

Q. The combination of those fills the bill?

WADE. Yes, sir.

Q. Will he be before the J.P. tomorrow?

WADE. I think he's already been before the J.P., hasn't he? I think he was taken before the J.P. The J.P. was here today, I know. He called me. If they have an examining trial in which they may convict, that I don't know when that will be or whether it has been set yet.

Q. When will you be prepared to go before the grand jury?

WADE. Well, we're prepared to go now and--but it will probably be Wednesday before we can, I mean. We'd sort of set up to have the other one Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday and so we will run this one in its place.

Reporters. Thank you very much, Mr. Wade.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2168--Continued

KRLD-TV reel 23
NBC-TV reel 43
KLIF Audio reel 8
WRB Audio reel 14
WFAA-TV reel PRT 27

Saturday, November 23, 1963 -- 12:30 a.m.

PRESS CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY WADE
IN ASSEMBLY ROOM, DALLAS POLICE AND COURTS
BUILDING

WADE. He's been formally charged in Precinct 2 of Dallas County Judge David Johnston. He's been taken before the judge and advised of his rights. He's been charged with both killing Officer Tippit and John F. Kennedy--

Q. Can you tell any of the evidence against him so far, sir?

WADE. No. We are still working on the evidence. This has been a joint effort by the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Dallas Police Department, the Dallas Sheriff's office, my office, and Capt. Will Fritz has been in charge of it.

Q. What does he tell you about the killing of the President? Does he volunteer anything or what has he got to-- ?

WADE. He denies it.

Q. -- was he charged with the President's killing?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169

- 2 -

WADE. 11:26 he was -- 11:26 he was charged on the latter charge.

Q. -- good case -- with the murder of President Kennedy?
On the basis--

WADE. Evidence gathered by the four agencies mentioned.

Q. Do you have a good case?

WADE. I figure we have sufficient evidence to convict him.

Q. Are there other people involved?

Q. -- this was an organized plot or was it just one man?

WADE. There is no one else but him.

WADE. -- he has been charged in the Supreme Court with murder with malice. The charge carries the death penalty, which my office will ask in both cases.

Q. Is there a similar Federal charge?

WADE. I don't know of any.

Q. -- ?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

- 3 -

WADE. Well, there is a lot of the physical evidence that was gathered, including the gun, that is on its way by Air Force jet to the FBI crime lab in Washington. It will be back here tomorrow. There are some other things that's going to delay this for probably the middle of next week before it's presented to the grand jury.

Q. -- witnesses to use against him in the killing of President Kennedy?

WADE. We have approximately 15 witnesses.

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

WADE. I didn't say that.

Q. What did they do?

WADE. That have evidence that indicates his guilt.

Q. --the President or the police officer, District Attorney Wade? -- evidence from the fifteen -- ? The police officer or the President's killing?

WADE. Both.

Q. Do you have anything to indicate why the man killed the President, if he so did? -- motive ?

WADE. Well, he was a member of the movement--the Free Cuba movement--

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

Q. What's the make of the rifle, sir?

WADE. It's a Mauser, I believe.

Q. Does the suspect deny the -- ?

WADE. Yes, he denies them both.

Q. Are you through questioning him?

WADE. No, we have further questioning to do now.
We will probably let him sleep -- and -- talk to him in the morning.

Q. What about motive, Mr. Wade?

WADE. Sir?

Q. Motive.

Q. What was his politics?

WADE. He didn't give any motive since he denies them both.

Q. Does he have a lawyer?

WADE. His, I don't know whether he has or not. His mother has been here and his brother has been here all afternoon.

Q. Does he appear sane to you?

WADE. Yes, he does.

Q. Is he a member of any Communist-front organization?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

WADE. That I can't tell you at the present time.

A. Any organizations that he belongs to that you know of?

WADE. Well, the only one I mentioned was the Free Cuba movement or whatever that--

Q. Fair--fair --

WADE. Fair Play for Cuba, I believe was it.

Q. Why do you think he would want to kill the President?

WADE. The only thing I do is take the evidence, present it to a jury, and I don't pass on why he did it or anything else. We, we're just interested in proving that he did it, which I think we have.

Q. Did he struggle on arrest?

WADE. There was a struggle at the time of the arrest.

There was a struggle in the Texas Theatre when a Dallas police officer was arresting him, and the pistol was snapped at another police officer's head and didn't fire. At that time a scuffle ensued inside of the Texas Theatre where he was arrested by six officers.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

- 6 -

Q. Sir, has that pistol been previously discharged?

WADE. Yes. Twice.

