

## FOUR RED FLAGS AGAINST DECKER

This essay examines four critical episodes that implicate Dallas Sheriff Bill Decker in the conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy on November 22, 1963. We also investigate the circumstantial evidence implicating his immediate superior, Dallas mayor Earle Cabell.

### SHERIFF BILL DECKER

The 65-year-old Bill Decker had been Dallas County Sheriff for 14 years by the time of President Kennedy's visit. Before that he had been Dallas' chief deputy sheriff for 14 years, and before that served 11 years as a chief deputy constable. This pillar of local law enforcement had also won national acclaim for his role in the 1934 ambush of the notorious outlaws Bonnie & Clyde. Decker was credited with informing the 6-man posse just where in the remote woodland of northwest Louisiana to wait with their guns. He would only reveal that "somebody told me" where to set up their death trap, which was a hailstorm of bullets.



*Decker with the body of Bonnie Parker*

On November 21<sup>st</sup> Sheriff Decker was contacted regarding providing “additional personnel for security purposes” for the joint DPD-Secret Service plans for protection of the presidential motorcade. Decker offered his “full support.”<sup>1</sup> But he reneged on this promise the next morning. About 10:30 AM he instructed his men that they “were to take **no** part whatsoever in the security of that motorcade.”<sup>2</sup>

Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig’s damnable accusation is proven in the early seconds of the Hughes film. His fellow deputies stand idly on the sidewalk in front of the courthouse at Main & Houston. The only officer in the street at that corner is the DPD’s William Denham.

What prompted Decker to change his mind? **These unusual standdown orders were given to him via telephone from an unknown source in Washington, D.C.**<sup>3</sup> And according to DPD Chief Jesse Curry, it was Washington which directed the security arrangements for the motorcade.<sup>4</sup>



Curry drove the lead car, a white 1963 Ford Galaxy equipped with a police radio. Decker sat directly behind him. In the front passenger seat was Winston Lawson, an advance Secret Service agent from the White House who carried a portable radio on their private network. Behind him sat Forrest Sorrels, the Special-Agent-in-Charge of the Dallas Secret Service.

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<sup>1</sup> WCH XXI p. 547, Sorrels Exhibit 4

<sup>2</sup> When They Kill a President by Roger Craig, Chapter I

<sup>3</sup> Murder in Dealey Plaza, p. 161, “The Secret Service: On the Job in Dallas” by Vincent Palamara

<sup>4</sup> JFK Assassination File by Jesse Curry, p. 9

They were approaching the Triple Underpass, about 5 car lengths in front of the presidential limousine, when rifle fire cracked the air. “We’re hit!!” agent Roy Kellerman relayed from the limousine, and Lawson told Curry, “Get us to the nearest hospital!!”

In the immediate confusion the limousine caught up with the lead car and, by the time they reached the entrance ramp to the Stemmons Freeway, motorcycle escort James Chaney had sped up beside Curry and told him he was sure the President’s party had been hit.

Whereupon Chief Curry finally radioed: “We’re going to the hospital! Officers! Parkland Hospital! Have them stand by!” They were approximately four miles away. “Get men on top of the underpass. See what happened up there. Go up to the overpass. Have Parkland stand by.”

Decker grabbed the microphone from the back seat. “Tell my men to empty the jail, and up on the railroad, uh, right-of-way there... I’m sure it’s going to take some time to get your men in. Pull every one of my men in there.” The DPD dispatcher asked him to repeat that information.

Decker continued: “Have Station 5 to move all men available out of my department, back into the railroad yards there in an effort to try to determine just what and where it happened down there, and hold everything secure until the homicide and other investigators can get there.”<sup>5</sup>

This was the last transmission from Decker that day. Station 5 was the Sheriff’s Radio Room, manned by dispatcher Jack Watson, and he quickly notified “All units and officers vicinity of station report to the railroad track area, just north of Elm.”<sup>6</sup> Decker knew this area quite well, since many of his employees used it as a parking lot.

The limousine raced to Parkland Hospital, reaching speeds of 70-80 miles per hour, and arrived at approximately 12:35.<sup>7</sup> At 12:34 Curry was still in the lead car, twice barking radio orders to clear vehicles from the emergency dock. Sandwiched in between them was the first radio report, from motorcycle escort Bobby Hargis, that the shots had originated from the Book Depository:

“A passerby says... the Texas Schoolbook Depository... Stated the shots came from that building.”

