

CURRY. I don't know that. It will be left up to the District Attorney.

Q. He was yelling and complaining about no attorney. Does he have an attorney here now?

CURRY. Not that I know of.

Q. Chief, --

CURRY. Not in the near future, I don't believe.

Q. Chief, are you convinced that this is the man?

CURRY. Well, we don't have positive proof. We feel he is a prime suspect.

Q. What do you think, personally?

CURRY. Personally, I think we have the right man.

Q. Chief, what--

Q. What is the name of the rifle that was found in the sixth floor of the Depository Building?

CURRY. That was--

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2143--Continued

WFAA-TV reel PKT 14
Saturday, November 23, 1963

POLICE CHIEF JESSE CURRY TALKING TO PRESS
CONCERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE F.B.I.
AND DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

CURRY. There has been some information that has gone out. I want to correct anything that might have been misinterpreted or misunderstood and that is regarding information that the FBI might have had about this man. I do not know if and when the FBI has interviewed this man; the FBI is under no obligation to come to us with any information concerning anyone. They have cooperated with us in the past 100 percent. Anytime there is any information that they feel might be helpful to us they have always come to us. Last night someone told me, I don't even know who it was, that the FBI did know this man was in the city and had interviewed him. I wish to say this, of my knowledge, I do not know this to be a fact and I don't want anybody to get the wrong impression that I am accusing the FBI of not cooperating or of withholding information because they are under no obligation to us, but have always cooperated with us 100 percent.

Q. Chief, just to make this--

CURRY. And I do not know if and when they have ever interviewed this man.

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Q. Just to make this clear, Chief, you were talking about Oswald and the reports that the FBI had information about him before the assassination.

CURRY. That's correct. And I wish to make this statement: I do not know to my knowledge whether they have anything on this man or not or whether or not they have ever interviewed him. I do say this, that they have always in the past, if they had information that they thought would be helpful to us they have come to us with it.

Q. Have you been given an erroneous or unreliable report that they had some information on him?

CURRY. I don't know. Someone last night told me this and I don't even know who told me. But they just said last night that the FBI did know this man was here. I wish to make this statement that I do not know whether they knew it or not and I certainly am not saying that the FBI knew something that we should have known and didn't tell us. They are under no obligation to us--that they have always cooperated.

Q. Chief, can you tell us when Oswald was questioned this morning if he continued to deny his guilt, to deny that he had anything to do with the killing?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2144--Continued

CURRY. That I don't know because I haven't contacted the Captain since he's been with him.

Q. Now that you have made the record clearer as to the matter of FBI cooperation, can you tell us where you now stand in the matter of prosecuting this man?

CURRY. Well, so far as I know we are right where we were last night because I don't know what has developed in the questioning this morning. We are still trying to establish a verification on the gun--where it came from--and we are still--

Q. Is it the rifle you are talking about?

CURRY. Yes, the rifle. We are still interviewing many witnesses that were in the area. We have appealed to any citizens who might have been in the area that might have taken any pictures, that might have seen anything, to come to us. And actually we probably will have--well, there is no way of estimating how many statements we will take. We have several people taking statements now.

Q. Chief, was the subject of a polygraph, a lie detector test, broached with Oswald, and if so, what was the outcome?

CURRY. I understood that it was offered to him and he refused it.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2144--Continued

Q. Do you know when this occurred, sir?

CURRY. Yesterday, I understand.

Q. Did he give any reason for refusing to take the lie detector test?

CURRY. I understand he said he didn't have to take it and he didn't want to.

Q. There were some pop bottles being found up there on that floor up there. Was there one, were there caps on?

CURRY. I don't know. That's the first I'd heard of that.

Q. Chief Curry, what are your plans now in dealing with Oswald himself? Will he be interrogated here further or will he be transferred to the county jail to await presentment to the grand jury?

CURRY. He will go to the county jail. I don't know just when. But I am thinking probably sometime today. I couldn't be sure. It is more convenient here to have him near us where we can talk to him when we need to, but we will probably transfer him soon.

Q. You may then question him again before he is transferred to the county jail?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2144—Continued

CURRY. It's possible, yes.

Q. --

CURRY. I have not heard from him. I understood that his mother was obtaining an attorney for him this morning, but I don't know.

Q. Is his mother here now?

CURRY. I don't know.

Q. He told us that as he left this morning that he would like to contact a Mr. Abt of New York City to serve as his attorney. Do you know who he was referring to?

CURRY. No, I don't.

Q. The information in question on the rifle--

CURRY. No, sir, we haven't had a return yet.

Q. As far as you know so far, was there any evidence that there was anybody else involved in this?

CURRY. No, sir, not that we know of.

Q. Molina--had he been arrested or just picked up?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2144—Continued

CURRY. He came in voluntarily this morning. They went to his home last night, he invited them in, they had a search warrant, but it wasn't necessary to use it because he invited them in and told them they could look around, the officers, and then after they had talked to him last night they left him at home and he had agreed to come in this morning and I think he is somewhere in the building now.