Q. Has he told anybody why he killed the President?

WADE. He hasn't admitted killing the President to anyone.

Q. If he's been formally charged with killing the President, how is it he says there is no connection to it?

WADE. I just don't know what he says. He says he didn't do it.

Q. Do you know his place of birth?

WADE. I do not.

Q. Age, and so forth, and other specifications on the man?

Q. What is his correct age, please?

WADE. Twenty-four, I believe.

Q. Full name?

WADE. His full name is Lee Harvey Oswald, O-S-W-A-L-D.

Q. Has he been in trouble before in Fort Worth or Dallas?

WADE. I think he has been in Dallas only two months.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169—Continued

- 7 -

Q. Where does he come from? From where?

WADE. New Orleans.

Q. What is his mother's name?

WADE. I do not have that with me.

Q. Was he in Russia? Henry, was he in Russia?

Q. -- and no longer has citizenship to the United States. Is this correct, sir?

WADE. I can't verify it or deny that.

Q. Mr. Wade, where will he be held? Where will he spend the night?

WADE. He will spend the night in the Dallas city jail, upstairs.

Q. Do you intend to move him, Henry?

WADE. He will be moved probably the first of the week.

Q. Are you planning to charge anyone else in this at all at this moment?

WADE. As of the moment, we do not.

Q. Are you looking for any other suspects at all now that you've got-- ?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169—Continued

WADE. Well, we're always looking for other suspects, but we have none at present.

Q. Henry, do you think this is part of the Communist conspiracy?

WADE. I can't say that.

Q. Well, do you have any reason to believe that it might be?

WADE. No, I don't have any reason to believe either way on it.

Q. Was there any good prints on the rifle?

Q. Has he said under questioning--

WADE. What?

Q. Has he said under questioning that he is either a Communist or a Communist sympathizer?

WADE. I don't know whether he has or not. I do not know the answer to that question.

Q. Does he have a wife living in Dallas?

WADE. Yes, in--

Q. Is she Russian?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

WADE. I haven't talked with her. She's been up here though, tod-- tonight.

Q. What time will you begin in the morning with him?

WADE. Seven or eight o'clock I would say, roughly.

Q. Do you have some prints on him?

WADE. They are on their way to Washington at present.

Q. Who? Which?

Q. What's on the way to Washington?

WADE. The gun. The rifle.

Q. Both guns?

WADE. Both guns.

Q. Can you say whether you have a witness who says he saw the man pull the trigger?

WADE. No, I cannot.

Q. What was the result of the paraffin test?

WADE. I am not going into the evidence here.

Q. Henry, what did he say his reason was for carrying a pistol?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

- 10 -

WADE. I don't think he gave any reason.

Q. Where are you going to move him to on Monday?

WADE. Down to the County jail.

Q. How much longer do you plan to question him tonight?

WADE. No longer, I don't think.

Q. What was his line of work?

WADE. -- the leg work for the Texas Depository Books.

Q. Is that a State institution?

WADE. No, sir. It's a company that sells books--sells books to public schools, as I understand it.

Q. Mr. Wade, you said that he did not know that he was charged with the murder of the President. Has he been officially advised that he is charged with that now?

WADE. I do not know. He has just been charged. I know he has been advised of the other and taken before the magistrate.

Q. Is the magistrate in this building?

WADE. He was in this building.

Q. In the same room where the suspect was interrogated?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

- 11 -

WADE. Yes, sir.

Q. Who was the magistrate?

WADE. David Johnston.

Q. Is he a J.P.?

WADE. J.P., Precinct 2, Dallas County, Texas.

Q. Did he answer that question whether the man had been advised that he's been charged? The man said here that he didn't know he had been, Dave, how about that?

JOHNSTON. He has not been advised that the charge of the murder of the President, because he is on capital offense on the other.

Q. He has not been advised?

JOHNSTON. He has not been advised.

Q. He has been charged?

JOHNSTON. He has not been arraigned on the second charge.

Q. No, but has he been charged?

JOHNSTON. Yes, he is formally charged.

Q. When will the arraignment be for the President?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

WADE. I imagine in -- tonight sometime.

Q. He has NOT been arraigned on the assassination?

WADE. No.

Q. He will be arraigned sometime this evening?

WADE. Probably.

Q. When will he be arraigned?

WADE. Shortly.

Q. Where will that arraignment take place, sir?

WADE. Here, right here at the City Hall.