And moments later another motorcycle escort, Clyde Haygood, radioed in: “I talked to a guy up here at the scene of this, where the shots were fired at. And he said that he was sitting here close to it. And the very best he could tell, they came from this Texas Schoolbook Depository Building here, with that Hertz Rental sign on top.”

**Decker apparently ignored these radio transmissions.** While his deputies futilely searched the parking lot for signs of an assassin, he made no effort to contact Station 5 to

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<sup>5</sup> First Day Evidence by Gary Savage, p. 405, Jim Bowles transcript of DPD Channel II transmissions

<sup>6</sup> WCH XVII p. 368

<sup>7</sup> Warren Report p. 53

alert them to the reported source of the gunfire. And this inactivity added a critical couple of minutes to the delay in searching the Book Depository.

The next day Deputy Sheriff Ralph Walters estimated he'd been in the parking area for a "possible 5 or 6 minutes"<sup>8</sup> - until about 12:36/37- before joining a group of 7 deputies who decided to rush over to the Depository, front and rear. Luke Mooney was with him, and mistakenly reported (and testified) that Decker had ordered him into the building. It was actually civilian witnesses Charles Hester and Amos Euins who informed deputies the shots had come from the Book Depository.<sup>9</sup>

Was the parking lot search a misdirection ploy that had been incorporated into the assassination planning? It may have diverted attention from the building for a precious few minutes while the Depository hit team made their escape via the rear loading dock or West Annex. The reality of that hit team becomes obvious once Oswald is revealed as a patsy. Decker's urgent appeal to get men into the railroad yards, and his failure to alert them to the Book Depository, are consistent with someone who had inside knowledge of such a misdirection ploy.

But Decker seems to have been preoccupied. He reported that he "got out of the car and stood at the side of the Presidential automobile while the President was removed from the automobile and placed on a stretcher carriage."<sup>10</sup>



*Luke Mooney*

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<sup>8</sup> WCH XIX p. 505

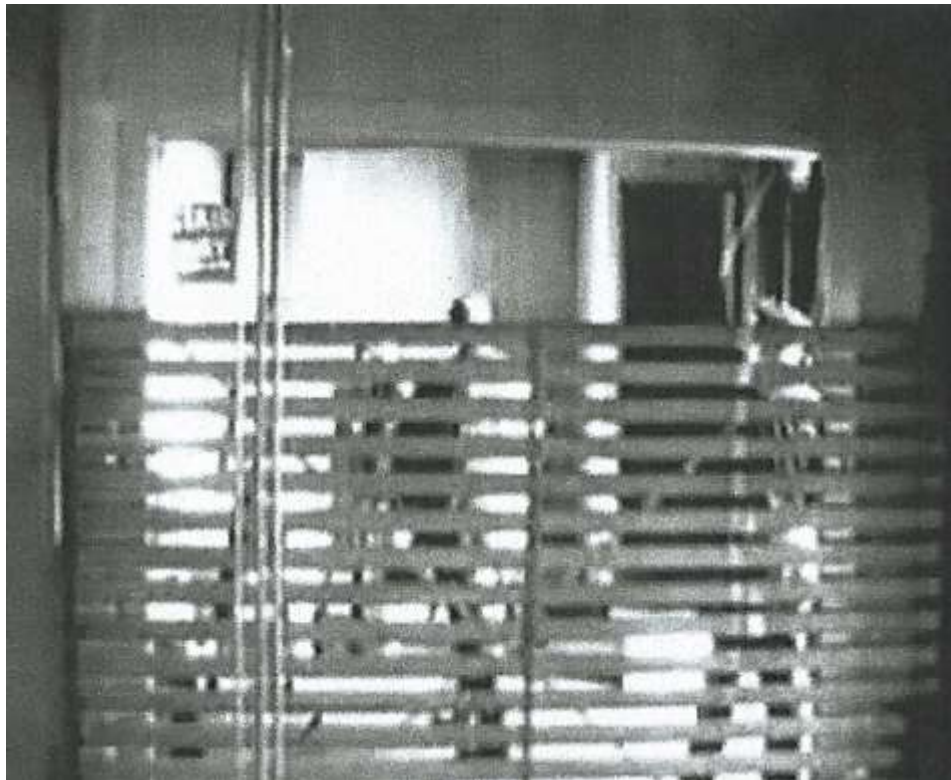
<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 511, 531, 535

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 458-459

Mooney entered the rear door with Sam Webster and Billy Joe Victory. They took the corner stairs up while he got on the west freight elevator. Just as he did two women came running over and asked to go up to their 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor office. So Mooney took them up one flight and let them off. And strangely enough, the power to the elevator cut off right then. It did not lose its power while in transit.

