The following is a transcript of a tape recording. The recording was furnished to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy on July 16, 1964.

Female: Matthew 76797, 6797

Voice: Thank you

Female: Long distance calling Mrs. Helen Markham, please

Male: Hello

Voice: Hold the phone

Female: Mrs. Helen Markham?

Male: Thank you

Voice: Hello

Female: Mrs. Helen Markham?

Markham: Yes

Helen Markham Exhibit 1
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

Female Voice: Thank you.

Male Voice: Hello, Mrs. Markham?

Markham: This is she.

Female Voice: Go ahead please.

Male Voice: Mrs. Markham.

Markham: Yes.

Mark Lane (L): My name is Mr. Lane. I'm an attorney investigating the Oswald case.

Helen Markham (H): Yes.

L: And, uh, I'm going to testify, I don't know if you've heard it on the radio yet, in Washington on this Wednesday before the Warren Commission.

H: Yes.

L: about the result of the investigation that I've conducted.

H: Yes.

L: which is being concluded now, and I know that you were a witness to a portion of the case not relating directly to the assassination but the shooting of Officer Tippit.

H: That's right.

L: Uh, I wonder if you will be good enough to tell me, uh, I have your affidavit which you gave the police on that day.
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

M: Yes.

L: And, I've that, of course, but I wonder if you would be good enough to tell (break in conversation) I'm sorry. I wonder if you would be good enough to tell me the description of the man who you saw.

M: Yes, but this is an office business phone, and I just can't tell you; I don't have the time.

L: But, well, just, could you just give me one moment and tell me I read that you told some of the reporters that he was short, stocky, and had bushy hair.

M: No, no I did not say this.

L: You did not say that?

M: No sir.

L: Well, would you say that he was stocky?

M: Uh, he was short.

L: He was short.

M: Yes.

L: And was he a little bit on the heavy side?

M: Uh, not too heavy.

L: Not too heavy, but slightly heavy?

M: Uh, well, he was, so he wasn't didn't look too heavy, uh-uh.

L: He wasn't too heavy. And would you say that he had rather bushy hair kind of hair?

M: Uh, yeh, uh just a little bit bushy, uh-huh.

MARKHAM EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, whm.

L: It was a little bit bushy.
M: Yes.
L: Yeh, was there anybody else around when you saw this happen?
M: No sir.
L: No.
M: I didn't see anyone.
L: There was no one else there. Did you ever have a chance to see Mr. Oswald when he was alive. I mean after he was arrested. Did they bring you down to look at him.
M: I saw him, uh, on the lineup.
L: Yeh, and did he look anything like the man who shot the officer?
M: I identified him.
L: You identified him?
M: Yes sir.
L: As the man who did shoot. Who, did anyone point him out to you at that time as the man.
M: In the lineup.
L: Yeh.
M: No, they did not.
L: Did they, did they tell you who it might be or.
M: They didn't tell me one thing.
L: No. Do you recall what the gentleman was wearing who shot Officer Tippit?
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: Uh, yes sir.

M: How was he dressed?

L: He had on a light gray-looking jacket.

M: Yes.

M: Kind of a dark trouser.

L: Dark trousers?

M: Uh-Uh.

L: And could you see what color shirt?

M: No, I could not. I was excited.

L: The jacket was open or closed, you recall.

M: Yes sir it was zipped up a little. But, I wasn't that close, I was pretty close too.

L: Yeh, well I have as I said I've read your affidavit and it indicates the police car, the police car stopped and then this man walked over to it and leaned on it and placed his arms up against the car.

M: Up in the window.

L: In the window?

M: Yes sir.

L: You didn't see the police officer call him over did you?

M: Uh, yes sir. I seen the police car stop. I seen it all.

L: I beg your pardon.

M: Yes sir. I seen the police car stop.

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Helen Markham Exhibit 1

MARKHAM EXHIBIT NO. 1—Continued
Leo Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: You heard the police car stop?
M: I seen it.

L: You saw it stop and then did, uh, then Oswald this gentleman whoever it was walked over to the car?
M: Yes sir. He walked over to the car.

L: You didn't see the officer call him over, though, did you?
M: Uh, he rolled down the window.
L: He did what?
M: He rolled down his window.

L: The officer rolled down the window?
M: Yes, uh-huh.

L: Uh, cause you didn't put that in your affidavit.
M: Sir?

L: That was not in your affidavit.
M: It should have been.
L: It should have been? You told that to the officers?
M: Yes sir. He had to have the window rolled down because, see, he leaned over in the window.

L: I see.
M: Uh-huh.

