

Secret Disservice

John F Kennedy was assassinated on the streets of Dallas, TX, on November 22, 1963. The Secret Service, whose job it is to protect the President, failed to do that. In fact, certain high-level officials in the Secret Service conspired to kill him.

Just outside the window at the Sheriff's office was Dealey Plaza. Sheriff Bill Decker's 100 (or so) deputies, including those in plain clothes and detectives, were to play a vital role in protecting the President as his motorcade made its way past the courthouse at 505 Main Street and through Dealey Plaza. But that didn't happen. At 10:30am on November 22, 1963 (two hours before JFK's murder), the Sheriff called a meeting and instructed his deputies that there had been a change in their assignments. They were to have no role in providing protection for the President. Instead, they were to merely stand outside their building and represent the Sheriff's office.

The deputies were stunned, because they knew how dangerous this particular stretch of the motorcade route really was. Dealey Plaza had tall buildings, fences, and openings to the city's sewer system. It was an ideal location for anyone who wanted to shoot the President. Especially dangerous was the sharp turn from Houston onto Elm Street, because it forced the motorcade to slow to a crawl, leaving JFK almost stationary, vulnerable to cross-fire from different directions.

At least the Dallas Police officers assigned to the Presidential security detail would be there at the corner of Houston and Main. But that didn't happen, either. Police Chief Jesse Curry ordered his men to stay away from Dealey Plaza. Like Sheriff Decker, Chief Curry had been ordered to stand down by Winston Lawson, Secret Service representative from Washington, DC.

The Secret Service (Lawson) also made changes in the placement of motorcycle escorts. Normally, they rode alongside the President's limo, partially screening the chief executive from gunfire. But in Dallas, plans were changed on November 21. They were to take positions just behind the limo, where they provided no screen from sniper fire. Lawson told the Warren Commission that JFK had ordered the changes, because he didn't like motorcycles beside the limo. They made too much noise, for one thing.

Other changes had been made by the Secret Service, as well. Agents normally rode on the back of the limo, holding onto the hand rails. They could have obstructed sniper fire, or they could have thrown themselves on the President when shots were heard. But they were repositioned to the car following the presidential limo. The Special Agent in charge of that car ordered his agents not to move, even after shots were heard.

Those changes, also, were reported to have been made at JFK's request. But others testified that Kennedy made no such request. John, they said, was a very easy-going guy. He didn't interfere with his security people. Whatever they needed to do to protect the President was fine with JFK. Furthermore, JFK had never requested these kinds of changes in any prior motorcade. Why now in Dallas? It didn't make sense. Investigation later proved that these changes came from the Secret Service, not from JFK.

The Secret Service is also the group that planned that dangerous turn that forced the motorcade to slow to a crawl. More specifically, it was Lawson, together with Forrest V Sorrels, Dallas Special Agent in Charge. Security rules specified a motorcade speed of no less than 44 mph.

Another violation of standard procedure was that there were no Secret Service Agents assigned to Dealey Plaza. Normally, agents would have ordered all windows closed and sealed prior to the motorcade. There should have been clear instructions to everyone in the buildings to keep the windows closed. There should have been agents strategically placed around the plaza, including snipers placed on rooftops, to monitor the buildings. If any window was opened, it would have immediately been seen by an agent and reported via radio. Agents would have immediately arrived at the window to investigate.

With no Secret Service agents at Dealey Plaza, there was nothing to impede the conspirators. They were free to impersonate Secret Service agents, take control of any evidence (cameras, pictures, movie film, etc), order individuals away from certain areas, intimidate witnesses, etc. It wouldn't have raised suspicion to see Secret Service agents with rifles or handguns in Dealey Plaza, and the conspirators had no problem obtaining phony badges to flash.

Clearly, the Secret Service was a key player in the murder conspiracy. Not all the agents, of course. But Lawson most certainly was a conspirator, and it's very difficult to believe that other high-level agents were not also involved. They were also involved in the coverup.