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Date December 3, 1963

8-1-1967

Lieutenant WOODROW WIGGINS, 319 West Corning, Dallas, was informed of Agents identity; that he did not have to talk to Agents; that any statement he made could possibly be used against him in a court of law; and that he had the right of legal counsel.

Lieutenant WIGGINS is a platoon commander of the Dallas Police Department and as such, is in charge of the City Jail.

He related the following:

On November 24, 1963, he was on duty in the City Jail Office in the basement of the City Hall from 6:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. He had no particular assignment outside his legal duties to perform in the transfer of LEE HARVEY OSWALD from the City Jail to the County Jail.

*Mr. [unclear] [unclear] 24, 1963
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]*

The usual procedure in transferring a prisoner is for a Dallas County Deputy Sheriff or a Constable to present a warrant for a particular prisoner. These officers then go up to the fifth floor and obtain custody of the prisoner and take them down the elevator and put them in a paddy wagon for transfer. Usually these officers transfer several prisoners at one time.

On November 24, 1963, because of the nature of the crime, OSWALD had been charged with he was not transferred in the usual manner.

When he, WIGGINS, came on duty at 6:30 A.M., he was informed by the police officer on duty at that time that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had telephoned and said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had received a telephone call to the effect that someone was going to try and kill OSWALD when he was transferred to the County Jail.

Previously he, WIGGINS, had stationed two officers outside OSWALD's cell door at all times except when OSWALD was being interrogated.

Ex.No.5075	WIGGINS,W. Dallas	Deposition 3-24-64
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on 12/2/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639
 by Special Agents TOM E. CHAPOTON & ALLEN H. SMITH/jr Date dictated 12/2/63

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WIGGINS EXHIBIT No. 5075

In view of the information received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, WIGGINS decided to replace the jail trusty who usually operates the jail elevator with a patrol officer. He assigned patrolman C. G. LEWIS to operate the jail elevator during the transfer of OSWALD.

Until OSWALD was brought down to the basement just prior to the shooting, he had last observed OSWALD in his cell on the fifth floor at about 6:45 A.M. At approximately 10:00 A.M., WIGGINS received a call from one of his men on the fifth floor, name not recalled, that some men from Homicide were taking OSWALD out on a "tempo". He explained that a tempo was a written request for a prisoner to be taken from his cell to some other room for interview. The person, who called him in the basement office was either HENRY ELLISON, the assistant jailer or patrolman BASIL ROBINSON, the desk man on the fifth floor.

Until a short time previous to OSWALD's transfer, WIGGINS was in and out of the jail office in the corridors, halls and other areas in the basement on several occasions in connection with his duties in operating the City Jail. He was also busy with the booking of various prisoners. About 30 minutes prior to OSWALD's transfer, only one booking window was to be used, this one being nearest Harwood Street. He did not know who made this arrangement to use only this window. He explained that various procedures to be used had been discussed in the jail office by police officials and he was cognizant of some of the security precautions being taken but received no particular assignment himself.

About 11:20 A.M., someone from the Homicide Division called him and said they were bringing OSWALD down. He said that this might have been Lieutenant WELLS but he was not sure. Before he could hang up the phone, he saw the lights on the jail elevator indicator showing that the elevator was descending and the party emerged from the elevator with OSWALD. He said that there were five police officers with OSWALD, that being Captain FRITZ, Lieutenant SWAIN, officer LEAVELLE, officer GRAVES and he believes officer MONTGOMERY. All of these officers were in the CID (Criminal Investigative Division) of the Dallas Police Department. Captain FRITZ came out first and asked if everything was ready. He did not remember whether or not he, WIGGINS, answered Captain FRITZ but knew that everything was in readiness since he, WIGGINS, had been out in the corridors previously. He had seen the armored truck parking

on the Commerce ramp and had seen two lines of officers standing almost shoulder to shoulder stretching from the entrance to the jail office to the armored truck, a distance of some 40 feet. WIGGINS was standing by the desk in the jail office when the party emerged from the jail elevator and when Captain FRITZ asked if everything was ready, he, WIGGINS, stepped outside the jail office door and the group of police officers with OSWALD in their midst, were out past him, WIGGINS. They had proceeded some 6 or 7 feet from the jail office door when he, WIGGINS, saw a man lunge toward OSWALD and he heard the report of a gun. OSWALD and the Detectives on either side were in between him, WIGGINS, and the gun man and he did not see the pistol. Several of the officers grabbed this man and one of them grabbed the hand of the man, which contained the pistol and they brought him inside the jail office and disarmed him. It was when this man was being subdued that he recognized him as JACK RUBY whom he knew personally. WIGGINS called for a Doctor and an ambulance. OSWALD was also brought into the jail office and the intern, BIEBERDORF came in and tried to give OSWALD first aid but the ambulance came and OSWALD was removed from the jail office and placed in it.

Lieutenant WIGGINS had no additional personnel assigned to him at this time during the transfer of OSWALD and received no assignments or instructions as to anything he should do during the transfer. Lieutenant WIGGINS did not know who was in charge of procedures and arrangements but did say that Chief STEVENSON, Chief BACHELOR, Captain JONES, Captain TALBERT, Lieutenant PIERCE and Sergeant DEAN and Sergeant PUTNAM were outside the jail office.

Prior to the time OSWALD was brought down in the jail elevator, uniform police officers had searched the basement area, which he presumed was a result of the tip that someone was going to try and kill OSWALD.

Lieutenant WIGGINS stated that he would guess there were some 75 to 100 police officers present in the basement area when OSWALD was shot and that he would estimate there were some 75 to 100 newspaper reporters, television announcers, radio announcers and cameramen in the basement.

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WIGGINS EXHIBIT No. 5075—Continued

Lieutenant WIGGINS had no information as to security measures in effect at the time of the transfer. He knew of no unauthorized persons being present, he did not see RUBY come into the basement and did not see RUBY talking to anyone prior to the shooting or subsequent to the shooting. He had not seen RUBY previously for the last three or four years. Lieutenant WIGGINS did not know the identity of the driver of the armored truck. Shortly after the shooting, some five or ten minutes, Mr. SORRELLS the Secret Service Agent in charge of the Dallas Office of Secret Service, came into the jail office to use the phone so he presumed SORRELLS had been in the basement during this time.

Lieutenant WIGGINS has known JACK RUBY for 12 or 13 years having contacted him on numerous occasions in connection with police matters, he, WIGGINS, having previously been assigned to the Burglary Squad prior to being assigned to the City Jail in 1958. He had also visited the Silver Spur and the Vegas Club, both operated by RUBY in Dallas. While off duty, these visits were for entertainment and on these occasions, he was accompanied by his wife or friends. He had not been in either of these establishments for three or four years.

Lieutenant WIGGINS has never been employed by RUBY in any capacity, in his spare time or for any other reason. He does not know of any police officers who have ever been employed by RUBY. He explained that some 12 or 14 years ago, a police regulation was put into effect that no Dallas police officers were to work in any establishment that sold beer.

Lieutenant WIGGINS knew of no association or relationship between JACK RUBY and LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

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