Mooney's after-action report stated: "As the elevator started up, we went up one floor and the power to the elevator was cut off." The west freight elevator operated via a control panel inside and it would have been very obvious, even to a first-time user, that the power supply had been cut. This happened during the early minutes of the police search of the building. **And Sheriff Decker did not inform any news media about this power outage. Nor did this information find its way into any report of any agency investigating the assassination.** It remained unknown until Mooney's March testimony, and was not printed in that September's Warren Report.

This flagrant anomaly slipped under the radar of Mark Lane, Sylvia Meagher, Harold Weisberg and Jim Garrison. It stinks to high heaven of Depository employee complicity. Necessarily it was a pre-arranged precautionary measure, part of the assassination planning. But it was an overkill blunder that nearly blew the entire plot wide open.<sup>11</sup>



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<sup>11</sup> Inside Job, pp. 42-45

Because this power outage can be time-stamped fairly accurately at 12:41, Ralph Walters' estimate of "5 or 6 minutes" in the parking lot is also fairly accurate, and we can place good confidence in the reconstruction that the 7 deputies didn't leave there until approximately 12:36/37. Victoria Adams had just overheard a 12:40 radio report when she entered the front lobby and found the passenger elevator was without power. She went up the lobby stairs, down the hallway and back to the rear to the same powerless freight elevator that Luke Mooney had just departed. And she ran into the same two plainclothesmen- ATF agents- that he had just encountered on the corner stairs.

In the parking lot Sergeant David Harkness put the diminutive Amos Euins on his 3-wheeled motorcycle and drove down the Elm St. Extension to the front entrance. At 12:36 he radioed in: "Witness says shots came from 5<sup>th</sup> floor Texas Book Depository store at Houston and Elm. I have him with me now and we are sealing off the building."

Harkness took his pocket notebook out and began jotting down what Euins said he saw. This notebook was brought out during his testimony but its contents were ignored and it disappeared from the evidence. KRLD news director James Underwood was nearby and overheard Euins telling Harkness he'd seen a colored man lean out of the window upstairs and he had a rifle.

Once Harkness put Euins in a DPD squad car and ran off for the back of the Depository, Underwood walked over and asked the black youth if he'd seen someone with a rifle.

"Yes, sir."

"Were they white or black?"

"It was a colored man."

"Are you sure it was a colored man?"

"Yes, sir."<sup>12</sup>

Shortly before 1:00 PM Euins was driven to the Sheriff's Office a block away. He did not leave until about 8:00 PM.<sup>13</sup> His 7 hours there produced only ½ page of an affidavit.

At Parkland Decker caught a ride with Captain Fritz and they returned to Dealey Plaza at approximately 12:59. He lingered by the front entrance for a few minutes and began walking back to his office. "Somebody better take charge of this investigation," he said to Roger Craig.

About 4:45 Craig visited Fritz's office and identified the suspect in custody as a man he'd seen run from the crime scene and enter a light-colored station wagon. He included this visit in his next-day after-action report.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> WCH VI p. 170

<sup>13</sup> WCD 205, p. 13

<sup>14</sup> WCH XIX p. 524



About 5:00 PM Decker placed an urgent telephone call to Captain Fritz. It was imperative that he speak with him in person immediately. The DPD Homicide Chief abruptly left his interrogation of Oswald and drove a mile down Main Street to Decker's office. **There they discussed something unknown, in absolute secrecy.**<sup>15</sup>

What is known is that 14-year-old Amos Euins signed an affidavit that evening which described the rifleman he witnessed thusly: "This was a white man, he did not have on a hat."

Euins' mother received several threatening phone calls before he testified.<sup>16</sup> And his testimony provided little or no details about the rifleman he'd witnessed.

SPECTER: Of what race was he, Amos?

