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Date 12/3/63

Detective R. L. LOWERY, Thematic No. 1081, Juvenile Bureau, Criminal Investigation Division, Dallas Police Department, residence 383 West Church, Dallas, was informed of interviewing Agents' identities; that he did not have to talk to Agents; that anything he said could be used against him in a court of law, and that he had a right to consult an attorney. LOWERY related the following:

On November 24, 1963, Chief STEVENSON, Head of the Criminal Intelligence Division, came in the Juvenile Bureau at about 8:30 AM and told everyone present to standby from 9:00 AM. At about 11:10 AM, Captain FRANK MARTIN, Head of the Juvenile Bureau, ordered all officers in the Juvenile Bureau to the basement. They all went down to the basement. The contingent from the Juvenile Bureau consisted of Captain MARTIN; Lieutenant GEORGE BUTLER; Detective W. J. CUYCHSHAW; Detective L. D. MILLER; Detective CHARLES GOOLSBY; Patrolman W. J. HARRISON, and himself, LOWERY. As they passed down the corridor near the entrance to the jail office in the basement, they were checked through by Patrolman NELSON. After standing there for a few moments, Captain JONES called everyone to attention and stated he wanted the press to stand back in an area near the base of the exit ramp near the jail door. This area was a parking space enclosed within a low railing and could be described as an extension of the corridor leading by the jail office door. Captain JONES then told the officers that he wanted them to line both sides of the hallway and ramp and to hold the press back. He, LOWERY, stationed himself at the intersection of the hall to the jail office and the Commerce Street exit ramp, or the southwest corner. He observed a large armored truck which had been backed part way down the Commerce Street exit ramp and saw Lieutenant GEORGE BUTLER through the open doors of the truck cleaning it out. There were six or eight officers, both uniform and plain-clothesmen standing around the truck.

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He remembered that Detective COMBEST was standing immediately to his, LOWERY's, left, and Detective B. L. BEATY was next to COMBEST. Patrolman W. J. HARRISON was standing diagonally across the corridor from LOWERY in the other line of police officers on the opposite side. This would have been at the northeast corner of where the ramp and

Ex. NO. 5083

LOWERY, R. L.  
DallasDeposition-  
3-25-64

on 12/3/63 at Dallas, Texas

File # DL 44-1034

by Special Agents ALLEN H. SMITH &amp; TOM E. CHAPOTON Date dictated 12/3/63

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corridor to the jail office intersect.

He estimated that there were between sixty and seventy-five Dallas Police Officers in the basement of City Hall and that there were approximately forty to fifty newspaper people, television people and radio people present.

Captain JONES had stated that only police officers and authorized people from the press were to be allowed in the basement. Every one of the police officers who were not personally known were to identify themselves and the people from the newspapers, radio and television were to identify themselves with their press cards. Some of these individuals wore their press cards attached to their lapels and others did so by holding them out in their hands. He, LOWERY, had no personal knowledge of any unauthorized persons being allowed in the basement.

Some three to five minutes before the shooting of OSWALD, he observed a television camera crew pushing a large television camera, mounted on a tripod and dolly, from TV Station WPAB, Channel 5, Fort Worth, come down the corridor past the door to the jail office and, when they saw the steep ramp and the armored car parked at the exit, one of the crew said they couldn't get up that way. They then pushed the camera through a crowd of newsmen on the east side of the ramp area and he did not see exactly where they went to in the basement, but presumed it was somewhere in the garage parking area. He did not see these individuals identify themselves in any way, and one of the men was pushing on the leg of the tripod on the left side and had his head very low and in such a position that he could not see his face; the man on the right side was also pushing with his head down, and a third individual was somewhere behind the camera with his <sup>head</sup>/<sub>down</sub> between his arms. He did not pay too much attention to this camera crew, but is under the impression there were three individuals pushing the camera.

