

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dallas, Texas  
Lt. Smart  
3-25-64  
5021

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Date 11/25/63

*Handwritten:* 11/25/64

Lt. VERNON S. SMART, Auto Theft Division, Dallas Police Department, advised that he was instructed by Assistant Chief JIM W. STEVENSON of the Dallas Police Department on November 24, 1963, to take all available detectives in SMART's Division and go to the basement of the Dallas Police Station to assist in handling the transfer of LEE HARVEY OSWALD to the Dallas County Jail.

Lt. SMART stated that he did not recall the exact time that he arrived in the basement of the Police Station but estimated that it was approximately fifteen minutes before OSWALD was shot. Lt. SMART stated that upon arrival in the basement he observed Captain JONES of the Forgery Detail, Dallas Police Department, who was handling the placing of members of the press and photographs at one end of the building.

Lt. SMART stated that Assistant Chief CHARLES BATCHELOR and Lt. SMART went to the ramp of the Dallas Police Station in the basement where the armored truck was being backed in to take the prisoner, OSWALD, to the County Jail. Lt. SMART stated he noticed the truck was having difficulty backing down the ramp due to the height of the truck and the fact that the truck was almost too wide to come down the ramp. He stated that the truck was approximately ten feet down the ramp when he and the Assistant Chief BATCHELOR decided with the driver that he could go no further. Lt. SMART stated that the newspaper photographers and other members of the various news media were lined up to the north and east side of the driveway in the basement of the building. When the Deputy Sheriff who was with the armored truck opened the door a Nehi soft drink bottle fell out of the truck and broke. SMART stated that he and BATCHELOR then searched the armored truck completely and found a coke bottle which they threw away and then planned the seating arrangement in the truck. He stated they decided the side they would put OSWALD in, and he observed that there was plenty of room for approximately six to eight people to stay in the back of the armored truck. SMART stated that there were numerous lights from TV cameras in the building making it difficult to see. He then stated that he and BATCHELOR went to each side of the truck and observed that a uniformed officer was on the inside of the building and one on the outside of the building, and after checking the sides of the truck to see that the officers were there he turned around and heard something which sounded to him like a firecracker going off. Lt. SMART stated he ran down the ramp from where the armored

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Dallas 3-25-64

on 11/25/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1503

by Special Agents JAMES W. BOOKHOLT & JOSEPH M. MYERS/cv Date dictated 11/25/63

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truck was parked, observed a scuffle and tried to be of assistance. Lt. SMART stated that at the time the sound went off which sounded like a firecracker he himself was not aware that OSWALD was being brought out of the building. He stated that when he got to the scuffle he noted that several officers had JACK RUBY down on the basement floor and were handcuffing him and did not need his immediate assistance. The officers got RUBY up on his feet and SMART assisted in getting him immediately to the elevator in the jail to be taken upstairs to another floor. He stated that he did not know JACK RUBY personally and asked Detective W. O. "BLACKIE" HARRISON of the Juvenile Bureau who the man was involved in the scuffle and was told by HARRISON that it was JACK RUBY.

Lt. SMART stated further that he did not recall seeing RUBY in the Dallas County City Hall anytime between Friday, November 22 to the time of the shooting of OSWALD on Sunday, November 24, 1963.

Lt. SMART stated that HARRISON told him that he saw RUBY as RUBY was pulling the gun from his pocket. Lt. SMART further stated he understood from some of the other officers the names of which he did not recall that Detective COMBEST was supposed to have yelled, "JACK, don't do it" prior to the shooting.

Lt. SMART stated that JACK RUBY must have told Homicide Captain WILL FRITZ of the Dallas Police Department that RUBY's 1960 Oldsmobile was parked at the Allright Parking Lot at the corner of Main and Pearl Streets across from the Western Union Building near the Dallas Police Station as he, SMART, was instructed by Assistant Chief STEVENSON to go to the lot and search RUBY's car, get the money out of it, put the car in the pound and return the money in the car to the Dallas Police Station. Lt. SMART also stated that he was also instructed to take a dog from the car and have it placed in an animal shelter. Lt. SMART checked his records and stated that RUBY's car is a 1960 Oldsmobile, two door, white in color, bearing 1963 Texas License PD-678. SMART stated he found the car unlocked but did not find a key in the car. He stated that he found RUBY's wallet in the glove compartment in the car with identification cards and a key that fit the trunk of the car. He stated that he searched the trunk of the car and found the keys to the ignition in the trunk and discovered approximately \$873.50 in a big grocery bag in the trunk of the car. He stated that the money was in several denominations, approximately \$73.50 in silver, and he recalled about \$400.00 was in \$5.00 bills. He stated that also in the car were a number of boxes of courtesy cards or passes to the Carousel Club operated by RUBY. He stated that he also observed but did not remove from the car a large box of 8 x 10 photographs of nearly nude girls, and he estimated that there were approximately 200 pictures in this box. He stated that these photographs showed these girls in various stages of undress. SMART added that there were three newspapers lying on the front seat of the car all from Dallas and having articles in them concerning the assassination of President KENNEDY. SMART stated that <sup>1960</sup> he took the money, the papers and <sup>1960</sup> wallet and other 39

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property which he removed and turned it over to Captain WILL FRITZ. He stated that the car still is as far as he knows at the Dallas Police Department Auto Pound where it has Pound Ticket No. 102653.

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