EUINS: I couldn't tell, because these boxes were throwing a reflection, shaded.

SPECTER: Could you tell whether he was a Negro gentleman or a white man?

EUINS: No, sir.

...SPECTER: In the statement you say here that he was a white man...

EUINS: ...I didn't actually say it was a white man. I said I couldn't tell... They must have made a mistake...

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<sup>15</sup> Forgive My Grief III by Penn Jones, p. 31; JFK and the Unspeakable by James Douglass, p. 274

<sup>16</sup> Mark Lane, letter to the New York Times, 11/22/07

One of the travesties of the modern-day JFK research community is that Euins' contradiction has remained an unexplored mystery. He has never been invited to a conference, nor even approached for an interview about this, despite living in the Dallas area his entire life.

Whatever Decker and Fritz discussed in private, part of it concerned the alteration of Euins' eyewitness account. They were key conspirators. Who put them in that position, and let them get away with what they did?

Did their private discussion also concern plans for the elimination of the white man being held in custody?



*Decker awaiting transfer of Oswald*

## **MAYOR EARLE CABELL**

The 57-year-old Earle Cabell had been mayor of Dallas since May of 1961. This was a post that had been held by his grandfather, father (who also served 4 terms as Sheriff) and oldest brother Ben. The next brother Charles Cabell was an Air Force general who became Deputy Director of Allen Dulles' CIA from 1953-1962. For 30 years Earle & Ben ran Cabell's, Inc., which grew into a chain of ice cream parlors, dairy products and convenience stores that eventually was sold to the future 7-11 conglomerate. His longtime wife Elizabeth was known by her nickname Dearie Cabell.





*Dearie & Earle Cabell and Lady Bird Johnson greet Jackie Kennedy at Love Field*

Breaking with Texas' yellow rose tradition, Dearie presented a bouquet of red roses to Jacqueline Kennedy when she arrived in Dallas off of Air Force One. She and Earle rode in a white Mercury Comet convertible four vehicles behind the presidential limousine, whose rear seat would soon be strewn with blood-stained rose petals. Dearie was one of the eight or nine admitted witnesses to seeing a rifle barrel in the Depository sniper's nest.

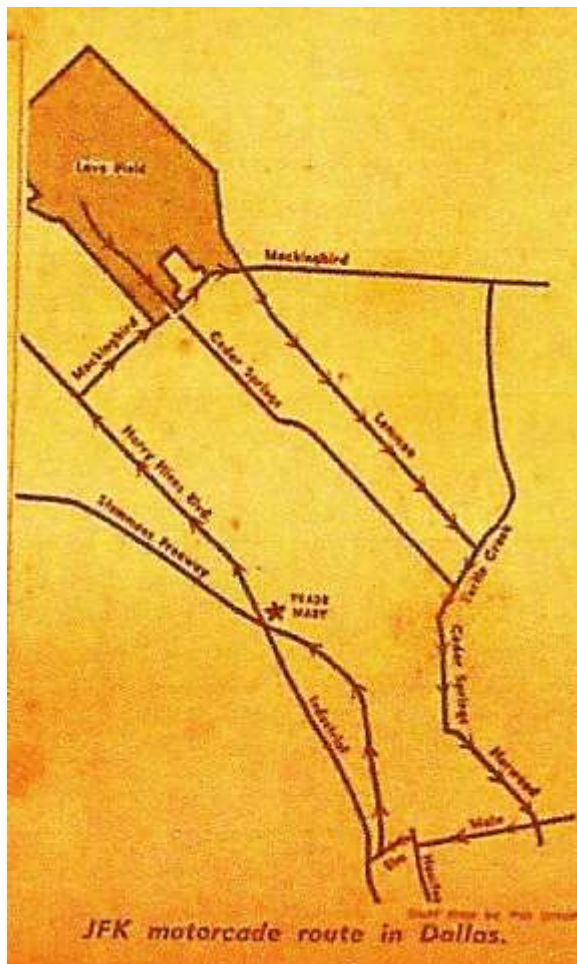
Because of the nationally-publicized heckling of UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson during a visit to Dallas in late October, Mayor Cabell lashed out at its proponents, claiming they were returning the city to its Ku Klux Klan heyday 40 years earlier, when Dallas was the Southwest hate capital of Dixie. He exhorted citizens that "We have an opportunity to redeem ourselves when the President pays us a visit next month."<sup>17</sup>

