this would indicate that in the center area marked "office space" on Exhibit 1118, there are three rows of desks facing Houston St. and from this it would seem that anyone entering or leaving would have to go very close to her.

Larry, I hope I have made it clear, but I want to paraphrase. This woman was looking out the east side of the building. After the motorcade turned into Elm St. it was going at approximately right angles to her. The building blocked her view of the motorcade after it made the turn from some point close to the intersection of Elm and Houston. Therefore, if she could say that she was looking at the followup car, which was making the turn when she heard the shots, the first shot was

6 - Hine

fired well before anything like frame 210 on the Zapruder film. Even if there were as much distance as the 25 feet some of the Secret Service men mentioned between the followup car and the Presidential car, the Presidential car had to be very close to the intersection.