

PRESS INTERVIEW WITH DISTRICT ATTORNEY HENRY WADE
DALLAS POLICE AND COURTS BUILDING

Q. -- Federal charge?

WADE. I don't know of any.

Q. -- Attorney General?

WADE. No.

Q. What's the next -- ?

WADE. There are some other things that's going to delay this for, probably the middle of next week before it is presented to the grand jury.

Q. Mr. District Attorney, do you have any witnesses to use against him in the killing of President Kennedy?

WADE. We have approximately 15 witnesses.

Q. Who identify him as the killer of the President?

WADE. I didn't say that.

Q. What do they do?

WADE. That have evidence that indicates his guilt.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2171

INTERVIEW WITH DISTRICT ATTORNEY HENRY M. WADE BY
THE PRESS, DALLAS POLICE AND COURTS BUILDING

WADE. Well, since I've been District Attorney I've tried 24 death-penalty cases, in which we asked for death penalty.

Q. And how many death verdicts did you get?

WADE. Twenty-three.

Q. Are you going to try this personally?

WADE. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

Q. And what was your decision in that, sir? Why did you make that decision?

WADE. This is a proper case for the death penalty.

Q. Beg pardon?

WADE. This is a proper case for the death penalty. Is that what--?

Q. Why did you decide to try this personally, yourself?

WADE. Well, I generally try the major cases, and I believe this will be classed as a major case.

Q. Did he -- it's going to be -- I would imagine, yes, it would.

Q. Mr. Wade, are you elected or appointed?

WADE. I'm elected, every four years. I'm starting my fifth term. I'm in my first year of my fifth term, serving the four-year term.

Q. Mr. Wade, do you expect to call Mrs. Kennedy or Governor Connally, if he's able, in this trial as witnesses?

WADE. We will not, unless it's absolutely necessary, and at this point I don't think it'll be necessary.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2172

Q. How soon could we expect a trial?

WADE. I'd say around the middle of January.

Q. May I recap a few high points of the things you've said with you, Mr. Wade? First of all, has the investigation in your opinion advanced materially today?

WADE. I'm not familiar with all of the advancing. It's mostly routine today, interviewing witnesses at the scene, and I haven't--I don't know everything that's been done, but I think it's progressing satisfactorily.

Q. Now the pace in the questioning of Oswald seems to have dropped off sharply in comparison to last night. Is there any particular reason for that?

WADE. None that I know of.

Q. You talked to Oswald for about how long?

WADE. Practically none, personally.

Q. Have you observed him for a number of hours?

WADE. I've seen him a time or two but I didn't get--the interrogation started before I got down here and I left them with him.

Q. Well, from what you've seen, how do you sum him up as a man, based on your experience with criminal types?

WADE. Well, I think he's a man that planned this murder weeks or months ago and has laid his plans carefully and carried them out, and has planned at that time what he's going to tell the police that are questioning him at present.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2172--Continued

Q. Within these plans, do you have any inkling as to the why, the reason for it?

WADE. No, very little.

Q. It is commonly supposed because of his affection for Castro's Cuba and communism that he was led to engineer this plot.

WADE. I can't say whether that was it. It's apparently on its face that contributed some, quite a bit to it.

Q. Do you characterize Oswald as superior in intelligence?

WADE. I'd say above average.

Q. What about any other personality traits that you can detect in him? Because as you know anybody who would attempt something so heinous and complex as this must present an interesting personality to the world.

WADE. I'm sure it does, but I know--I don't know--I know very little about personality, psychology, and the like; I'm not an authority by any means on that.

Q. Has he ever expressed any hatred, ill-will, toward President Kennedy or, for that matter, any regret over his death?

WADE. He has expressed no regret that I know of. I don't know about the other.

Q. Now his wife and his mother and his brother are talking to him, I believe, right now up on the fourth floor. Is there any hope that they might convince him to confess?

WADE. I don't know. I understand they want him to.

Q. Have they expressed that wish to the police officials?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2172--Continued

WADE. That I don't know. His brother indicated that to me, that he thought he ought to tell the truth about it.

Q. Are the two brothers close, do you know?

WADE. I doubt it. Robert hasn't seen him since November a year ago, and they've been living right here within --

Q. This man, it seems, wasn't close to anybody. Have you discovered any close friends in Dallas?

WADE. No, sir.

Q. This in itself suggests a certain type of personality that perhaps is inward, can do without people, can be perhaps dedicated?

WADE. Not mixing with other people very much.

Q. It's rumored that perhaps this case would be tried by a military court because of course President Kennedy is our Commander-in-Chief.

WADE. I don't know anything about that. We have him charged in the State court and he's a State prisoner at present.

Q. And you will conduct the trial?

WADE. Yes, sir, I plan to.

Q. And you will ask the capital verdict?

WADE. We'll ask the death penalty.

Q. In how many cases of this type have you been involved, that is, when the death penalty is involved?

WADE. Since I've been District Attorney we've asked--I've asked the death penalty in 24 cases.

Q. How many times have you obtained it?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2172--Continued

WADE. Twenty-three.

COMMENTATOR. Thank you, Mr. District Attorney.

That was District Attorney Wade. We now return to the studios of WFAA.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2172--Continued