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Mr. Belin

7-11-64

Oswald's Destination at the Time of the Tippit Shooting

Where was Oswald headed at the time of the Tippit shooting? Because of the events of November 24, wide speculation centered on the apartment of Jack Ruby, approximately two thirds of a mile away. Every effort has been made to uncover credible evidence of a possible link between Oswald and Ruby. No such evidence was discovered. Nor is there any definite evidence of any other specific destination of Oswald.

Perhaps Oswald was just walking, with no particular destination in mind. However, it may be significant that when Oswald was arrested he had in his shirt pocket a bus transfer from the Marsalis bus. After the Marsalis bus left the downtown Dallas area, the only transfer point was at Jefferson Avenue, barely three blocks away from the scene of the Tippit shooting. Oswald's bus transfer, marked for 1:00 p.m. in the downtown area, was valid until 1:15 p.m. or until the next scheduled bus after the time of issue if that bus would not come until after 1:15 p.m. Walking to the transfer point would enable Oswald to save the bus fare by using his transfer, a not unlikely course of action based upon his living habits. There were a number of buses which Oswald could have boarded at the Marsalis and Jefferson transfer point. Walking east on East Tenth Street was the direct route to this point, particularly if Oswald wanted to stay off the main thoroughfare of Marsalis as much as possible. Barely a block away was another bus which could have been boarded by Oswald at Jefferson and Ewing. This particular bus, Route 55, traveled south on Ewing, eventually getting on Lancaster Road, and at that time of

the day was at Jefferson and Ewing at 12:40 p.m. and 1:40 p.m., so that Oswald's transfer would have been good on the 1:40 p.m. bus. Had Oswald boarded that bus, it would have taken him to Lancaster Road and the "Lisbon" pickup point for the first bus which went south after the assassination. This was a Greyhound bus which would pick up southbound passengers around 3:30 p.m. This bus could be taken directly to Waco, Austin, and San Antonio, Texas, where connections could be made for Corpus Christi, Brownsville, and Laredo, Texas, and Monterrey, Mexico.

Though Oswald's immediate goal at the time of the Tippit shooting may have been the area of the transfer point for buses at Marzalis and Jefferson, the Commission does not have sufficient evidence upon which to make such a conclusion, nor is there any affirmative evidence that Oswald had any other specific destination.

Oswald's Destination at the Time of the Tippit Shooting. Since Lee Oswald shot police officer J. D. Tippit while headed in the general direction of Jack Ruby's apartment, approximately two-thirds of a mile from the scene of the shooting,<sup>449/</sup> some persons have speculated that Oswald was headed toward a rendezvous with Ruby. At the time of the Tippit shooting Ruby was either at the Dallas Morning News or enroute from that building

to the Carousel Club. Nothing in the evidence about Ruby's actions suggests he was making any effort to meet Ruby while at the Morning News.<sup>450/</sup> Of course, many theories can be devised concerning Oswald's destination when he shot Tippit. To ascertain Oswald's possible destination, the Commission has examined other evidence for significant signs. One item of evidence which may be more significant than the location of Jack Ruby's apartment is that when Oswald was arrested he had in his pocket a bus transfer from the Marsalis bus.<sup>451/</sup> The only transfer point in Oak Cliff on the Marsalis line was at Jefferson Avenue, barely three blocks away from the scene of the Tippit shooting.<sup>452/</sup> Another transfer point at which the ticket could have been used in Oak Cliff was at Jefferson and Ewing, one block south of the Marsalis stop.<sup>453/</sup> At the time Tippit was shot, Oswald's bus transfer was still valid at either transfer point.<sup>454/</sup> By walking to such a transfer point, Oswald would have saved a bus fare, a not unlikely course of action based upon his living habits. And Oswald, who was headed east on East Tenth Street at the time Tippit approached him, was taking a direct route to the two nearby transfer points on Jefferson, particularly if he wanted to avoid the main thoroughfare of Marsalis as much as possible.<sup>456/</sup>

Of the various buses which Oswald could have boarded at those transfer points, one, a Route 55 bus, traveled south on Ewing and eventually made a stop on Lancaster Road where the first southbound Greyhound bus after the assassination was scheduled to pick up passengers around 3:30 p.m.<sup>456/</sup> That Greyhound bus could have been taken/directly to Waco, by him

- 62 -

Austin, and San Antonio, Texas, where connections could have been made for Corpus Christi, Brownsville, and Laredo, Texas, and Monterrey, Mexico.<sup>457/</sup> Oswald had just enough money on his person when arrested to pay for a bus fare across the Mexican border.<sup>458/</sup> Armed with a gun and ammunition—having just shot the President and quick to shoot Tippit, Oswald may have been prepared to rob or kill in order to reach a further goal.

The Commission cannot conclude, however, that Oswald was attempting to flee to Mexico when confronted by Tippit. Even an inference based upon Oswald's bus transfer, local and cross-country bus schedules, bus fares, pocket money, arms, and the shooting of Tippit, is insubstantial. Perhaps Oswald was fleeing elsewhere than Mexico, or perhaps he was just walking, frightened and aimless. Oswald did not provide an answer, nor

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