Q. Chief, as far as you are concerned, does the investigation at this hour point toward the possibility of accomplices?

CURRY. We don't believe so at this time.

Q. You have no information linking Mr. Molina with the case?

CURRY. No. The only reason that we wanted to talk to him was the fact that we do have him listed in some of our subversive files and he did work in the building.

Q. Did Molina admit knowing Oswald?

CURRY. I don't know whether he admitted knowing him or not.

Q. Is there any indication from the investigation to date that would indicate motive on the part of Mr. Oswald?

CURRY. So far as I know there is no indication.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2144—Continued

Q. Are you satisfied that you've got him traced directly from the scene of the shooting to his arrest?

CURRY. Yes. You mean from the scene of the Presidential assassination?

Q. Yes.

CURRY. No, we haven't got all--

Q. How much time is involved in this--how big a lapse of time?

CURRY. Roughly 45 minutes, I believe.

Q. You still don't know--he doesn't have a car? -- too far to walk?

CURRY. I understand that he does not have a car.

Q. Do you have anything other than circumstantial evidence to rely on?

CURRY. Well, we have some physical evidence.

Q. Can you tell us anything about that physical evidence?

CURRY. No, sir. I don't think I should discuss that.

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Q. Do you know whether any of the witnesses who have appeared here this morning have given any information that would contribute to the case?

CURRY. I don't know that.

Q. Do you feel that this case is proceeding as effectively as you would like it to proceed, or are some doubts beginning to grow as to whether this in fact is the man?

CURRY. No doubts are beginning to grow, but it is a very difficult investigation for the very fact that you see here-- it's surrounded by literally hundreds of newpeople and there are so many witnesses and people that we need to talk to. It is a very difficult investigation, but I am not beginning to have any doubts.

Q. Are the resources being applied to this investigation adequate in your opinion?

CURRY. Yes.

Q. Would you describe them for us?

CURRY. We're just using all means possible in scientific investigations. Of course, these are interrogations and scientific--other scientific means outside of physical evidence, and any other means that we have.

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Q. In addition to the Dallas Police Department who else is directly aiding in the investigation?

CURRY. There has been an FBI--members of the FBI have been present throughout this, members of the Secret Service and members of the State Police, that is, Rangers have been here; Sheriff Decker has helped us in interviewing many of the witnesses. So we have, but in all of the interrogations there have been an FBI agent present and also a Secret Service agent present.

Q. Who is in direct command of this investigation?

CURRY. This investigation is being conducted by Capt. J. W. Fritz actually; Deputy Chief Stevenson in charge of Criminal Investigation Division; Captain Fritz in charge of the Homicide Bureau.

Q. Is he coordinating the other agencies which are involved in this investigation?

CURRY. Yes.

Q. Will we be able to talk to Captain Fritz sometime this afternoon, Chief Curry?

CURRY. I don't know. That will be up to him.

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Q. You say you have something in the way of physical evidence. Do these refer to anything else beside witnesses?

CURRY. Yes, but I can't discuss these things with you.

Q. Will these be in the form of writings or indications that he had planned this?

CURRY. I couldn't go into it any further. I could say this: No, at present, we don't have anything to indicate that he had planned this in writing or anything, no.

Q. Have you located the source of the rifle?

CURRY. No, we're still working on that.

Q. Have you had a report as to whether this was the rifle that killed President Kennedy?

CURRY. We don't have a report.

Q. Do you expect that any time soon?

CURRY. We expect it soon, but I don't know just when.

Q. Thank you, Chief.

COMMENTATOR. This was Chief Jesse Curry of the Dallas Police Department. This is Bob Clark, ABC, at Dallas Police Headquarters.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2144—Continued

PRESS INTERVIEW WITH POLICE CHIEF JESSE CURRY
DALLAS POLICE AND COURTS BUILDING

CURRY. The FBI has just informed us that they have the order letter for the rifle that we have sent to the laboratory. They have that order letter that they received from a mail-order house in Chicago. This order letter has been to the laboratory in Washington, D.C., and compared with known handwriting of our suspect, Oswald, and the handwriting is the same on the order letter as Oswald's handwriting. The return address on this order letter was to the post-office box in Dallas, Texas, of our suspect, Oswald, and it was returned under another name. But it has definitely been established by the FBI that the handwriting is the handwriting of Oswald.

Q. Was it a recent purchase?

CURRY. This purchase was made on March the 20th of this year.

Q. Of this year?

CURRY. This year.

Q. This in March?

Q. And that is definitely the same gun?

Q. What about the ballistics test, Chief?

CURRY. The ballistics test--we haven't had a final report, but it is--I understand will be favorable.

Q. Is this the development you referred to today as making this case ironclad in your opinion?

CURRY. This was not what I had reference to earlier.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2145