

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/25/63

Detective JAMES C. WATSON, Auto Theft Bureau, Dallas, Texas, Police Department, furnished the following information:

On the morning of November 24, 1963, WATSON was in a group of detectives instructed by Lieutenant SMART and Captain JONES to assist in keeping the press men and photographers back while Captain WILL FRITZ and his men brought LEE HARVEY OSWALD down from the City Jail to the basement ramp to a waiting armored car. The Dallas Sheriff's Office was waiting with the armored car to take OSWALD to the Sheriff's Office for confinement. It is WATSON's recollection that he received this assignment from Lieutenant SMART sometime early on the morning of November 24, 1963.

After arriving at the basement, WATSON was stationed at the northwest corner of the driveway opening and east of the jail office door. As Captain FRITZ came out of the jail door, he was followed by OSWALD and two detectives holding OSWALD's arms and other detectives following behind. When they reached the corner where they would turn right to go up the ramp about seventy-five feet from the armored car, WATSON was looking to the right and back toward the jail office door and hallway. At that time, he heard a loud noise like a gun or firecracker. He never saw anyone at the time the shot was fired, as he was looking to the right. He looked back when he heard the sound and six or eight detectives had grabbed a man and were wrestling him to the floor. WATSON did not recognize the man at the time. They took OSWALD and this man into the jail office and WATSON stayed in the basement area to assist in keeping everyone there from leaving and to keep down any interference from the watching press men and photographers. He remained in the basement the next two or three hours on orders of Captain JONES and Lieutenant SMART and checked everyone coming or going.

WATSON did not see suspect JACK RUBY or the gun at any time before the shot was fired. He had seen JACK RUBY on several occasions three or four years ago at RUBY's club. He believes he would have recognized RUBY if he saw him in his club, but doubted that he would have recognized him had he observed him in the crowd in the basement of the City Hall.

WATSON advised he had no knowledge of the plans for transporting OSWALD from the City Jail to the County Sheriff's Office, and had received no prior information concerning the plans before receiving his instructions from Lieutenant SMART on the morning of November 24, 1963.

Ex.No. 5104 WATSON, J.C. Deposition
Dallas Dallas 3-26-64

on 11/25/63 at Dallas, Texas File # 44-1037
by Special Agent PAUL L. SCOTT/eah Date dictated 11/25/63

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WATSON EXHIBIT No. 5104