A contentious issue among researchers is whether there was a last-minute change to the motorcade route, incorporating the hairpin Elm/Houston turn, which "raises serious questions about the mayor of Dallas" and his brother Charles Cabell.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> WCH XXII p. 624; "Mayor Flays Far Right" by Kent Biffle, Dallas Morning News, 10/27/63, p. 1A

<sup>18</sup> On the Trail of the Assassins by Jim Garrison, p. 204



*Dallas Herald Tribune November 21, 1963*

Yet there is no definitive evidence to indicate that such a change ever took place. Secret Service agents Lawson and Sorrels drove along the likely motorcade route on November 14<sup>th</sup>, and they would have seen then that it would pass directly in front of the Texas School Book Depository and the grassy knoll.<sup>19</sup> And on November 19<sup>th</sup> it was publicized in the press that the parade route would travel “Main to Houston, Houston to Elm, Elm under the Triple Underpass to Stemmons Expressway and on to the Trade Mart.”<sup>20</sup>

But Mayor Cabell was integral in establishing this route: “...one of the influential people that attended the advance planning meetings for the Dallas trip was the Mayor of Dallas... the Mayor thought agents riding on the back of the car (which was common protocol) would send a message and did not want his city to appear dangerous to the world through the media. He asked for subtle security exposure if and where possible.”<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup> WCD 3, Appendix A, p. 5

<sup>20</sup> WCH XXII p. 615, “Yarborough Seating Pondered” by Carl Freund, Dallas Morning News, 11/19/63, p. 1

<sup>21</sup> Letter to Vince Palamara from Stewart Stout III, 11/1/10

SECRET  
SECRETRY AGREEMENT

1. I acknowledge the fact that because of the confidential relationship between myself and the U. S. Government, I will be the recipient of information which, in itself, or by the implications to be drawn therefrom, will be such that its unlawful disclosure or lease handling may adversely affect the interests and security of the United States. I realize that the methods of collecting and of using this information, as well as the identity of persons involved, are as secret as the substantive information itself and, therefore, must be treated by me with an equal degree of secrecy.

2. I shall always recognize that the U. S. Government has the sole interest in all information which I or my organization may possess, compile or acquire pursuant to the understanding. No advantage or gain will be sought by me as a result of the added significance or value such information may have, due to the Government's interest in it.

3. I solemnly pledge my word that I will never divulge, publish, nor reveal either by word, conduct, or by any other means such information or knowledge, as indicated above, unless specifically authorized to do so, by the U. S. Government.

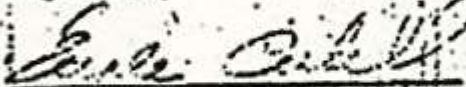
4. Nothing in this understanding is to be taken as imposing any restriction upon the normal business practices of myself or my organization: i.e., information normally possessed by us or gathered in the regular course of business will continue to be utilized in accordance with our normal practices.

Signature:

  
Representative of U. S. Government

17 Oct 1956  
Date

Signature:

  
(Earle Cabell)

Organization

17 Oct 1956  
Date

MICROFILM REPRODUCTIONS  
- DECLASSIFIED AFTER USE -

Cabell's presence at the motorcade-planning meetings brings added significance to the CIA Secrecy Agreement he signed in 1956- which only got declassified in 2017. Independent researcher Steve Roe argues- correctly, in my view- that this Secrecy Agreement stemmed from his participation in the Crusade for Freedom, an anti-communist broadcasting operation modeled on Radio Free Europe. Cabell had been Texas state chairman of this organization for two years by the time he signed on with the CIA.<sup>22</sup> And with his brother Charles serving as Deputy Director, it doesn't make sense that Earle would not become a CIA asset. The fact that he may have provided confidential information to the Agency is in itself a nothing-burger.



But this family-affiliated CIA connection did not take place in a vacuum. Not only does it add ominous overtones to his role as an insider when plans were being formulated for the motorcade route. His role as mayor gave him direct authority over the Dallas law enforcement apparatus. If such high-ranking officers as the Sheriff, Chief of Homicide and Chief of the Crime Lab were complicit in the assassination of Kennedy, their malfeasance directly reflects on the culpability of the closest link in the bureaucratic nexus- whose brother was fired by JFK and spitefully denounced him as a traitor while at the Pentagon.



