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ROLL "GH"

MR. BOWERS

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GH

Reel 26      Take 102

Q. Mr. Bowers, what is your present occupation?  
Vice-

A. I am President of Lockwood Meadows, Inc. which is a real estate land development Company.

Q. And where were you employed on November 22, 1963?

A. At that time I was employed as a Tower Operator for the Union Terminal Company.

Q. And where were you at about 12:30 that day?

A. I was at the - uh - South end of the - uh - Terminal -uh - the Tower building, or rather looking down toward the Terminal and observing the motorcade, as was everyone else in the area.

Q. Could you tell us what you heard and what you saw from about 12 noon until the time that the shots were fired?

A. Well for some time that morning, since - uh - perhaps ten o'clock in the morning, we had had the area pretty well sealed off, and - uh - the policeman had been - uh - stationed on the Triple Underpass as well as other strategic corners in the area - uh - so that there was very little traffic moving into this area at this time. This is a dead-end area which is used primarily for parking and to - uh - get access to the railroad tracks. So that there's no real reason for there to be any great amount of traffic. However this day there was <sup>(XXX)</sup> practically none because they had - uh - there was so much traffic and so much preparation for this mo-

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, USMss, 117AN "Rush to Judgment" Box 60, Folder 1

torcade that - uh - after eleven or eleven-thirty there was practically no movement in the area whatsoever. However, about 12:10, give or take five minutes, there was a car which entered the area and probed around for some time. Uh - this car was a '59 Oldsmobile Station Wagon with a out-of-state license. It - uh - was muddy as if it had just come in off of the road from some area where it was a red sand area. It - uh - was occupied by one male who spent - uh - three or four minutes in the area - uh - looking it over and then - uh - as he found out left by the entrance, which ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> the only way in and out of the area at that time. Not too long after that, perhaps -uh- five or six minutes, a car of a totally different description also occupied by one male, entered the area. This was a younger man and this car was conspicuous because of the fact that it was so clean. It was spotless - a black car with not a spot on it on a day when it had been very sloppy and messy -uh- not too much earlier in the morning. Now this man - ah - performed a similar action in that he toured down around the area, probing to examine the exits, and -uh- <sup>seemed</sup> seeing that - uh - on one or more occasions to have a mike or something resembling such an instrument up to his face. He departed of course by the same route, because there was no other way in or out other than driving over rail-



road tracks. Just a few moments after that - um - the third car came into the area, and these were the only three cars that entered this area during this specific period. The third car was a '61 or '62 Chevrolet. Uh - this car was muddy all the way up to the windows as if it had just come in off the road. It had an out-of-state license of the - identical to the first car of the series. It also had political stickers which were not only for the same -uh - candidate, but were identical in nature and color. Uh - so that they appeared to have been of the same group. This also - this car was occupied by one male - uh - who spent a little bit more time in the area than the others and -uh-probed down by the side of the Tower where I was located. And then, after finding that he could not get out in any other manner, he also returned and went out. Uh - I could not state that these cars left the area - uh - entirely, because after they got back onto the extension of Elm Street in front of the School Depository Building - uh - they were lost to my vision, so that -uh- they could have remained - uh - very close by. It's simply that, as far as I was concerned, after probing the area and attempting to - uh - check it out apparently, and looking for/<sup>other</sup>exits, that they departed -uh - by the same method and the same entrance that they had used coming in, and then disappeared from

sight as they got in front of the School Depository Building. Uh - this - uh - was the, perhaps the only things of significance to occur during this period prior to the time of the shooting. Most of the other people who were in the area - ah - I was - I knew, if not by name, then by seeing them day after day so that there was - uh - no one unaccounted for in the immediate area other than this - uh - the three who were in these three cars that have been mentioned.

Q. Mr. Bowers, did you see any pedestrians at any time between your tower and Elm Street that day?

A. Directly in line -uh- there ~~was~~ - of course is -uh - there leading toward the Triple Underpass there is a curved decorative wall - I guess you'd call it - it's not a solid wall but it is a part of the -uh - park. And to the west of that there were -uh- at the time of the shooting in my vision only two men. Uh - these two men were - uh - standing back from the street somewhat at the top of the incline and were very near -er- two trees which were in the area. And one of them, from time to time as he walked back and forth, uh- disappeared behind a wooden fence which also is slightly to the West of that. Uh- these two men to the best of my knowledge were standing there - uh - at the time -uh - of the shooting. Ah - one of them, as I recall, was a middle-aged man, fairly heavy-set with a - without a coat and a white



shirt. Uh - he remained in sight practically all of the time. The other individual was uh - slighter build and had either a plaid jacket or a plaid shirt on and he - uh - in walking back and forth was in and out of sight, so that I could not state for sure whether he was standing there at the time of the shots or not. But he was in the immediate area. Uh - Other than these two and the people who were over on the top of the Underpass who that were, for the most part, were railroad employees or were employees of a Fort Worth welding firm who were working on the railroad, uh - there were no strangers out on this area. Now, down below there could have been, but this part was not visible to me.

