

**I. DESCRIPTION OF SUSPECTED ASSASSIN AS ORIGINALLY
BROADCAST BY DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AT 12:45 P.M.,
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, AND SEARCH OF TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK
DEPOSITORY BUILDING**

The President's Commission on the Assassination of President KENNEDY in letters dated November 2, 1964, and November 18, 1964, advised that the Commission believes that it might be desirable and useful to develop information that was not available at the time of the preparation of the Commission's report in regard to the precise sources of the description of the suspected assassin broadcast over the Dallas Police Department radio network at 12:45 p.m., (November 22, 1963).

The Commission further noted that it would also be of interest to know whether the police or other law enforcement officers searching within the building (Texas School Book Depository) were ever notified that the shots had come from the window identified by BRENNAN (HOWARD BRENNAN).

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent RICHARD J. BURNETT:

Sheriff J. E. (BILL) DECKER, Dallas County Sheriff's Office, Dallas, Texas, advised on December 14, 1964, that he was in the lead car of President KENNEDY's caravan at the time of the assassination on November 22, 1963.

When the shooting occurred, the car he was in proceeded directly to Parkland Hospital and upon arrival he immediately obtained a ride back to the scene of the crime. Upon his arrival back at the assassination site, he ordered his deputies to immediately start a search of the Texas School Book Depository building in order to see if they could locate the individual responsible. He had the deputies systematically start a search of the building and they were doing so when Deputy Chief LUMPKIN of the Dallas Police Department arrived at the building and took charge of the search of the building.

Sheriff DECKER stated that the search of the building was of the entire building and not specifically of the sixth floor until the spent bullet cartridges were located on that floor. Then, upon the completion of that part of the search looking for the assassin, the search was concentrated on the sixth floor for the purpose of locating evidence.

HOWARD LESLIE BRENNAN, 6814 Woodard, Dallas, Texas, advised on December 14, 1964, that he is the same HOWARD BRENNAN who has appeared before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President KENNEDY where he furnished information as an "eyewitness" to the assassination of the late President.

BRENNAN stated that the assassination occurred at approximately 12:31 p.m. on the afternoon of November 22, 1963. He stated that upon witnessing some unknown person firing a gun out of the southeast corner window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building, he immediately went to an unknown Dallas police officer standing at the corner of Elm and Houston Streets and requested the officer to get him either an FBI Agent or a Secret Service Agent. He was then taken to Mr. SORRELS, a Secret Service Agent, who was in a car parked in front of the Texas School Book Depository.

BRENNAN stated that besides SORRELS, there was an unknown Dallas police officer and another unknown man present when he related to SORRELS what he had just witnessed and furnished SORRELS with a description of the man he had seen in the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository building.

BRENNAN estimates that he was talking to SORRELS and furnishing this description at approximately 12:40 p.m.

While talking to SORRELS, BRENNAN saw two Negro youths leaving the Texas School Book Depository building and he immediately recognized them as the same two men he had seen

looking out of a fifth story window of the Depository building just beneath and to the west of the sixth floor window where the unknown person was shooting at President KENNEDY. He had seen these two young men looking out this fifth floor window just prior to the shots being fired from the sixth floor.

BRENNAN stated that Mr. SORRELS had the two men stopped and ordered them taken to the nearby Dallas County Sheriff's Office to be interviewed. BRENNAN stated that he then accompanied SORRELS to the Sheriff's Office where he furnished a statement to a deputy.

BRENNAN remarked that he could not identify the Dallas police officer who was present when he furnished his description of the suspected assassin.

J. HERBERT^V SAWYER, Inspector, Police Department, Dallas, Texas, advised on December 15, 1964, that he was the first official of the Dallas Police Department to arrive at the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD) building after the assassination on November 22, 1963.

SAWYER stated that he immediately set up a command post in front of the TSBD building and ordered the building sealed off. He pooled officers from his department and local Dallas County Deputy Sheriffs into search teams and ordered a search of the area.

Shortly thereafter, Deputy Chief GEORGE L. LUMPKIN arrived at the scene and took over the responsibility of the search of the interior of the TSBD building.

Inspector SAWYER stated that it is almost impossible to describe the confusion and commotion at the scene of the assassination when he arrived.

While in front of the TSBD building, a middle aged white man was brought to him who had reportedly seen the unknown suspect fire shots from a window on either the fifth

or sixth floor of the TSED building. SAWYER does not know who this man was, did not take down his name, nor can he identify him at this late date. However, SAWYER recalls that this man wanted to speak to a Secret Service Agent.

SAWYER recalls that this unknown white man furnished a description of the assassin as a white male, thirty years of age, five feet ten inches tall, and about one-hundred and sixty-five pounds. This description was furnished in the presence of Secret Service Agent FORREST V. SORRELS.

SAWYER stated that he immediately called this description into the Dallas police dispatcher and it was immediately broadcast over the police network.

SAWYER continued that only one other person was brought to him who had reportedly seen the assassin. This person was a young Negro boy named EUINS. However, upon talking to this youth, it was determined that the boy could not describe the suspect, not even to the detail as to whether the person he had seen was a white man or a Negro.

SAWYER added that it was the description he had obtained from the unknown white man at the scene of the assassination that was broadcast over the police radio at approximately 12:45 p.m., November 22, 1963; the first description of the suspect to be put out by the Dallas Police Department.

It is noted that Volume VII, pages 332 to 350, of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President KENNEDY report, sets forth the testimony of FORREST V. SORRELS, a Secret Service Agent assigned to Dallas, Texas.

A review of this testimony indicates that Mr. SORRELS, who was in the lead car of President KENNEDY's motorcade, proceeded directly to Parkland Hospital from the scene of the assassination. He did not go into the hospital,

but immediately took a police car back to the Texas School Book Depository building. SORRELS entered the back door of the Texas School Book Depository, spoke to Mr. TRULY, manager of the Texas School Book Depository, and then proceeded out the front door of the building. He inquired as to whether anyone had seen anything at which time HOWARD BRENNAN was pointed out to him.

SORRELS, besides speaking to BRENNAN, talked with a young Negro boy named EUINS who was a witness, but the youth could not describe the assassin even as to whether he was Negro or white.

SORRELS accompanied both BRENNAN and EUINS to the Dallas County Sheriff's Office.

Volume XIX, page 470, of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President KENNEDY report, presents a copy of the signed sworn statement of HOWARD LESLIE BRENNAN given on November 22, 1963, at the Dallas County Sheriff's Office, which records what he had seen at the assassination scene. This statement is marked "Decker Exhibit #5323".

It is noted that this statement contains a description of the assassin as furnished by BRENNAN and which compares closely with that first broadcast by the Dallas Police Department at approximately 12:45 p.m., November 22, 1963.

Deputy Chief GEORGE L. LUMPKIN, Service Division, Police Department, Dallas, Texas, advised on January 5, 1965, that he was the responsible police officer in charge of the interior search of the Texas School Book Depository building shortly after the assassination of President KENNEDY on November 22, 1963.

Chief LUMPKIN arrived at the Texas School Book Depository building shortly after the shooting, however, he cannot exactly state the time of his arrival at the building,