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<sup>22</sup> "Bombshell or Dud? Earle Cabell's CIA Connections" by Steve Roe @ washingtondecoded.com, 4/11/18



The Mannlicher-Carcano discovered among book cartons on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor had never been used that day, and Captain Will Fritz and Lieutenant Carl Day both knew it had been planted. They went through the motions of performing a *faux* examination of the rifle. They did not conduct a sniff test- running the barrel near their noses to check for the pungent traces of gunpowder residue.<sup>23</sup>



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<sup>23</sup> Author's 2010 telephone conversation with Jones Harris

When Fritz drew the bolt back, a live round that had been in the chamber fell onto the floor. It was the last round left in the rifle. This idiosyncratic 1938 Italian design was fed with a 6-bullet ammunition clip, which ejected once the last round was chambered. The clip was fed through the top and ejected from the bottom of the trigger housing. And as the two frames from the Alyea film show, when the Carcano was discovered it had no ammunition clip in it. Yet there was no reports from the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, which was swarming with officers, that this 2 5/8" x 1 1/4" item was ever found.

But a clip mysteriously appeared, jutting out almost an inch, once the Carcano was brought out of the Book Depository only 15 minutes later. Whoever inserted it was unfamiliar with the weapon, and had attempted inserting the clip from the bottom. But it got jammed in the trigger housing.

The ammunition clip was not listed on the hundreds of items inventoried by the DPD property clerk. The clip which the DPD sent to the FBI had no fingerprints on it.<sup>24</sup> The Warren Report's description of the clip makes no mention of how it is ejected from the M-C rifle.<sup>25</sup> The Report's assertion that when the rifle was found "it contained a clip" has two references cited, yet when one checks these references there is no mention of a clip. Further, Lieutenant Day testified that he had dictated to his secretary that among the 6<sup>th</sup>-floor items he had recovered was a clip stamped SMI, 9 x 2.<sup>26</sup> Yet the official stamp was SMI 952. And any such document that the Crime Lab boss dictated to his secretary disappeared from the evidence- if it ever existed at all.

These deceitful accounts, coupled with the street photograph, point to the fact that the clip was brought to the scene of the crime. And it was clumsily inserted into the bottom of the Mannlicher-Carcano trigger housing after the rifle examination, on the elevator ride down- by none other than DPD Lieutenant Carl Day.

There would be more treachery from Day, but this incident with the clip clearly exposes his complicity in the plot to assassinate the President. And there would be more villainy from Fritz, who pompously declared to the press that Saturday night: "Without going into the evidence, before first talking to the District Attorney, I can tell you that this case is cinched."

When Luke Mooney discovered the sniper's nest Roger Craig was close behind. They "examined the cartridges very carefully and remarked how close together they were. The three of them were no more than an inch apart and all were facing in the same direction, a feat very difficult to achieve with a bolt action rifle."<sup>27</sup>

WFAA news photographer Tom Alyea saw the shells and said "They were scattered in an area that could be covered by a bushel basket." He leaned over the carton barricade and filmed the shells as they lay and then Fritz "rounded the pile of boxes and entered the

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<sup>24</sup> WCH XXIV p. 264

<sup>25</sup> Warren Report, p. 555

<sup>26</sup> WCH IV p. 260

<sup>27</sup> When They Kill a President, Chapter II

enclosure. This was the first time that anyone walked between the barricade and the windows. Fritz then walked to the casings, picked them up and held them in his hand over the top of the boxes for me to get a close-up shot of that evidence. I filmed about eight seconds...”<sup>28</sup>

Fritz had cavalierly disturbed the crime scene, confident that he would face no repercussions. This maneuver was necessary in order to hide the awkward fact that the shells were bunched and aligned and obviously planted. Alyea’s film footage soon disappeared.

Captain Fritz testified that he left the Depository “immediately” upon being provided the name & Irving address of Lee Harvey Oswald, who was among the employees missing from an informal roll call taken by building superintendent Roy Truly. “I felt it important to hold that man... my intentions were to go to the house at Irving.”<sup>29</sup> A few minutes earlier Inspector Herbert Sawyer had put out a radio alert for missing employee Charles Givens. But Fritz put out no similar radio dispatch on his way back to headquarters. He stopped first at Sheriff Decker’s.<sup>30</sup>



There was no need for a radio alert, because Fritz had actually called DPD headquarters from the Depository and found out that Oswald had just been brought in, and had been identified as one of the employees.<sup>31</sup> And he informed Decker of this.<sup>32</sup> What Fritz was doing in his testimony was help cover for Truly’s over-apprehension about Oswald’s disappearance—since he had been encountered only 60 seconds after the shots in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor lunchroom.