Also shortly before the shooting, a marked police car left the basement and went up the wrong direction on the Main Street ramp. This police car had its red light

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flashing and there were two or three officers in the car. He did not remember or could not say positively who these officers were. He could not remember the sequence of events at this point, in that he could not recall whether he saw the television camera before the police car left or vice versa. In any event, shortly afterwards someone shouted, "Here he comes," and LOWERY looked towards the jail office door and saw Lieutenant SWAIN emerge. An instant later, Captain FRITZ came out and he was followed by Detective J. R. LEAVELLE with OSWALD. LEAVELLE was handcuffed by his left arm to OSWALD's right arm. These handcuffs were designed with three cuffs, two of the cuffs were on OSWALD's wrist and one was on LEAVELLE's wrist. Another plain-clothes officer was holding OSWALD by the left arm. He did not remember who this officer was. As OSWALD came through the jail office door, the whole line of newsmen and television people seemed to come forward a step. There were numerous flash bulbs popping and newsmen yelling at OSWALD. Just as OSWALD and LEAVELLE were passing by LOWERY, about a foot or so away, a man lunged forward with a gun in his right hand, stuck the gun in OSWALD's chest, and fired from a distance of about twelve inches. He saw the flash of fire from the pistol. The man only took one step and thrust the gun forward at the same time and fired the shot, practically in one motion. He went down before he could fire another with several others on top of him. He did not know who this individual was until his hat fell off in the melee and then saw it was JACK RUBY, whom he has known for several years. RUBY was disarmed and carried inside the jail office. RUBY came from the group of newsmen diagonally across from LOWERY, from the northeast. As the man lunged toward OSWALD, he yelled something with the expletive, "Son-of-a-Bitch" in it. It could have been, "You dirty Son-of-a-Bitch."

After the shooting, there was considerable confusion and he immediately thought of the television crew who had gone through a few moments before and he went over in the area where he had last seen them. Detective CUTCHESAW

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apparently had the same thought, because CUTCHSHAW also went over where they had been and they talked to the television crew, and both of them stated there were only two men pushing the camera. He said he, LOWERY, could not be positive there were three, but thought there were three and CUTCHSHAW also thought there were three men. One of the two television crew said that they didn't know anything about a third man. Lieutenant SWAIN was nearby and LOWERY told him about the television crew and SWAIN instructed him to hold them and get more details. The two men with the camera, which LOWERY described as a long-range camera, then wanted to go to the third floor and LOWERY went with them and stayed with them for about an hour and a half. He reported this to Lieutenant BAKER and was instructed to get the names, addresses and phone numbers of these two television crewmen, which he did, and gave this to Lieutenant BAKER subsequently. He recalled that one of these television people was JOHN ALEXANDER, who was wearing a blue-looking topcoat, and the other was a thin boy, who was wearing a light shirt. He thought it strange that the television crew said there were only two when both he and CUTCHSHAW were under the impression that three men were pushing the camera, and he thought it possible that either RUBY or some other person could have gotten into the area with this group. He said he did not pay enough attention to the three to definitely state that one of them was RUBY.

Detective LOWERY further stated that prior to the shooting there were three plain, unmarked police cars lined up just off the ramp leading to Commerce Street behind the armored truck. One car had made the turn from the garage up the south ramp and the nose of the second car was just on the ramp and the third car was just behind the second car. All of these cars had drivers. He remembers that all three of the drivers were detectives from the Homicide Bureau and stated that, if his memory served him right, the driver of the first was Detective BECK and the second driver was Detective DHORITY. He did not remember the driver of the third car.

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Detective LOWERY has known JACK RUBY for seven or eight years, having met him in connection with his police work. LOWERY has been assigned to the Juvenile Bureau for two years and last saw RUBY about one year previously prior to the shooting of OSWALD.

LOWERY has never been employed by RUBY in any capacity, either full time or part time, and did not know if any Dallas Police Officers had ever been employed by him in any capacity. He stated he did not believe any had because of a police regulation to the effect that no Dallas Police Officer could be employed in any establishment that sold alcoholic beverages.

He did not see RUBY talking to anyone and did not see or talk to RUBY at any time between November 22 and 24, 1963. He said he had absolutely no information as to any association or relationship between RUBY and OSWALD.

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