L: I see. Now, did you tell the officers, uh, at the police station when they questioned you the description of the man who shot Tippit?
Helen Harvey Oswald, a/k/a.

M: I told them that at the scene of the murder.
L: Yeah. Did you, you told the officers the description?
M: Yes sir.
L: Did you say that he was short and a little bit on the heavy side and had slightly bushy hair?
M: Uh, no I did not. They didn't ask me that.
L: They never asked you his description?
M: Yes sir, as what he was wearing.
L: Just what he was wearing?
M: Yes sir.
L: But, they never asked you how he was built or anything like that?
M: No sir.
L: Well when you went, you went to the police station where they took the affidavit, right?
M: Yes sir.
L: And when you were there, did they ever ask you anything else about Oswald? About whether he was tall or short?
M: Uh, yes sir. They asked me that.
L: And you said he was short, uh?
M: Yes sir, he is short. He was short.
L: He was short. And they asked if he was thin or heavy, and you said he was a little on the heavy side?
Leo Harvey Oswald, aka.

M: He was, uh, well not too heavy. Uh, say around 165, maybe 180.

L: Well, did you say he wasn't too heavy, but he was a little heavy?

M: Uh-huh.

L: You did say that?

M: I did identify him in the lineup.

L: Yeah, and did you say that the man who shot, did you tell the officers that the man who shot Tippit had bushy hair?

M: Uh, no, I did not.

L: But, but he did have bushy hair you said, just a little bushy?

M: Well, you wouldn't say it hadn't been combed you know or anything.

L: Yeah.

M: Of course, he probably had been through a lot, and it was kinda tore up a little.

L: Yes. About how far were you from, uh, the car when it first stopped?

M: Uh, I was across the street.

L: Just across the street?

M: He was on, catty-cornered.

L: Catty-cornered?

M: Yes sir.

L: Yeah, and what corner were you standing at?

MARKHAM EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

H: On the corner of Tenth and Patton.
L: Tenth and Patton, and was there anybody else present at that time?
H: No sir.
L: So, you were the only witness to the shooting of Officer Tippit?
H: Uh, I was the only one out in the open at that time.
L: Well, do you know, now, if there was anybody else who saw what happened?
H: Uh, no, uh-uh, I don't know of anyone else, uh, wasn't no one there but me and Oswald and Mr. Tippit when I saw him.
L: Did you see which direction this man Oswald or whoever it is who shot Officer Tippit, did you see which direction he come from?
H: Yes sir. He was going towards, uh, he was coming from down Vampa (phonetic), you know where Vampa (phonetic) is? He was going up Tenth Street going to Marcellus (phonetic), going towards Marcellus (phonetic).
L: Toward Marcellus (phonetic), uh?
H: Yes.
L: Coming up Tenth Street. He was on Tenth Street when you saw him?
H: Yes sir.
L: I see. Was anyone else in the police car with Officer Tippit?
H: Uh, no sir.
Lee Harvey Oswald, aha.

L: Do you know which direction Officer Tippit’s car was coming from?

M: Yes, sir. It was coming up Tenth going to Marcellus (phonetic).

L: But in the same direction.

M: Yes, sir.

L: Uh, in other, but who, which car, who was in front, Oswald or Tippit?

M: Uh.

L: Who was in front of the other?

M: Uh, Oswald.

L: Oswald was in front?

M: Yes.

L: Well, do you have any idea how Oswald knew that the car was there behind him? Was he facing the same direction the car was coming.

M: Uh, no, I don’t know he, Mr. Tippit, just pulled over.

L: Yeah. And then Oswald turned around?

M: Well, when Mr. Tippit stopped the police car.

L: Yes

M: Well, course, he just walked, went over to the car.

L: I see.

M: But he wasn’t angry.

MARKHAM EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: He was not angry?

M: He didn't look angry. You know just like, I thought it was just a friendly conversation.

L: Did you notice which hand Oswald held the pistol in?

M: The right.

L: You're sure it was in the right hand?

M: I'm positive.

L: How many shots were fired, or just one shot.

M: Three.

L: You heard all three shots fired?

M: Yes sir.

L: And what did you do then, after the shooting was over?

M: Well, I couldn't do anything; I froze.

L: You froze?

M: Yes sir.

L: And how long would you say you stayed there?

M: About uh two minutes I imagine and I looked up and Oswald was coming towards me.

L: He was going towards you?

M: Yes sir.

L: What did you do?

M: I just put my hands over my face and still stood there and closed my eyes.

L: Did he walk past you?

M: No sir, he took uh, he uh, he was in the front of me.