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<sup>28</sup> Secrets from the Sixth Floor Window by Connie Fritzberg, pp. 39-41

<sup>29</sup> WCH IV p. 206

<sup>30</sup> WCH VII p. 163

<sup>31</sup> Ibid, p. 248

<sup>32</sup> WCH XIX p. 461

These were circumstances so clearly eliminating Oswald from suspicion that Truly did not hesitate to vouch for him then. And Fritz was seeking to help discredit published speculation that Oswald had been set up to serve as the patsy- and that one of the true conspirators had given the order to arrest Oswald before there was any reason to suspect him.<sup>33</sup>

Researcher Gene Kelly has pointed out that complicity of law enforcement personnel was a masterstroke of operational strategy in planning the assassination. Their control of the crime scene allowed control of the evidence, and limited bystander interaction even to the extent of intimidating witnesses. There is an insidious betrayal involved- at the time and in the histories written over the successive years- because citizens are conditioned to implicitly trust their law officers.

And this complicity cannot simply be set in place by anyone, e.g. by some Texas politician or oilman. It strongly implies orchestration by a high-level intelligence organization.

Decker, Fritz and Day were central to the conspiracy to murder Kennedy in Dealey Plaza. Without their participation the fact that there were multiple gunmen would be exposed, and the whole Deep State house of cards would come crashing down. And they had to know, in advance, the basic game plan of the plot: the location of the shooters, their escape routes and the coverup story that would frame Oswald.

When it came time to murder the patsy they confederated their talents like a gang of bank robbers. The orders for Oswald's transfer appear to have come down a chain of command through the mayor to the DPD chief. "Very seldom did the Dallas Police Department transfer any prisoner to the county jail," recalled Deputy Sheriff Bill Courson. "Curry yielded to political pressure from Mayor Earle Cabell for the city to transfer Oswald. Normally that was a sheriff's department function."<sup>34</sup>

Yet the mayor drew the noose even tighter. Upstairs in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-floor Homicide Office Curry told Fritz that everything was ready to go and said, "I'll go on down to the basement." The DPD Chief testified he "was en route to the basement when I was called to the telephone and Mayor Cabell was on the telephone wanting to know something about the case, how we were progressing."<sup>35</sup> And so Curry was diverted from witnessing what occurred in the basement.

As Cabell explained it, "I had called him and told him that I would recommend the cancellation of... a torchlight procession of both the clergy and lay people... that would pass by the site of the assassination and put flowers at the site... that was in a rather poorly lighted area, it is not in the best part of town... the procession itself would possibly pass under the very window of the jail where Oswald presumably would be by that time."<sup>36</sup> And so Fritz was allowed to get away with murder.

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<sup>33</sup> Accessories After the Fact by Sylvia Meagher, pp. 88-89

<sup>34</sup> No More Silence by Larry Sneed, p. 488

<sup>35</sup> WCH XII p. 38

<sup>36</sup> WCH VII pp. 482-483





Fritz led the cordon of detectives escorting Oswald through the DPD basement. He left a sizeable gap between himself and the accused assassin, giving Jack Ruby plenty enough room to lunge out of the crowd. Fritz gave Ruby a signal with his flaccid left hand as he rounded the corner, and before anyone could stop him the Jewish stripclub owner had shot Oswald like a dog. Fritz's delayed reaction to the gunshot, about one second, is poignantly captured in the epic documentary *Evidence of Revision*.

