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N. J. DANIELS

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H.C..

REEL 39- Take 201

We are in the office of Napoleon J. Daniels, a real broker estate/in Dallas, Texas (again)

We are in the office of Napoleon J. Daniels, a real estate broker in Dallas, Texas.

Q. Mr. Daniels, have you been associated with the Dallas Police Force?

A. I was, for seven years.

Q. In what capacity?

A. As a patrolman.

Q. And when did you leave the Dallas Police Force?

A. In November 1962.

Q. Where were you in November 1963<sup>1/2</sup> - on November 24?

A. Well, I was going down to inspect the assassination site - uh - around eleven o'clock, I guess, and I noticed Officer Vaughn standin' the - on the Main Street ramp of the City Hall (xxxx) the basement. And I stopped to go back to talk to him, and I asked him what his purpose was there and he told me he was keeping anybody from the basement because they fixin' up to transfer Oswald.

Q. How long did you remain in front of the Main Street ramp with Officer Vaughn?

A. Mmm- about twenty minutes, I guess.

Q. Did you remain there until you heard a shot?

A. I did.

Q. From eleven o'clock until eleven-twenty, did anyone

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

enter the basement through the Main Street ramp?

A. There was one man about a couple of minutes before - um - Oswald was shot.

Q. Could you describe that man?

A. Yes, he was a white man about - weighed about 175 and had on a blue suit - about 5' 9".

Q. What was the color of his hair?

A. Uh - it was brownish, and he was bald on top.

Q. Was there anything else distinctive about the gentleman?

A. Uh - he had his right hand in his right coat pocket, and somethin' seemed to be protruding from it.

Q. What was your impression when you saw him enter the basement with his hand in his pocket?

A. My first impression was that he had a gun in his pocket and then I didn't think too much about it because Officer Vaughn didn't challenge him - he just let him go on down in there.

Q. Did Vaughn indicate any recognition or knowledge of who the person was when the man passed by him?

A. No.

Q. Did he seem to recognize him, would you say?

A. No I just assumed he did because he didn't try to stop him- I just assumed he knew who he was.

Q. Did Vaughn allow anyone else to enter the basement other than that one man?

A. No.

Q. How long after that man entered the basement did you hear a shot?

A. Ma - 'Bout time enough I guess for him to walk down into there and get settled.

Q. And then, what did you do after you heard the shot, sir?

A. Well I walked out to the center, the entrance there, and looked down in the basement, and, as I looked down I saw an officer scuffling with a man and I got the impression that it was the same man because I saw his right arm and - uh - he had on the same color clothing.

Q. The same color clothing as the man you saw ....

A. As the man I saw enter, yes.

Q. The Federal Bureau of Investigation showed you pictures of Jack Ruby in December 1963. Is that correct?

A. It is.

Q. Did you tell the FBI then that the man in the picture, Jack Ruby, resembled very closely the man you saw enter the basement ramp?

A. Right.

Q. And is that so?

A. That's true.

Q. He does - did look like Jack Ruby ?

A. He did look like the man that I thought I saw - that I saw go in the - uh - in the basement. Course at the time that I saw the guy enter, I didn't really look at him too good. I saw - I got a side view and a back view of him, and - uh - he resembled him. He was about the same size seemed like.

Q. The Warren Commission said that Jack Ruby did enter the Main Street ramp, and they indicated that that happened between eleven o'clock and eleven-twenty. If Ruby did enter the Main Street ramp between eleven and eleven-twenty, was Jack Ruby the man who you saw enter?

A. He'd almost have to be because that's the only man I saw go down in - that's the only one.

Q. Where was Officer Vaughn standing when this man entered past him?

A. He was standin' right in the center of the entrance to the basement there.

Q. And what was his responsibility or obligation that day, do you know?

A. To not let anyone go down in there I suppose, as far as I - I know.

Q. Have you any idea why he allowed this man to

enter past him?

A. No, I don't...not what other than just he knew who he was, or something - that's what I thought at the time- he had to know who he was.

Q. Did Officer Vaughn look at the man who walked past him?

A. He looked in his direction, yes.

Q. Did you have a telephone conversation with Officer Vaughn/- er - the following day.

A. Uh - yes.

Q. Vaughn called you?

A. Yes, he called me at home.

Q. And what was the purpose of his call?

A. He called me to ask if I had seen anybody go in the basement.

Q. At any specific time?

A. Uh - any time during the time I was there.

Q. Uh huh.

A. Yeah.

Q. Did Vaughn call you the day after Ruby shot Oswald and ask you specifically if you saw Ruby enter the basement as Lieutenant Rio Pierce drove out?

A. Uh - yes - uh huh/

Q. And what did you tell him?

A. I told him "No, didn't anyone enter at that time."

Q. The Warren Commission, on page 221 of its Report, Mr. Daniels, states as follows: "On November 24 Vaughn telephoned Daniels to ask him if he'd seen anybody walk past him on the morning of the 24th, and was told that he had not. Did you tell Vaughn on the morning of the 24th or the 25th that you never saw anyone walk past him?"

A. No, I never put it that way, no. Just <sup>while</sup> ~~when~~ the car was coming out is when I told him I didn't see anybody.

Q. Did Vaughn specifically ask you if you saw anyone enter the basement as the car was coming out?

A. Yes.

Q. And is that what you replied?

A. That's what I replied to, yes.

Q. But you never - but did you ever tell Vaughn that you never saw anyone walk past him?

A. No.

Q. Did you tell Vaughn on the 24th, as the Commission says, or the 25th, as both you and Vaughn say, when that telephone call took place, did you tell Vaughn that you saw a man walk past him just before Ruby shot Oswald?

A. I don't remember - don't remember.

Q. In your opinion is the man who you saw walk past Vaughn into the basement Jack Ruby?

A. That's hard to say - I'm not sure. I wouldn't want to just say it and not be sure of it, but the

first impression I got when Oswald was shot is that the guy I had just seen is the one that did it. I don't know what caused me to think that - this my first impression.

Q. And now that you've seen pictures of Jack Ruby, does that strengthen your original impression that it was Jack Ruby who you saw enter, or weaken it?

A. I'd say it's apt to strengthen it.

Q. It strengthens it?

A. Uh huh.

Reel 39 Take 202

Mr. Daniels, were you formerly employed with the Dallas Police Department? In what capacity? Were you a Dallas Police Officer in November 1963? Where were you on November 24th, 1963? What clothing was the man wearing, the man who you saw enter the Main Street ramp? Could you describe that man? Would you describe the man who you saw enter the Main Street ramp. What color was the man's hair? Was there anything else distinctive about him? Did Officer Vaughn stop anyone? Did anyone enter the basement from eleven am to eleven-twenty pm past Officer Vaughn, other than the one man whom you have described? At the time that the man en-

tered the Main Street ramp, did you think it was Jack Ruby? Did Vaughn seem to recognize the man? Did Vaughn look at the man? Do you believe that Vaughn saw the man who walked past him? Do you believe it was Jack Ruby? What did you do after you heard the shot? What did you do after you heard the shot? During December 1963, the FBI showed ~~you~~ pictures<sup>to you</sup> of Jack Ruby. Did the man in the picture, Jack Ruby, look like the man who had walked past Officer Vaughn? Did you have a conversation with Officer Vaughn the following day? Did Vaughn ask you specifically if the man you saw enter the ..... Did Vaughn ask you specifically if you saw a man enter the basement as Lieutenant Pierce drove out of the basement?

(background conversation)