MARKHAM EXHIBIT NO. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: Yeah.
M: And he run, and took my hands off my face; I thought he was going to shoot me.
L: And did you stayed right there?
M: No sir.
L: What did you do then?
M: Before he could, uh, get out of sight, I went to Mr. Tippit.
L: You went to Mr. Tippit?
M: Yes I did.
L: Yeah, and then what?
M: He was still in sight. Well, I tried to get help.
L: Yeh, and did this man Oswald, did he walk away or did he run away?
M: After he shot Mr. Tippit?
L: Yes.
M: He did not run.
L: He did not run?
M: He seen me.
L: Yeah.
M: Stopped and looked at me with a gun in his hand.
L: Yeh, and then did he walk?

MARKHAM EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

M: And then after he stood and looked at me, he turned and run and that's when I run to Mr. Tippit.

L: Oh, he did run at that point?

M: After, yeh, after.

L: Which way did he run?

M: Down, uh, across Patton.

L: Yeh. He run across Patton and down toward, uh, (unintelligible) Uh-uh.

M: Sure did, I told the policemen that.

L: You told them that also?

M: Yes, and they went down there and found him at the Texas Theater.

L: I see. Did he run toward the Texas Theater?

M: He run in that direction.

L: How far did the shooting take place from the Texas Theater?

M: Oh, quite a few blocks. I'd say three to four blocks.

L: I see, and you went over to Officer Tippit then?

M: Yes sir.

L: Did you have a chance to talk to him?

M: Yes sir.

L: And, did he say anything?

M: Yes sir, he tried to talk to me. He could not talk, get it plain enough for me to see, you know, to hear him.
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: Yes.

M: And I was trying to hear him. He knew I was there.

L: I see. He didn't know you were there?

M: Yes. I tried to call in on the radio for help.

L: Oh, and did you call in on the radio?

M: I tried to.

L: And what happened?

M: Well, I just didn't know how. I was in hysterics and screaming. They heard me screaming and crying.

L: Who? On the radio you mean?

M: Yes. They did.

L: And did you stay with Officer Tippit until the police arrived?

M: I certainly did.

L: You did stay there?

M: I was there when they put him in the ambulance. I saw him, that was the last I saw him alive. Yes sir.

L: I see.

M: I went with him till they closed the ambulance door in my face.

L: I see, and then they questioned you. The police questioned you when they arrived?
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

M: Yes sir. I told them I saw it.
L: And they asked you and you told them just about what you told me how?
M: I told them. Yes sir.
L: But, they didn't ask for any physical description of Oswald at that time?
M: No. Only his clothing.
L: Just his clothing?
M: Yes sir.
L: And you said it was a gray shirt and dark pants?
M: No gray shirt.
L: I'm sorry, gray jacket.
M: And, uh, I went to Mr. Tippit. Yes, I did when after they taken him off.
L: Yeh.
M: I got in the police car with the policemen. Went down to the police station.
L: Yeh.
And I didn't see him no more. They wouldn't let me in. I didn't want to see him.

They wouldn't let you see Tippit any more?

Uh, no they wouldn't let me see Oswald any more. They wouldn't let Oswald see me.

They wouldn't.

I didn't want to.

When was the next time you saw Oswald?

The next time I saw him? I never saw him after.

You saw him in the lineup once is that right?

That's all.

Yeh, who was in the lineup with him? I mean how many people

Four.

There were four others, or four including him?

Uh, I believe there was, lets see four including him.

Four including and what did the other three people look like, do you recall?

Well, I do one of them.

Yeh.

The first one came out. He was kind of light headed; kind of bald looking; had on a blue sweater; light blue sweater just a little light blue slip-over sweater with no sleeves in it.

-Markham Exhibit No. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: Yes.

M: And, uh, clean looking and he, I was, then the other two didn't look so good. You know, the other three didn't look so good.

L: I see.

M: I took my time. Of course, I was passing out all the time.

L: I know, you were very upset at that time.

M: Yes.

L: Of course, you must have been (unintelligible) you never saw anyone killed before, right?

M: Never in my life.

L: So, you must have been terribly upset, uh, at that time. Do you think it is possible you might have made a mistake in terms of identifying Oswald?

M: No, uh, no.

L: You were not that upset.

M: No, cause I had to be sure. They wanted to know right now, you know. I know as quick.

L: Yes.

