

This is the report of an interview with Deputy Chief N. T. Fisher commencing on March 23 at approximately 5:30 P.M. and ending at approximately 6:30 P.M.

Fisher stated that he was at home and off duty at the time that Ruby shot Oswald. He states that he had no information concerning the movement of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Fisher further states that it is his understanding that Captain Talbert acted under his own initiative in acting up the security in the basement. Fisher stated that when he arrived at the Police Department Building from Love Field at approximately 5:00 P.M. on Friday evening no procedures had been established for excluding persons from the third floor.

Fisher stated that he has known Ruby since about 1947 when he was a Detective with the Juvenile Bureau. Fisher was in charge of places like Ruby's. He was a Lieutenant in the CID. He does not recall Ruby as having been a hanger-on around the Police Department in the sense that he came to the Police Department out of curiosity. Although he does recall seeing Ruby on numerous occasions at the Police Department it was always his understanding that Ruby was down there for specific reasons since he recalls no occasion when Ruby simply stopped into his office for social conversation. Fisher remembers seeing Ruby in the third floor hallway somewhere between Chief Curry's office and the elevators on Friday night prior to the Press conference in the assembly room. Fisher believes that there were other unauthorized persons in the same area at the same time. He stated that he thought there was no positive effort being made to exclude everybody even on Saturday. He said that anybody could come up with a plausible reason for going to one of the third floor bureaus and was able to get in.

Fisher is in charge of the Patrol Division of the Police Department. He says this comprises approximately one-half of the personnel in the Department. He said that on Friday and Saturday he was concerned almost entirely with the operation of his own department and only collaterally assisted with the other events going on. Fisher, like Chief Batchelor, spent much of his time in connection with the Oswald investigation answering phone calls from persons outside the Police Department. Although he received no information of value on these telephone calls, it is his recollection that some citizen provided useful information with respect to Oswald's rifle. I did not question him about this but I presume that he was referring to information provided by Linnie Mae Randall or Buel Wesley Fraden. He commented that many of the phone calls were from people who were criticizing the Police Department or from people who were suggesting that Oswald's stomach ought to be pumped to see if he were the man who had been eating chicken on the sixth floor of the School Book Depository Building.

Fisher stated that he knew Officer Tippitt and in fact had been in charge of the platoon in which Tippitt served some years ago. He stated that Tippitt had been called in from an outlying area and that the area that he was patrolling was not his normal one. He estimated that he was normally assigned some four or five miles from the spot at which he was killed. It is his understanding that the dispatcher's office sent out dispatches to particular cars to move to particular areas. He stated that he believed that Captain Talbert would have the most information as to how these various cars were assigned and moved.

Fisher was also questioned about any conversations he might have had with Officer Vaughn. He stated first that he did not believe that Officer Vaughn told him on the occasion of their first talk that he has stepped out into the street at the time that the Pierce Maxey car emerged onto Main Street. He almost immediately corrected this statement to say that he couldn't remember if Vaughn first stated that he left the entrance way and moved out into Main Street.

Vaughn also stated that sometime between 10:00 and 11:00 o'clock the crowd which had been congregating on the North side of Commerce Street had moved to the South side.

He was questioned concerning whether he saw Tom Howard in the building on either Friday or Saturday. He first indicated that he had seen him there on Friday or Saturday then he stated that he was not sure if he saw him on Friday or Saturday but knew he saw him Sunday after the shooting. I mentioned to him in particular that some of their people stated that Howard was in the building shortly before the shooting of Oswald, and Fisher stated that he had not heard such story. He described Howard as a man who handled drunk cases and other minor crimes.

I attempted to learn how the decision to move Oswald might have been communicated to someone outside. Fisher said that he did not participate in any discussion in connection with the movement of Oswald. He also said he heard nothing concerning the route which Oswald was to take until after Oswald was shot. Fisher also said that the television and radio people were on the third floor of the Police Department, seemed to be in constant contact with their control room and that movements on the third floor were being quickly communicated to the control center. He remembers that there were news men in the jail office just prior to the moving of Oswald.

I asked Chief Fisher if he had any particular suggestions for the further protection of the President. He stated that he believed that one of the greatest problems was the poor liaison between the Secret

Secret, the F.B.I., and the local Police Departments. He commented in particular about the fact that the Police Department was never told about Oswald. He said that if the Police Department had known that Oswald was in that Elm Street Building they most certainly would have had someone in that building with Oswald or that they would have placed him under arrest for investigation on some phony charge.

He further commented that he thought the decision to go out the Freeway was a bad one, that he had suggested prior to the announcement of the decision as to the President's route that the caravan proceed down Main Street to Industrial and then go out Industrial to the Trade Mart. He told me that this was rejected because the section of town along Industrial was not particularly attractive.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2074—Continued