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HC

MR. BREHM

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Reel 18-Take 76

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

Q. How long would you estimate you were at the Dallas Sheriff's office on the 22nd?

A. The incident occurred at about 12:30 - uh - I didn't count the time that I was there, but I did arrive home about 5:30, and the travel distance is about fifteen minutes, so four hours approximately I would say.

Q. Would you say that you were one of the closest persons - spectators - to the limousine when the shots struck the President?

A. Yes sir, I would have to say that - er - er - if not the closest, one of the closest to the unfortunate incident. I did get a view of something I'll never forget.

Q. Were you called as a witness by the Warren Commission?

A. No, I was not called by the Warren Commission to testify.

Q.

Reel 18, Take 77

Q. Mr. Brehm, where were you on November 22, 1963 (Repeated).

Mr. Brehm, where were you on November 22, 1963? How far would you say you were from the Presidential limousine at the time that the shots were fired? Were you among the closest witnesses to the limousine at the time that the shots were fired? Were you a Ranger during the war? Were you called as a witness by the Warren Commission? Did the Warren Commission call you as a witness? Were you asked to testify before the

Warren Commission? Did you speak with newsmen on November 22nd and tell them what you saw? Did you make a statement to the Dallas Sheriff's office? (This repeated partly and then fully) For how long were you detained at the Dallas Sheriff's office? How long did you remain at the Dallas Sheriff's office? Was your attention concentrated on President Kennedy? (background conversation) You did tell us before, I think, that ^{you saw people, that} (xxxx) after the shots were fired you saw people running around with guns; there was confusion?

A. This was after I was taken/^{up to the-and} put in a car ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ^{in front of}

~~xxxxx~~ the Book Depository Building.
Q. Oh - yeah, yeah... how long was that
E. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ after the shots?

A. Uh - Oh, less than five minutes.

Reel 18 - Take 78

Q. At the time the shots were fired, Mr. Brehm, how far were you from the Presidential limousine? How far were you from the limousine at the time that the shots were actually fired?

Q. Where were you on November 22, 1963?

A. Well, I had gone downtown to see the Presidential parade. Originally I was ~~at~~ ^{on} the corner of Main and was it Houston Street? Answer by interrogator: Yeah. Main and ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Houston - uh - where I viewed the President when he came down Main and turned right on Houston. In

order to get a second look at him, I picked up the five year old boy that was with me and ran across the grass down onto Elm Street er- er -

Q. That would be across the street from the Depository ^{Depository} ~~existing~~ and to the left as you face the ~~(xxxxx)~~ or down the hill from the

It's ^A

A. Down the hill from the Depository. The Depository was ~~on my right~~ on my right - er

Q. Is this - this is a picture taken by Mr. Nix. Is this a picture of you.

A. Yes, this is a picture of me and my son here.

Q. And you are just at the limousine at the time the shots are being fired?

A. That's right...er ...

Q. ~~Exxx~~ Did you look at the President at ~~the time that the~~ the time that the bullets struck him?

A. Yes, sir. I have to tell you that I not only looked at the President , I concentrated so much on looking at the President that really I wasn't aware there was anybody else in the party. I have been asked if I had seen Connally, if I had noticed whether Jacqueline Kennedy was pretty, or how she was dressed . I had no idea of how anybody looked because it was the first time I had ever ^r seen a live President of the United States and I was so concentrated on seeing him that I saw nothing else (xxxxxx) heard the shot. The first shot, when it went the President stiffened and

reached both hands up to his neck - uh - and this is an aside to you here but - er- I had thought it was a back-fire , I really did. I was scared to death that he was shot, I didn't know whether he was clowning, whether he did stiffen and I had hoped I do believe, hope against hope that it was a back-fire , but then the second shot went - uh - at that time the car just absolutely seemed to slow down. It didn't stop; I don't think the man put his foot on the brakes; it was just that he relaxed his foot from the accelerator and the car seemed to stop and ...I think - er - I wanted them to move as fast as

Take 74

Q. Mr.Brehm, where were you on November 22, 1963?

A. I had taken my five-year old son downtown to see the Presidential parade . We stood at first on the corner of Main and Houston and watched the Presidential parade coming down Main to the applause of the people ~~that~~ around and we watched them as he turned right onto Houston Street. In order to get a second look at the President I picked up the boy and run across the grass between Main and ^{Hou ...} and Elm Street and stood down on the grass so that I could get a second look at him.

Q. This is a picture taken by Mr. Nix of the limousine at the time the shots were fired. Do you see yourself and your ~~the~~ boy in that picture?

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A. Yes sir, this is myself and this is my son on this frame here where the first shot hit the President ... the ... this frame points the second shot and you can see that the President is going down and here is myself on this picture ...