M: I said I've got to be sure, I want to be sure.
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: Yeh.
M: So, I had them to turn him, you know.
L: Yeh.
M: And they turned him, and it was him.
L: Yeh.
M: I could see him cause I looked right in here.
L: Yeh, well you saw him for a little while when he came walking toward you.
M: I saw him in the eyes. It was him.
L: Yeh. What color eyes did he have, do you recall?
M: No, it was so far. It was too far from me for that.
L: How far was he when he shot Officer Tippit, from you?
M: Oh, from me? Oh, I'm not a good judgment at how many feet, bit it wasn't too far me.
L: Well, was it across the street?
M: Caddy-cornered across the street. I'll tell you, Tenth and Patton, it was the second house on Tenth and Patton on the left hand side.
L: Yes.
M: 403 I believe it is, big white house.
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: Uh-uh, and you were caddy-cornered? Were you about a 100 feet away would you say?
M: I'd say that.
L: About a 100 feet?
M: Yeh.
L: And how close did Oswald come to you?
M: Right across the street.
L: He was across the street when he came towards you?
M: Yes sir.
L: And, you saw him coming at that time?
M: Yes sir.
L: And you had a chance to look at him as he came?
M: Yes sir. Well, I couldn't make a move. I was afraid to move cause and I froze cause I was afraid he would shoot.
L: Yeh. But he didn't shoot you?
M: No.
L: But did he look at you?
M: Yes sir.
L: And he saw you there?
M: Yes sir.
L: And you saw nobody else on the street at that time?
M: No sir.
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: And did you see anybody in the store windows or windows any place?
M: See, sir, it's no stores there.
L: There are no stores there?
M: It's, uh, residence.
L: I see, and did you see anybody in any windows?
M: Yes sir. After it was over.
L: But not at the time?
M: No. They wouldn't even come out and help me and do nothing after it was over.
L: Even after it was over they didn't come out?
M: Not till the police, the ambulance came first then the policemen came.
L: I see. How long would you say it was after the shooting until the first person came out?
M: About 20 minutes before.
L: Twenty minutes before anyone came out?
M: Yes sir.
L: And the officer was in the car dying all that time?
M: On the ground dying.
L: On the ground?
M: Yes sir.

MARKHAM EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: Where was he shot, do you recall?
M: Yes sir, in the head above his eye and in his chest.
L: In his head and in his chest?
M: Yes sir.
L: That's two shots?
M: Well, twice in the head.
L: Twice in the head and once in the chest?
M: Yes sir.
L: Yes. Did you see what kind of a gun this was?
M: No.
L: Well, which you were on one side of the street, and then the police car was at one time between you and Tippit and Oswald, right?
M: That's right.
L: And when shooting took place Oswald and Tippit were standing behind the police car from your side.
M: No, Tippit was on my side of the car, you know I was on the same side Mr. Tippit was on.
L: You were?
M: Yes.
L: And which side was Oswald on?

MARKHAM EXHIBIT NO. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

M: He was on the.
L: The other side?
M: The other side.
L: He was behind the car when the shooting.
M: No, he was in the front. He walked to the front wheel of the car. He shot him across the hood of the car.
L: He shot him across the hood of the car?
M: Yes sir.
L: And did Tippit take out a gun or anything at anytime?
M: Yes sir, I didn't know that he had his gun.
L: Yeh.
M: But when they got there they rolled him over and got it.
L: And he had a gun out already?
M: Yes sir.
L: Uh-uh, well, have you seen pictures of Oswald since the time. I mean since he was killed. I guess you've seen them on television, and pictures, and the newspaper.
M: Uh, one time I seen Oswald.
L: In pictures.

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Helen Markham Exhibit 1

MARKHAM EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

M: In pictures of which detectives brought to show me.
L: When was that? Before you identified him?
M: No sir.
L: It was after you identified him?
M: It was after he was killed.
L: After Oswald was killed, they brought you pictures?
M: Yes, yes.
L: Did they ever show you any pictures before he was killed?
M: No sir.
L: No. So, the only two times you saw him were on the street and once in the police lineup?
M: Right.
L: Yeh.
M: That's all I wanted to see him.
L: Yeh. I understand.
M: I sure do. Well.
L: Well, is there anything else that you know about this?
M: Not a thing. I'm just telling you what I saw.
L: Yeh. I don't know that. I mean is there anything you left out that I wasn't skillful enough to ask about? Or do you think you've told me everything?
M: I think I've told you everything.
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L:  Did the, did you talk to the FBI about the case at all?


L:  Yeh, Has anyone told you not to discuss the case with the general public?

M:  I do not.

L:  Did anyone tell you that?

M:  Uh, yes sir.

L:  Who told you that?

M:  The, well, the detectives, and all of them and uh for my own good I don't cause I don't want to get, you know, involved in nothing.

L:  I understand. Did FBI Agents tell you it's best not to discuss the case?

M:  Yes.

L:  They did?

M:  Yes.

