

AFTERNOON SESSION

MARCH 4, 1964

(Following the noon recess period proceedings were resumed before the Jury, as follows:)

JOHN RUTLEDGE,

a witness called by the State, being first duly sworn, testified on his oath as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WADE:

Q Your name is John Rutledge?

A Yes.

Q And how are you employed sir?

A I am a newspaper reporter, Dallas Morning News.

Q How long have you been with the Dallas News, Mr. Rutledge?

A About twelve years.

Q Do you have any certain that you are covering or were covering on the 24th of November, last year?

A Yes, I am the night police reporter.

Q For the Dallas News, at the City Hall?

A Yes sir.

Q Directing your attention back to the afternoon and evening of the 22nd of November, the day of the assassination of the President, where were you at that time?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2410

1 A At the time the shot was fired?

2 Q Later on in the afternoon?

3 A Well, I am night police reporter, I come to work about
4 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon, but I come in early, I reported
5 directly at the police station on the third floor, and was
6 covering the activities inside Captain Fritz's office.

7 Q Now, you are familiar with the layout on the third
8 floor of the police department, are you not?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Will you tell the Jury generally how it is laid out,
11 what offices, and where with reference to the Homicide Office?

12 A Well, directly across the hall from the Homicide Office
13 is the Burglary and Theft Bureau; at one extreme end of the
14 hall is the Press Room. And the opposite direction from the
15 Press Room, past Captain Fritz's office, is where Homicide
16 is located. And there is a door that enters into the eleva-
17 tor used as the jail elevator to take prisoners either up to
18 the jail or downstairs to the jail desk.

19 Q Now, that is a long corridor down that way; and there's
20 one down the other way also?

21 A Yes sir, on the other end of the corridor or the
22 office of the Police Chiefs.

23 Q The elevator corridor comes in from the side, is that
24 right?

25 A Yes, that's right.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2410—Continued

1 Q What is the main elevator.

2 A Yes.

3 Q On that occasion, did you see the Defendant, Jack Ruby,

4 there on the third floor of the Dallas Police Department?

5 A Yes. I saw him right outside of Captain Fritz's office,

6 in the hall.

7 Q Now, directing your attention back to the elevator first,

8 did you at any time -- you recognize the defendant sitting in

9 the courtroom over here, do you not, as Jack Ruby?

10 MR. BELLI: He will stipulate the identification

11 if he knows him.

12 A Yes sir.

13 Q Did you see how he gained entrance from the elevator

14 into the third floor?

15 A That's a public elevator.

16 Q A public elevator?

17 A Yes sir. At one time I saw him come from the elevator

18 come, past the police guards who were keeping everybody except

19 members of the Press out of that hallway, in front of the

20 homicide office.

21 MR. ALLENBACH: Could you talk a little bit

22 louder, please sir.

23 Q About what time of night was this, do you know?

24 A Oh, it was sometime probably between 5:30 o'clock and

25 6:00 o'clock.

1 Q Go ahead and tell how you saw him get by the guard --

2 before I ask you that, describe to the Jury what was in all

3 the corridors on the third floor of that building, by way of

4 television cameras, or the films present from some parts of

5 the country?

6 A Well, at the entrance to the corridor that leads to

7 Captain Fritz's office, in which I often sit, there was a

8 tangle of cables, and there were three tripods; and on each

9 one of those tripods, there were a lot of bright lights that

10 were shining down the hall, blinding if you looked at them,

11 and a couple of live television cameras were there; and the

12 rest of the hall was a packed mass of newspaper and television

13 reporters and camera men, jammed in like sardines in a can on

14 this floor.

15 Q Now, let's go back, were there police guards at the

16 elevator, as you came in, to check all who were coming in?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Now, go ahead and tell us, how you saw, if you did see

