

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 11/23/63

HOWARD LESLIE BRENNAN, 6814 Woodard (EV 1-2713), employed by Wallace and Beard Construction Company as a steam-fitter, and engaged in doing prefabrication work at a location near the rear of the Texas School Book Depository building at 411 Elm Street, Dallas, advised he stopped work at 12 Noon on November 22, 1963, for the purpose of eating lunch. He had lunch alone at a cafeteria at the northeast corner of Main and Record Streets in Dallas.

After finishing lunch, he walked back to the front of the Texas School Book Depository building and on Elm Street, directly across from the above building, took a seat on a retainer wall some 4 feet in height. He explained the place where he was seated was on the south side of Elm Street, about 20 feet west of the southwest corner of the intersection of Elm and Houston Streets, and about 5 feet from the curb.

He estimated he seated himself at this point some 3 to 5 minutes after having left the cafeteria about 12:18 PM, on November 22, 1963. He recalled noting the time as he left the cafeteria, since he was supposed to be away from the job for lunch only one-half hour. He estimated he had been seated on the retainer wall about 10 minutes before the automobile carrying President KENNEDY passed in front of him, at which time he observed the President and his wife sitting on the back seat of the vehicle. He said the automobile had passed down Elm Street (going in a westerly direction) approximately 30 yards from the point where he (BRENNAN) was seated, when he heard a loud report which he first thought to be the "backfire" of an automobile. He said he does not distinctly remember a second shot but he remembers "more than one noise", as if someone was shooting fire crackers, and consequently he believes there must have been a second shot before he looked in the direction of the Texas School Book Depository building.

Upon hearing the report, or reports, he looked across the street to the Texas School Book Depository building, where he saw a man in a window on the sixth floor near the southeast corner of the building. The man he observed in the window had what appeared to be a "heavy" rifle in his hands. He could not

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by Special Agent GASTON C. THOMPSON and
ROBERT C. LISH /rmb Date dictated 11/22/63
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tell whether or not this rifle had a telescopic sight, as the rifle was protruding only about half its length outside the window.

He was positive that after he had observed this man in the window, he saw this person take "deliberate aim" and fire a shot. He then observed this person take the rifle from his shoulder and hold it by the barrel of the rifle, as if he were resting the butt of the rifle on the floor. He said this individual observed the scene on the street below, momentarily, and then stepped back from the window. He said the rifle was pointed in the direction of the President's car when he saw it fired.

He advised there was nothing to obstruct his line of vision between the place where he was seated and the window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository building where he saw the man with the rifle. He estimated distance between the point where he was seated and the window from which the shots were fired to be approximately 90 yards.

He noticed there appeared to be a stack of heavy cartons visible in the window and slightly to the rear of the place where the man stood with the rifle. He stated he saw two Negro men on the next lower floor, immediately beneath the window where the man was observed with the rifle. One of these men (on the floor below) was looking out a window directly beneath the window in which the rifleman stood. The other Negro was in a window immediately to the west of the first Negro mentioned above. He observed these two men glance upward, as if they were trying to determine the spot from which the rifle shots were being fired.

BRENNAN described the man with the rifle as a white male, who appeared to be in his early 30's, about 5'10" tall and around 165 pounds in weight. He said this individual was not wearing a hat and was dressed in "light color clothes in the khaki line". He added this individual may have been wearing a light-weight jacket or sweater; however, he could not be positive about the jacket or sweater.

He advised he attended a lineup at the Dallas Police Department on November 22, 1963, on which occasion he picked LEE HARVEY OSWALD as the person most closely resembling the man he had observed with the rifle in the window of the Texas School Book Depository building. He stated, however, he could not positively identify OSWALD as the person he saw fire the rifle.

He volunteered he has been informed by his optometrist, Dr. HOWARD F. BONAR, Port Lavaca, Texas, that he (BRENNAN) has

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"perfect" vision at a distance or, in other words, he is far-sighted. He advised he wears glasses for reading purposes only.