L:  And, did Secret Service Agents tell you it's best not to discuss the case?

M:  Yes sir.

L:  And, did the Dallas, uh, detectives tell you it's best not to discuss the case?
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

M: Yes sir.

L: And, so you've really not discussed the case very much have you?

M: Nobody.

L: Have you told any reporters about anything?

M: Well, none. They worried me to death.

L: I'm sure they're after you because you're a very important witness.

M: Uh-uh.

L: Did any of the reporters, did you tell any reporter that the person that shot Oswald, shot Tippit was short, stocky, and had bushy hair?

M: I did not.

L: You don't remember telling it because one of the reporters reported that in the newspaper.

M: Yes, I read that.

L: You read that. What paper was that, you recall?

M: Uh, I believe it was in the Herald.

L: The Herald?

M: I believe, it might have been the News.

L: It was one of the Dallas papers, uh?

M: Yes sir.

L: And, do you know what day that was?

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MARKHAM EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued
L: No sir.
M: That was shortly after, though, wasn't it?
L: Yes sir. They gave my address, name and everything.
M: Yeh, and they had you quoted as saying that he was short, stocky and had bushy hair.
L: Well, they're just not right.
M: But that's what they said though.
L: I know it. They can put anything in papers.
M: I know.
L: Uh-uh.
M: Do you remember which reporter that was?
L: Uh, I remember a reporter coming here.
M: Yes.
L: The East Well (phonetic) which was, I didn't know who he was. He was from Paris, France.
M: Yeah.
L: And I don't know who he was, and I wasn't going to talk to him because I was scared but my boss said talked to him and said it would be all right for me to talk with him.

-MARKHAM EXHIBIT NO. 1—Continued-
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: Yeh.
M: So, I scared and my boss stayed right with me till he got through.
L: I see. He was the only reporter you talked to?
M: Uh, no. One more
L: From one of the Dallas papers?
M: Uh, yes, I believe. But there was several come in from New York, all over.
L: Yeh.
M: They just worried me to death.
L: How many FBI Agents would you say told you not to discuss this case with anyone?
M: Oh, I'd be afraid to say. It was several of them.
L: Several?
M: Yes sir.
L: How many Secret Service Agents told you not to discuss the case with anyone?
M: Well, there was two or three of them.
L: Two or three of them. How many Dallas detectives told you not to discuss the case with anyone else?
M: Well, I'd say there was four or five of them.
L: Four or five detectives, so a lot of people have told you that, and you generally have not discussed the case with anyone?

MARKHAM EXHIBIT NO. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

M: I have not.

L: Is that right? Did you sign any affidavit besides the one affidavit that you signed?

M: I haven't signed it. Yes sir, I had to sign one for the Secret Service.

L: You signed one for the Secret Service? And what did that say, do you recall?

M: Same thing it did down on, uh, at the City Hall. Police.

L: I beg your pardon?

M: It was the, it's just like the one I gave the policeman.

L: I see. I see. Just about the same affidavit? When did you sign that one?

M: Oh, it was after Mr. Oswald got killed.

L: After he was killed?

M: Yes sir.

L: Secret Service didn't ask for an affidavit from you while he was alive, is that right?

M: Uh, yes sir. Well, they didn't have time.

L: Yes, I know. Everything happened so very quickly. Yeah. Well, uh, I want to thank you very much for your cooperation and I'll make notes of the things you've told me.

M: Well yes, and you don't think I'll have to go up yonder, do you?

L: To Washington?

M: No, to court up here.

Helen Markham Exhibit 1

MARKHAM EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued
Lee Harvey Oswald, aka.

L: To court? I don't, I can't tell you because I'm not in any way involved in that Ruby case. I'm just involved in the other case.

M: Oh.

L: But I don't, frankly, off the cuff without studying the matter it doesn't seem to me that anything that you saw is related to Ruby and Oswald.

M: Shoot no. I hope not cause I don't want to go up there.

L: But, I can't make that decision. That's for the lawyers down there who are trying that case.

M: You're going to Washington?

L: Yes, I'm investigating the case from an independent viewpoint to see what facts I can get and I'm, uh, going to testify in Washington tomorrow as to everything, not tomorrow I'm sorry, Wednesday as to everything that I have been able to uncover. I want to thank you because you've been extremely cooperative and very helpful.

M: Thank you very much, and I, if you need any more or anything else well just call me or come down.

L: Perhaps I will come down to talk with you.

M: I wish you would.

L: Fine, thank you very much Mrs. Markham.

M: Uh-uh, bye.

L: Bye.

MARKHAM EXHIBIT No. 1—Continued