

Date 12/2/63

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JAMES ROBERT THORNTON, newsman, WFAA Radio, Dallas, who resides at 7819 Milstone Drive, Dallas, advised he arrived at the City Hall, Dallas, on November 24, 1963, shortly before 10:00 A.M. He carried a portable tape recorder and planned to cover events there when and if LEE HARVEY OSWALD was transferred from the City Jail to the Dallas County Jail. He said he had learned from press reports several hours earlier that he might be transferred that morning.

Another newsman, one CHURCH IRWIN, also of WFAA, was stationed at the Dallas County Jail in order to work with him in covering that event.

That morning he entered the building through the first floor and took an elevator to the basement, entering same without exhibiting his press pass, no inquiry being made of same. He explained that he is at the City Hall almost daily and is well-known to all the police officers there. He walked around a few minutes and then walked out of the building to the Main Street entrance of the police department garage. There he entered the garage by the Main Street ramp. A police officer, name unknown, asked for his press pass and he exhibited same. His pass was issued by Chief of Police J. E. CURRY in July, 1961, and bears number 259. He then walked through the garage and back to the entrance to the corridor through which it was expected OSWALD would walk. Soon an unidentified Dallas Police Department detective required all newsmen with the exception of two network television men to move to the East side of the ramp in the garage. He took his position about five feet from the numerous television cameras and was there when he heard a shot fired which he later found out was a shot fired by JACK RUBY which killed LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

So far as he knows the two television network men were the only newsmen allowed in the basement-corridor at the time OSWALD was brought out of the City Jail. He identified those two men as TOM PETTIT of New York (NBC representative) and BOB HUFFAKER of KRLL, Dallas, who was serving for CBS.

on 11/30/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639  
by Special Agent EDWIN D. KUYKENDALL and  
LEO L. ROBERTSON:j Date dictated 12/2/63

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He advised he <sup>did</sup> not see JACK RUBY in the basement, garage or City Hall prior to the shooting. He is not personally acquainted with JACK RUBY. He does not know how RUBY gained access to the area. He noticed there was an armored car on the ramp and two police cars had been brought to the south ramp. It appeared the police were taking considerable security precautions because he saw several officers asking some of the other newsmen for their press passes. He did not observe anyone in the area where OSWALD was shot other than police officers and newsmen. He remembers, however, there was either a utility man or electrician who appeared for the purpose of doing some kind of work and was checked out by the police after which the electrician or utility man proceeded with his task in that vicinity. He could not tell that person's identity but presumed he was some kind of a building employee. He said all of the news representatives were required to exhibit their passes before they were allowed to leave the City Hall basement after the shooting had occurred. He said the police, therefore, undoubtedly learned if any unauthorized persons were there at that time. He has not heard any other individuals give any explanation as to how JACK RUBY came to be there.

He has no information that would indicate any individual has conspired with JACK RUBY concerning the shooting of OSWALD. He has no knowledge that RUBY talked to any other individuals there prior to the shooting and he only saw RUBY for the first time just momentarily before the shot was fired. He has no information that would indicate any police officer has been closely associated with RUBY or allowed RUBY permission to be in the area. He has no knowledge of any relationship or prior acquaintance between RUBY and OSWALD.

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