Q. Will Justice of the Peace Johnston do that?

WADE. I don't know, actually know, for sure when.

He has already been arraigned and held without bond on another murder charge.

Q. Mr. Wade, what was his address here in Dallas?

WADE. I don't have them -- he had two.

Q. Was Officer Tippit struck by two or three shots?

WADE. I'm not sure about that, three, I believe, but I don't know. Somebody here says three.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

Q. Has he some fingerprints-- ?

WADE. I don't know that. I'm sure someone does, but I don't.

Q. When will he be arraigned? Tomorrow?

WADE. I believe he, tonight or first thing in the morning.

Q. Mr. Wade, do you have anything else on his background-- education, his family life or anything like that?

Q. The Russian trip--is it exact he went to Russia?

WADE. He did spend some time in Russia.

Q. Do you know when, sir?

WADE. I do not.

Q. Was he a talkative suspect, or did he just clam up? Did he talk at all?

WADE. I think he talked quite a bit.

Q. Did he make any conflicting statements?

WADE. He, he denied the, both murders all the way, though.

Q. Did he admit possession of the gun?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

- 14 -

WADE. Denied both of them.

Q. Any complicity-- ?

WADE. Had one on him when he was arrested.

WADE. He denied possession and ownership of both guns.

Q. Did his fingerprints match the fingerprints on the gun or the rifle?

WADE. That's part of the evidence that we'll later determine a little more definite on. The gun has just been sent to Washington.

Q. Is he a former Marine?

WADE. Sir?

Q. Is he a former Marine?

WADE. I don't know the answer to that.

Q. Mr. Wade, was he well-known to the Dallas police up to this time, as a--because of his Communist background?

WADE. I don't think so.

Q. Was there any reaction to the death of the President from this man--at all?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

- 15 -

WADE. I don't know the answer to that because I was out at Parkland Hospital until about 5:30 and the reason for a lot of this I don't know.

Q. Sir, did he express any regret?

WADE. He denied it.

Q. Do you have any evidence that he is a Communist?

Q. -- the President's death?

WADE. No, sir.

Q. Do you have any evidence that anyone is behind him-- an organization or group?

WADE. No, sir.

Q. Did anyone contact you on his behalf?

Q. -- knows whether this rifle was definitely the murder weapon, or is that something-- ?

WADE. That has not been determined as yet.

Q. Have there been ballistic tests made locally on the gun?

WADE. No, sir.

Q. Has anyone contacted you on his behalf?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

WADE. No, sir.

Q. He has no counsel at the present time?

WADE. I don't know if he -- someone has talked to the police about it, but I don't, not to me in person.

Q. Mr. Wade, did his brother or mother enlighten you on any of his background?

WADE. I didn't talk with either one of them.

Q. Did Chief Curry, by chance, talk to either one of them?

WADE. You will have to ask him.

WADE. Is that about all?

Q. Did you find his fingerprints on the snub-nosed revolver that killed the police officer, sir?

WADE. That's sent to Washington for that examination.

Q. That was also sent along with the rifle?

WADE. Yes, sir.

Q. In other words, material evidence doesn't deal with weapons at all?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

WADE. Sir?

Q. Material evidence doesn't have anything to do with weapons -- with the -- the gun?

WADE. Yes, that is material evidence. That is material evidence, the gun.

Q. Do you have the results of the paraffin tests?

WADE. No, sir. I don't have them in front of me.

Q. Do you know what they are?

WADE. I know a little about it, but I don't want to go into the evidence.

Q. Sir, can you confirm the report that his wife said he had in his possession as recently as last night, or some recent time, the gun such as the one that was found in the building?

WADE. Yes, she did.

Q. She did?

WADE. She did, but--

Q. She did what? She did what?

WADE. She said that he had a gun of this kind in his possession.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

- 18 -

Q. Rifle? A rifle?

Q. Last night?

WADE. Last night. It's that -- the reason I answer that question--the wife in Texas can't testify against her husband, as you say or may not know.

Q. Did she say anything about his, you know, talking about this assassinating the President, at any time?

WADE. I haven't talked with her.

Q. Who is the name of the interpreter who was with his wife, sir?

WADE. I don't know.

Q. -- assassination?

Q. And he flatly denies everything?

WADE. Denies it all.

Q. Denies he was in the building?

WADE. Yes, that day.

Q. He does work there.

WADE. He works there.