Q. Did you recognize these two men who were standing around or near the wooden fence on th' occasion as men who were employed by the Union Terminal or any other agency in the area?

A. No. These two men, to the best of my recollection, I had never seen before, nor since -ah - I did not recognize them. They ~~didn't~~ didn't strike any chord or any sense of recognition with me at all.

Q. After the shots were fired, Mr. Bowers, what did you see?

A. Immediately after the shots were fired - uh - there was, of course, mass confusion, to put it mildly. But the area was immediately sealed off by - uh - I would

say at least fifty police within three to five minutes and - uh -uh - at least a hundred more plain-clothes men, FBI and so forth. There were police officers of some branch within a very few moments. The first one to appear on the scene, other than those who of course were standing around - uh - including two on top of the Triple Underpass, was one who rode a motorcycle up the incline, coming up from the lower portion of Elm Street, and he rode perhaps two-thirds of the way up or more before he deserted his - uh - motorcycle, and when it fell over of course, it created some smoke and commotion there, and - uh- unless he flew up the incline he obviously had to ride his motorcycle because he wasn't walking and he wasn't running, and it was apparent that there was no other way. I did not see the motorcycle except for a moment as he - he just barely got into view with it before he abandoned it and came on up. Ah - at the time of the shooting - uh - in the vicinity of where the two men I've described were, there was a flash of light or an - as far as I'm concerned something I ~~was~~ could not identify. But there was something which occurred which caught my eye in this immediate area on the embankment. Now what this was I could not state at that time and, at this time, I could not identify it other than there was some unusual occurrence - a flash of light or smoke or - or something which - uh - <sup>caused</sup> caught me <sup>like</sup> to feel ~~that~~ something out of the ordinary had occurred there.



Q. In reading your testimony, Mr. Bowers, it appears that just as you were about to make that statement, you were interrupted in the middle of the sentence by the Commission counsel, who then went into another area.

A. Ah - well - um - I was there only to tell 'em what asked they ask, and - uh - so that when they seemed to want to cut off the conversation, I felt like that was the - as far as I was concerned, that was the end of it. After all I'd been invited either to -uh- testify there or to - uh - uh - if I refused, which was within my rights, to be flown to Washington. And since I didn't have time for a vacation at that time, I just answered their questions.

Reel 18

Take 103

(cough - background talk - instructions to sit down)

Q. Mr. Bowers, it appears from reading your testimony that just as you were about to tell the Commission what it was that you thought might have attracted your attention to that area behind the wooden fence, you were interrupted by the Commission counsel and the subject - er - never came up again.

A. Well, that's - that's correct. I mean I was simply trying to answer his questions and he seemed to be satisfied with the answer to that one, and - uh - did not care for me to elaborate. And since I'd been invited

to - uh - appear before them or - either that or -um-  
be taken to Washington before the full Commission, uh -  
I was cooperating by telling them what I knew and - uh -  
not attempting to - uh - be difficult in any manner but  
simply to go <sup>along</sup> /with the questions that they were asking.  
When he -uh- changed the subject, well, I had no choice  
but to answer his questions.

Q. Where would you say the search was concentrated after  
the shots were fired?

A. The first focus of interest certainly was the embank-  
ment which - uh - lies uh - directly to the South and -uh -  
slightly to the East of the Triple Underpass . I mean this  
motorcycle policeman I previously mentioned certainly -uh -  
was going there just as rapidly as possible. Ah - as I saw  
the - uh - motorcade , after disappearing under the Triple  
Underpass, make their turn and then gain considerable  
speed -uh- going out toward Parkland - uh - there was a  
large concentration of police officers-uh-into this area  
here at the top of the embankment. Now I could see back  
or the South side of the wooden fence in the area, so that  
obviously that there was no one there who could have-uh -  
had anything to do with either - as accomplice or anything  
else because there was no one there...um... at the moment  
that the shots were fired. Immediately following <sup>this</sup> (~~moment~~)  
there was a rapid surge of people coming up the embank-  
ment from across Elm Street, from over near Houston Street