Dallas "was a textbook model of Mob-police corruption,"<sup>37</sup> even before the Syndicate's late-40s takeover, when Jacob Rubinstein moved in from Chicago. "The police force was rotten from top to bottom; [gangsters controlled] the sheriff, the police, the judges... everything in the state."<sup>38</sup> And the creature from this symbiotic swamp- the black lagoon that rubbed out Oswald- had for years been acting as an informant for the DPD Narcotics Squad,<sup>39</sup> habitually making unsolicited phone calls to officers and providing them with numerous favors including women.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Contract on America: The Mafia Murder of President John F. Kennedy by David Scheim, p. 139

<sup>38</sup> The Green Felt Jungle by Ed Reid & Ovid Demaris, pp. 187, 197

<sup>39</sup> Deep Politics and the Death of JFK by Peter Dale Scott, p. 133

<sup>40</sup> HSCA IX pp. 128-129

Ruby's babysitter was none other than Bill Decker. He escorted him to his trial and psychiatric exams, inhibiting any outbursts and revelations that Jack attempted to convey to the constant pack of paparazzi. Ruby was sentenced to death that March and was finally visited by Earl Warren on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Among those missing in the jail cell were the Commission's Ruby specialists Burt Griffin and Leon Hubert. Among those present was Sheriff Decker.

Ruby begged to be taken to Washington so he could speak freely. But Warren denied his request and assured him that if he felt in danger he could "refrain from testifying anytime you wish."

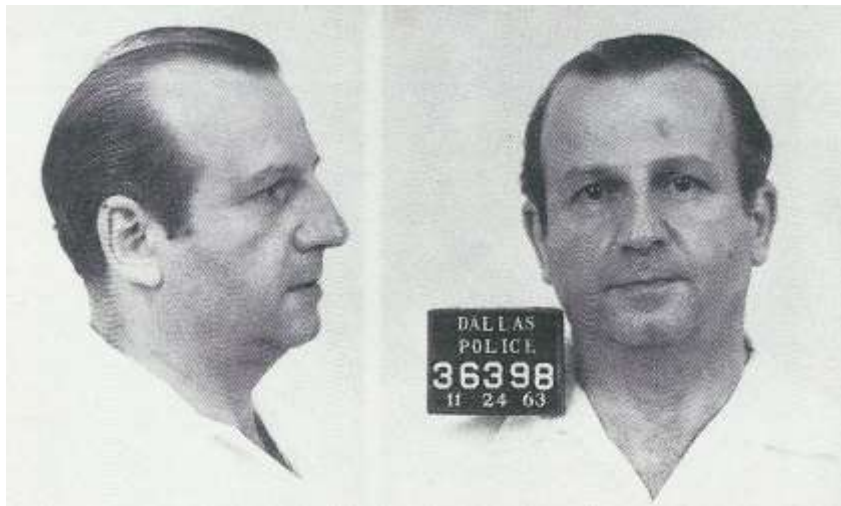
"All right, there is a certain organization here--"

"That I can assure you."

"There is a certain organization here, Chief Justice Warren, if it takes my life at this moment to say it, and Bill Decker said be a man and say it, there is a John Birch Society right now in activity, and Edwin Walker is one of the top men of this organization- take it for what it is worth, Chief Justice Warren. Unfortunately for me, for me giving the people the opportunity to get in power, because of the act I committed, has put a lot of people in jeopardy with their lives. Don't register with you, does it?"

"No, I don't understand that."

"Would you rather I just delete what I said and just pretend that nothing is going on?"



Ruby went on to explain that when he shot Oswald "there was no malice in me... if it were timed that way, then someone in the police department is guilty of giving the information as to when Lee Harvey Oswald was coming down... I am as innocent regarding any conspiracy as any of you gentlemen in the room."

“I think I can say to you that there has been no witness before the Commission who has claimed to have any personal knowledge that you were a party to any conspiracy to kill our President.”

“Yes, but you don’t know this area here.”

Ruby’s conviction was appealed and on March 19, 1965, as he was being escorted to court by Sheriff Bill Decker, he told reporters “it was a complete conspiracy... the assassination, too... if you knew the facts you would be amazed.” These remarks made the CBS evening news.

Later a local television station interviewed him during a court recess: “The only thing I can say is- everything pertaining to what’s happened has never come to the surface. The world will never know the true facts of what occurred- my motive, in other words. I am the only person in the background to know the truth pertaining to everything relating to my circumstance.”

“Do you think the truth will ever come out?”

“No. Because unfortunately these people, who have so much to gain and have such an ulterior motive to put me in the position I’m in- will never let the true facts come aboveboard to the world.”

“Are these people in very high positions, Jack?”

“Yes.”

Richard Gilbride

February 2019



for Jerry Dealey