- 19 -

Q. What did he say he did today?

WADE. I don't remember. He has no--

Q. Does he have a police record?

WADE. I don't know. You can find that out from Captain Fritz.

Q. That's a good job, Henry.

Q. He has no, he has no alibi that will-- ?

WADE. I don't think he has any, but I'm not sure of that--

Q. Was that one of his children that the wife brought with them? The infant couldn't have been only a couple months old.

WADE. He does. His wife had a baby about 2 months ago, so that must have been the wife.

Q. Are they separated or are they together? Do you know?

WADE. That I don't know.

Q. Mr. Wade, was he under any kind of Federal surveillance because of his background prior to today, today's events?

WADE. None that I know of. We didn't have any knowledge--

Q. His movements weren't accountable to anyone as far as you know?

WADE. We didn't have any information on him. When I say we, being the Dallas police or the Dallas sheriff's office.

Q. What leads you to say he was a very intelligent man?

WADE. He answered the questions very easily.

Q. What kind of-- ? A very intelligent man.

WADE. Well, I don't, I don't mean by that a Ph.D., but I mean he can carry on a conversation with you and tell while you're getting ready to ask him by the time you've asked it.

Q. What about this Free Cuba thing? Has this been known to operate in Cuba? I mean, is this the first time you-all have heard of it, or is there a known group in-- ?

WADE. I think the name of this, this Fair Play for Cuba, isn't it? There seems to be two different organizations.

Q. Yeah. Fair Play for Cuba, Fair Play for Cuba.

Q. Is this something that has been known to exist in Dallas, this Fair Play thing?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

WADE. I didn't know of it. I don't think they--

Q. -- Texas Theatre?

WADE. Yes.

Q. You wouldn't know the name of the movie showing there, would you?

REPORTERS. "WAR IS HELL."

WADE. I heard it on--. I'm ready to get away.

Q. I believe that's it, unless Captain Fritz--

Q. Can we talk to Captain Fritz?

WADE. Certainly.

Q. Can we talk to Captain Fritz?

Q. What about the charge against Lee Oswald?

Q. But you have charged him with the assassination of the President?

WADE. Yes, sir.

Q. And what's the next step?

WADE. Gather a little more evidence and present it to a grand jury.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

- 22 -

Q. Do you think you've got a good case against him?

WADE. I think we have sufficient evidence.

Q. Sufficient evidence to convince--to convict him of the assassination of the President?

WADE. Definitely. Definitely.

Q. Was there any indication that this was an organized plot against him or was it just one man after the President?

WADE. We don't know that answer. He's the only one we have.

Q. -- any emotion over the death of the President as far as-- ?

WADE. What's that?

Q. He has shown little or no emotion over the death of the President?

WADE. He shows no emotion over anything that we can tell.

Q. How was he captured? Can you tell us that?

WADE. He was captured in the Texas Theatre.

Q. How did that go?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

- 23 -

WADE. One of the officers was trying to arrest him and he snapped a gun at him and some of the other officers got him between the seats--six officers.

Q. Did he put up a fight?

Q. -- ?

WADE. I do not know.

Q. Did he put up a big fight?

Q. -- ?

WADE. I don't know of any.

Q. Was there a very big fight -- ?

WADE. Quite a big fight.

Q. You talked to his wife--is that correct--today and-- what did she say to you about the gun?

WADE. She talked to someone else. I haven't talked with her.

Q. And what did she say about the gun?

WADE. She said the gun, he had a gun, a gun of this kind in his possession last night.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

Q. Where was the gun?

Q. At any time was he asked was he sorry that President Kennedy had been killed?

WADE. I do not know what all he, was asked.

Q. -- political sentiments regarding the President's -- ?

WADE. No, we actually were working entirely on the murder.

Q. Does he have a Communist record?

WADE. -- the assassination.

Q. Does he have a Communist record?

WADE. I don't know.

Q. What about this Free, rather, the Fair Play for Cuba Committee? Was he associated with-- ?

WADE. The first time I'd ever heard of that organization, but you can draw your own--

Q. Does he give any indication of breaking down?

WADE. No, not particularly.

Q. Are you willing to say whether you think this man was inspired as a Communist or whether he is simply a nut or a middleman?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued

WADE. I'll put it this way: I don't think he's a nut.

Q. Do you think he is sane?

WADE. Yes, I think he's sane; don't think he's a nut.

Q. -- ?

WADE. That's you talking. I haven't said that.

Q. Does he understand the charges against him?

WADE. Yes.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2169--Continued