tracted his attention, uh - I pulled the train up after alerting the police to the fact that I intended to do so, so that they might examine it. Uh - They came out with their shot-guns and the ~~the~~ sub-machine guns and other uh - weapons and -uh - at least fifty of them -uh - to examine this. And - uh - their only result was that, rather than a murderer, they came up with three winsos who were thoroughly frightened and thoroughly sobered, seemed, in a very short time. Uh - and this was perhaps their rudest shake-down off of a freight train in their lives...perhaps their last - it might have cured them. Uh - right after this- uh - the area was effectively sealed off and the police and the FBI and the Secret Service and various other law enforcement agencies -uh - did uh- examine all cars. There was one alarming moment -uh - when we found a car which - uh - I could not identify. I was asked to identify, and I did not recognize this car - uh - and in the front seat was a flashlight and a map of Dallas, and - uh - other paraphernalia which - uh - we thought there for a moment we really had something. It turned out that this was a lady welfare-worker who used this in her everyday job, and they use this to get around Dallas and so this was perfectly legitimate. And - uh - so that after checking up on her we (laugh) decided perhaps this was another one of the many false alarms that day. Uh - After getting off from work - ah - I'm the only man in the tower and there was no one else to operate it, so



I talked to a sergeant; then I talked to a lieutenant, then I got promoted up to an inspector of the Dallas Police Department, and - uh - they requested that I talk to them after three o'clock, which was when my relief came on. He was - uh - I wondered for a while if I was going -uh - to get relieved because of a - by this time they had sealed it off so effectively that the relief ~~stems~~ couldn't get in. So that they - when he finally did get in - I was taken in a squad car to Police Headquarters, to the offices of Captain Will Fritz. And - uh - I was in the office at the time, and we were moved out on one occasion because in questioning Oswald, there were so many people involved, they needed a larger room. So that we were asked to move to another smaller cubby-hole, which since there were only two of us involved, uh - to my knowledge I was the only person other than police officers and City of Dallas employees in the office at that time. Uh - they seemed to put no particular significance to my testimony - or nor did I attempt to do so, but simply to tell them -uh - what I had seen-uh - but they - uh - I was the only one down there so someone must have gotten slightly excited over it, at least for a moment - uh - because I, after talking to others, I find that I was the only one accorded this treatment. Why, at the time they thought it was important and decided later it wasn't, or -uh - as some - one author has suggested, it was better they decided/net to talk about it, I just really wouldn't know.

Q. Can you tell us the sequence of the shots, how rapidly or slowly they were fired?

A. Uh - after the first shot -

Reel 27      Take 105

(background conversation)

Q. Mr. Bowers, you heard three shots, is that right?

A. That's right.

Q. Could you tell us - or - or demonstrate for us the - uh - sequence of the shots in terms of the - uh -

(let's cut that - laugh)

Q. Mr. Bowers, how many shots did you hear?

A. There were three shots - uh - to the best of my knowledge. This is a difficult situation here because - uh - I had discovered, in some months prior when they were re-doing and re-furbishing the School Depository Building, that loud sounds near the building and loud sounds down near the Triple Underpass - uh - both uh - sounded very similar. But - uh - I think there's no doubt but what there were three shots, and these were spaced with one shot and then a pause and then two shots in very close order, such as perhaps - uh - knock .....knock, knock. Uh - that might be an exaggeration as to the timing between the second and third - but - uh - the point is that they were definitely much closer together and almost on top of each other as - uh - as I recall at this moment - uh -



while there was some pause between the first and the second shots.

Q. Did you tell that to the Dallas police?

A. Uh - yes, I - I told this to the police and then - uh - also told it to the FBI, and also I had a discussion two or three days later with them concerning this. And -uh - they - uh - made no comment -um- other than the fact that - uh - when I stated that I thought the second and the third shots could not have been fired from the same rifle - uh - them - um - reminded me that I wasn't an expert and I had to agree.

(Cut - some background conversation)

Reel 27 Take 106

Q. Mr. Bowers, what is your present occupation?

Where were you employed on the day of the assassination? Were you at the tower at approximately noon until 12:30 on November 22? (Cough) What did you see, and what did you hear? How many shots did you hear? Could you tell us where the police search was concentrated after the shots were fired?

(Cut - background conversation - request for absolute silence - knock .....knock, knock. Knock ..... knock, knock. That's enough)