Q. How far were you from the limousine when the bullet struck the President?

A. I would say that the - that he was possibly thirty feet away when the first bullet struck, moved a little closer and was possibly twenty to twenty-five feet away when the second bullet hit.

Q. Did you see the effect of the bullets on the President?

A. Ah - I could not see the effect of the first bullet on the President because it was apparent that he was hit. Uh..when the second bullet hit - uh - there was - the hair seemed to go flying - uh - it was very definite then that he was struck in the head with the second bullet and - uh - yes sir, I very definitely saw the effect of the second bullet.

Q. Did you see any particles of the President's skull fly when the bullet struck him in the head?

A. I saw a piece of - I must say what has later been identified - I could not have identified it at the time - but something did fly over - oh in the area of

? - the c ^b
THE curve where I was standing.

Q. And in which direction did that fly?

A. It seemed to have come left and back just a bit. Now this back could have been because the car was moving forward, but I would say to the left and back.

Q. In other words, the skull particle flew to the left and rear of the Presidential limousine?

A. Uh - Sir whatever it was that I saw did fall both in that direction and over into the curb there - uh - I - I could not say in all truthfulness that that's what it was. I assume that's what it was.

Q. Of course Deputy Constable Weymour Weitzman testified before the Commission that he did find a piece of the skull just twelve inches from the curb, as you indicated. Did you concentrate your attention upon the President as the bullets struck him?

A. Sir, from the time that I first viewed the car up on the original corner, and moved in turn down to the second position that I took I must in all honesty say that I never saw anybody else that was in the party.

Uh - Governor Connally and his wife ^{were} / was in the car; Jacqueline Kennedy was in the car, but ~~she~~ - in all fairness to the people who asked me of the beauty of Jacqueline Kennedy, or the way she was dressed, I could not answer this because it was the first time - as I say - that I had seen

A live President in the flesh and I couldn't take my eyes on him. After the shot hit, then certainly there was no taking my eyes from him.

Q. What was your first impression as to the origin of the shots?

A. Odd as it may seem, I had thought that the shots had come from the County jail house there. That was the direction they sound..... But it did not seem a likely so I had assumed that they came from the Book Depository, but it was very close to that area. uh - I have been questioned as to how I could identify the source - the origin of the sound - ~~from~~ the fact that I said two bullets, the first two hit and the third did not hit anybody - uh - I think we'll have to take it back to the war and infantry and the fact that I was wounded twice and that I had developed a sense of rifle fire and where the shots had come from. So I had - after eliminating the jail - I had decided that they had to come from the book depository.

Q. You were a Ranger, is that correct?

A. Yes, sir, I was a Ranger during the war, took part in the invasion of France, and was shot at (laughter) a couple of times so ~~that~~ - uh - as I say, it's possibly like swimming ~~incident~~ I hadn't heard that sound for a many a ~~number~~ years but you don't forget it once -uh- once

you

you've heard a shot - round - come close to you.

Q. Did you make a statement to newsmen - or to anyone on November 22nd regarding what it is that you had seen?

A. Yes sir, the newsmen had come from the area that I had vacated - uh - the bus stopped at the corner of Main and Houston I believe and they come across the grass - uh - at that time they all started asking what had happened. There were, seemingly, just a few people around, and they did get a hold of me, and I did make a statement to them at that time, and told them simply that there were two shots that hit the President and the direction that I had thought the bullets had come from .

Q. Did you at any time that day make any statement which was televised?

A. Yes, sir, I was taken after a series of events that were unpleasant to the County Jail and we were kept there with a number of other witnesses, and I was asked if I would talk to the news services - if I would talk to the news services and tell them what I had seen happen.

Q. Were you questioned by the Dallas police on November 22nd.

A. No, I was not questioned by the Dallas police. This was the county office. I had - I must say I was questioned by the police, but only when we were on the spot and

they in turn left me...they had no interest in me at that time, so it was more the news services and the Sheriff's office that questioned me.

Q. You were questioned by the Dallas Sheriff's department?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you make a statement to them?

A. Uh - just basically along the lines of the ones that I have made to you today - uh - nowhere along that I had seen who had done it, or anything, but only what I had seen happen.

Reel 18 Take 75

A. Yes, I did. I was taken up to the County Jail and - uh - I was asked merely the sequence of events what happened - uh - I in no way could identify who fired the shots. The only thing that I related to them was the fact that the President had been hit with two shots. I had assumed that he had been hit with two shots because of the two violent body reactions, and that was the extent of the questioning that was done of with me.

Q. How long did you remain in the Dallas Sheriff's office that day?

A. I was, say, about three hours to four hours - uh - I - from the time that it happened I left there and

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got home at 5:30. I've never figured how many hours
possibly
but, from/what was it, 12:30 and I got home about 5:30
and I'm about fifteen minutes away from that area, so
I would say possibly four hours I was down there.