



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: EILEEN SULLIVAN

AUGUST 12, 1997

(202) 724-0088, EXT. 253

ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD RELEASES A.P. WIRE COPY DETAILING KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, OSWALD SHOOTING, JFK FUNERAL

The Assassination Records Review Board announced today that it is releasing the minute-by-minute account contained in the Associated Press (A.P.) wire copy of the events of November 22 through November 26, 1963, chronicling the first news reports of the shooting of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby shooting Oswald, and the funeral of President Kennedy.

The wire copy was donated by Richard Barnes, a former A.P. reporter. Barnes was assigned to A.P.'s San Francisco Bureau at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy. A few weeks after the assassination, he asked the news editor if he could have the A.P. wire copy from November 22 through November 26, when it was time to be thrown out. The news editor agreed. Barnes took possession of the wire copy approximately one month after the assassination and has had the materials ever since.

Barnes has donated a complete copy of the wire reports to the Review Board for inclusion in The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection (JFK Collection) at the National Archives and Records Administration. Barnes still has the original wire copy that was received by teletypewriter in the A.P. San Francisco Bureau newsroom.

"The Associated Press wire copy is a very valuable addition to the JFK Collection at the National Archives," said Dr. Anna K. Nelson, a member of the Review Board. "This material, which recounts

-more-

all of the events of those tragic days in November 1963 as they became known and were reported to the world, will allow future generations to share in the unfolding drama of those terrible few days.”

The A.P. wire copy begins on the morning of Friday, November 22nd with a series of stories unrelated to President Kennedy’s trip to Dallas. A story on Vietnam states that “Administration officials who met in Honolulu two days ago with American diplomatic and military leaders from South Vietnam agreed cautiously that things are going reasonably well so far.” Another item discusses popular entertainer Vaughn Meader’s desire to “get away from Kennedy impersonations.” A report out of Washington announces that Congress had granted President Kennedy “the record-breaking \$315 billion national debt ceiling he asked for the next seven months.”

Then a bulletin flashes at 12:39 p.m.:

BULLETIN DALLAS, NOV. 22 (AP)-PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS SHOT TODAY JUST AS HIS MOTORCADE LEFT DOWNTOWN DALLAS. MRS. KENNEDY JUMPED UP AND GRABBED MR. KENNEDY. SHE CRIED, OH, NO! THE MOTORCADE SPED ON.

Reports continue to come out of Dallas regarding the shooting. Later, there is the first report that the President is dead:

FLASH DALLAS-- PRESIDENT KENNEDY DIED AT 1:00 P.M. (CST)

Soon there is a report with the first description of a suspect and then follows the first report that Lee Harvey Oswald has been taken into custody:

-more-

BULLETIN DALLAS, TEX., NOV. 22 (AP)- THE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT TODAY ARRESTED A 24-YEAR-OLD MAN, LEE H. OSWALD, IN CONNECTION WITH THE SLAYING OF A DALLAS POLICE OFFICER SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED.

HE WAS ALSO BEING INTERROGATED TO SEE IF HE HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH THE SLAYING OF THE PRESIDENT.

OSWALD WAS PULLED SCREAMING AND YELLING FROM THE TEXAS THEATER IN THE OAK CLIFF SECTION OF DALLAS.

Gradually more information becomes known about Oswald and is contained in subsequent wire reports. Later in the night, a bulletin reports that Oswald has been charged with murdering President Kennedy.

On Sunday morning, November 24, comes the report on the wire that Oswald has been shot during his transfer from the custody of the Dallas Police Department to the Dallas Sheriff's Department:

FLASH!! -- OSWALD SHOT

Quickly followed by:

BULLETIN DALLAS, NOV. 24 (AP) LEE HARVEY OSWALD, ACCUSED SLAYER OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, WAS SHOT TODAY APPARENTLY IN THE STOMACH AS HE LEFT CITY HALL UNDER HEAVY GUARD EN ROUTE TO AN ARMORED CAR FOR TRANSFER TO THE COUNTY JAIL.

The focus of the A.P. reports shifts to the funeral of President Kennedy on Monday,

-more-

November 25th in Washington, D.C. The collection of wire copy concludes on the evening of Tuesday, November 26th, the day following the funeral. The story on the funeral service at Arlington National Cemetery ends with a description of Mrs. Kennedy:

MRS. KENNEDY RECEIVED THE FLAG, AND WITH FLAG UNDER HER ARM, SHE APPROACHED THE GRAVE AND LIT THE ETERNAL FLAME. IT WAS 3:12 P.M. MRS. KENNEDY THEN STEPPED AWAY.

The copy of the A.P. wire reports being released today has been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in The JFK Collection, which is housed at the National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland.

Copies of selected parts from the A.P. wire copy are available from the Assassination Records Review Board, 600 E Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20530; telephone number: (202) 724-0088.

The Assassination Records Review Board was established by the JFK Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.

The Review Board consists of the following members:

Honorable John R. Tunheim, Chair; U.S. District Court Judge, District of Minnesota.

Dr. Henry F. Graff; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.

Dr. Kermit L. Hall; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.

Dr. William L. Joyce; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.

Dr. Anna K. Nelson; Distinguished Adjunct Historian in Residence at The American University.