19 Jack Ruby, the Defendant, get by the guards there?

20 A Well, I saw Jack and two out-of-State reporters, whom

21 I did not know, leave the elevator door and proceed toward

22 those television cameras, to go around the corner where Captain

23 Fritz's office was. Jack walked between them. These two

24 out-of-State reporters had big Press cards pinned on their

25 coats, great big red ones, I think they said, "President

1 Kennedy's visit to Dallas -- Press", or something like that.
 2 And Jack didn't have one, but the man on either side
 3 of him did. And they walked pretty rapidly from the elevator
 4 area past the policeman, and Jack was bent over like this --
 5 writing on a piece of paper, and talking to one of the
 6 Reporters, and pointing to something on the piece of paper,
 7 he was kind of hunched over.
 8 Q And did that put him in the corridor on the third
 9 floor of the Police City Hall up there?
 10 A That's right. The three of them just walked past the
 11 policeman, around the corner, past those cameras and lights,
 12 and on down the hall.
 13 Q Now, directing your attention to Captain Fritz's and
 14 the Homicide office, that opens into the corridor there, did
 15 you see while you were there, Lee Harvey Oswald being brought
 16 in or out of the Homicide, more than once, or once, or any
 17 time?
 18 A Yes sir, several times they brought him out from
 19 Homicide.
 20 Q Is that where they were interrogating him, in Homicide,
 21 as far as you know?
 22 A Yes sir, that's where he was being interrogated.
 23 Q Now, did you ever see the Defendant, Jack Ruby -- let's
 24 get the time again, approximately what time on Friday night
 25 was this -- did you see him outside of the Homicide Bureau?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2410--Continued

1 A The first I saw him was, he was standing right outside
 2 the Homicide Bureau door. It must have been around 6:00 or
 3 7:00 o'clock.
 4 Q 6:00 or 7:00 o'clock?
 5 A I am not real sure of the time.
 6 Q It was early in the evening though, you hadn't been
 7 there too long, I presume?
 8 A No sir. I think I had been there a couple of hours at
 9 least before that.
 10 Q Now, during that time, tell the Jury what, if anything,
 11 he did with reference to -- was he saying or doing anything
 12 there outside the Homicide Department, where they were inter-
 13 rogating Oswald?
 14 A Sure was.
 15 Q Tell the Jury what you remember.
 16 A He was explaining to members of the out-of-State Press,
 17 who everybody was that came in and out of that door; occasion-
 18 ally, for instance, if Captain Fritz stopped out the door and
 19 addressed the Press and told them the progress of the investi-
 20 gation, all these reporters were holding notes of everything
 21 that was said, and then Captain Fritz would go back in the
 22 office. And then all the reporters, being strangers in town,
 23 would start asking each other who that was -- "Was that Sheriff
 24 Decker?"
 25 I heard Jack say, "No, that was not Sheriff Decker."

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2410--Continued

1 That was Captain Fritz."

2 Someone would ask, "Who is Captain Fritz?"

3 "How do you spell it?"

4 There would be a thousand questions shot at him at once,

5 and Jack would straighten them all out and tell them -- "You

6 spell it W-i-l-l F-r-i-t-z, he is the homicide Captain."

7 And then they would say, "Who is the Sheriff, we thought

8 he was the Sheriff?"

9 And then he would spell out Sheriff Decker's name.

10 One time the District Attorney, Mr. Wade came out and

11 then went back in, and they asked who that was, if that was

12 Captain Fritz, and Jack explained to all of them and told them

13 that it wasn't Captain Fritz, that it was Henry Wade, that he

14 was the District Attorney.

15 Q He was just generally furnishing all the out-of-State

16 Press, who everybody was that was there?

17 A Yes sir. He was very good making identification to

18 the strangers.

19 Q Now, let me ask you, did any officer or somebody from

20 over toward across the hall, ask Jack Ruby anything with

21 reference to what he was doing there?

22 A Yes sir. I heard two, possibly three detectives speak

23 to him. One of them I remember was standing near the Burglary

24 and Theft Bureau door.

25 MR. BELLI: I didn't hear you, I am sorry.

1 A I was standing near the Burglary and Theft Bureau door,

2 which is directly across the hall and offset to it, maybe two

3 or three feet from Captain Fritz's door.

4 Q How wide is that corridor, could you judge it, say

5 between you and the rail herd at the Jury box, from one wall

6 to the other?

7 A I suppose it's as far as from myself to the first Juror

8 over there.

9 Q That is the width of the one corridor?

10 A The width of the hall, you sir.

11 Q Was he asked any questions by anyone that you heard?

12 A One of these detectives knew him and yelled -- he had

13 to yell almost at the top of his voice in the hallway to be

14 heard, in fact all this I have testified to previously about

15 the things Jack told the visiting reporters, that was shouted

16 at the top of his lungs, everybody had to shout to be heard

17 by the man right next to him, and they were all crammed together

18 pretty tight.

19 This detective hollered over in the crowd and said words

20 something like, "Hey Jack, what are you doing here?"

21 Q What did Jack Ruby say, if anything?

22 A He raised -- he got his arm out of that mass of people

23 and waved his hand at this detective and said, "Hello there" --

24 and he called him by his first name and he said, "I am helping

25 all these fellows." And he turned around and he pointed.

1 Q He said he was helping out, indicating the members of
 2 the Press that were jammed in that corridor?
 3 A Yes sir. And he was helping them.
 4 Q Now, that was 6:00 or 7:00 o'clock in the evening. And
 5 now, later on that night did you see him anywhere?
 6 A Later on that night I saw him, it was after that I saw
 7 him come past the police guard, from the public elevator down
 8 in the corridor.
 9 And then I saw him again about midnight, in the base-
 10 ment, in the assembly room.
 11 Q Was that on Friday night the 22nd of November?
 12 A Yes sir.
 13 Q 1963?
 14 A Yes, it was.
 15 Q Was that the conference where they brought Oswald in
 16 there in front of the Press?
 17 A Yes sir, it was.
 18 Q Where was Ruby, the best of your recollection at that
 19 time?
 20 A At the time that Oswald was interviewed by the Press?
 21 Q Yes.
 22 A Well, I didn't see him while Oswald was there. My
 23 attention was focussed on Oswald. And Oswald was all I could
 24 see.
 25 Q Well, Oswald was there a couple of minutes, or three

8

1 minutes probably?
 2 A Yes.
 3 Q And after he was gone, the Press then started asking
 4 me some questions. I was there, was I not?
 5 A Yes, you were there.
 6 Q Did you see at that time Jack Ruby in the audience
 7 anywhere?
 8 A Yes sir. He was just about directly in front of you,
 9 about as far from you as you and I are now, I believe. There
 10 were two little tables in this assembly room, and you were on
 11 the platform, and he was behind the second table.
 12 Q During that conference there, was the question asked
 13 something about some Cuban movement, with reference to Oswald;
 14 did someone ask me about that?
 15 A Some reporter asked you if Oswald was linked with being
 16 a member of the Cuban movement in this country.
 17 Q I believe I answered something about the free Cuba
 18 movement, or something to that effect, didn't I?
 19 A Yes, you did.
 20 Q Now, at that time did the Defendant, Jack Ruby, say
 21 anything from out in the audience; did he volunteer any
 22 information?
 23 A That's the time he answered the question, before you
 24 could answer it.
 25 Q And he gave the name of the "Fair Play for Cuba

1 Committee," I believe?
 2 A He gave the accurate name.
 3 Q I had called it the organization --
 4 A You had it a little bit wrong, and he knew it, and he
 5 straightened you out on it.
 6 Q He said it's the Fair Play for Cuba, is that about
 7 right, or something to that effect?
 8 A Yes sir, that's right.
 9 Q And this went on until say 12:30 or 1:00 o'clock in
 10 the morning, on Saturday morning the 23rd?
 11 A Yes sir, it was at least that late, 1:00 or 1:30.
 12 MR. WADE: Pass the witness.
 13 CROSS EXAMINATION
 14 BY MR. BELLI:
 15 Q Did he speak that very bitterly, in answer to Mr.
 16 Wade, that Mr. Oswald was a member of the Fair Play for Cuba
 17 Committe, I mean as though he were angry, an angry shout. From
 18 the crowd?
 19 A No sir. That was not my impression. It was more that
 20 it was shouted because nearly everything was shouted.
 21 Q You had to shout.
 22 A You had to shout as loud in the assembly room as you
 23 did up in the hall. It was more of an explanatory statement.
 24 Q That is the subversive group, isn't it? At least, wo
 25 are led to believe, the Fair Play for Cuba?

1 WILLIAM G. SERUR
 2 a witness called by the Defendant, having first been duly
 3 sworn, testified on his oath as follows:
 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION
 5 BY MR. TONAHILL:
 6 Q Please state your name, your age, your occupation, and
 7 place of residence to the Court and jury?
 8 A My name is William G. Serur. I live at 1248 Stevens
 9 Ridge Drive. I'm self employed. I'm a salesman for myself.
 10 I sell out of my car, and I travel Dallas and Ft. Worth.
 11 Q How do you spell your last name?
 12 A S-E-R-U-R.
 13 Q How old are you?
 14 A Fifty-one.
 15 Q You live here in Dallas?
 16 A Yes, sir.
 17 Q You're fifty-one?
 18 A Yes, sir.
 19 Q How long have you lived here?
 20 A About twenty-seven or twenty-eight years.
 21 Q And you are a salesman?
 22 A Yes, sir.
 23 Q What do you sell?
 24 A Drug sundries and novelties.
 25 Q Did you ever engage in the upholstery business?