

KENNEDY

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

NAME Alfred D. Hodge Date 11/10/77 Time 2:30 P.M.  
Address 6573 Kenwood Place 2023 Main St.

Interview:

Interview of Alfred D. Hodge 68 yrs., D.O.B. 3/29/1909.  
Owner of the Buckhorn Trading Post, 2023 Main St.-742-7501.  
Home address 6573 Kenwood-home phone: TA3-3276. Interviewed  
by Harold A. Rose at 2023 Main St., Nov. 10, 1977 at 2:30 P.M.

Mr. Hodge related that at the time of President Kennedy's  
assassination, he owned a bar and adjoining gun shop at 213 -  
215 S. Ervay. About 11:30 P.M., Nov. 22, 1963, Mr. Hodge  
was at home and received a phone call from Capt. Will Fritz.  
He knew Capt. Fritz quite well. Capt. Fritz asked Mr. Hodge  
if he would come down to Police Headquarters and take a look  
at the rifle and handgun that had been recovered to see if he  
had sold them. Captain Fritz told Mr. Hodge to park in the  
basement and he would leave word that it was okay, Mr. Hodge  
left his house and took his Dalmatian dog with him. When he  
pulled into the basement of Police Headquarters, he couldn't  
find a parking space so he blocked some cars, left the dog  
in the car and took the elevator to the third floor. When the  
elevator door opened, he was surprised by a very large crowd and  
television lights and a lot of confusion.

Interviewer

Harold A. Rose

(Signature)

Harold A. Rose

(Typed)

Date Transcribed Nov. 22, 1977 by ba  
(Ini)

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A police officer asked Mr. Hodge, what he was doing there and Mr. Hodge told him that Capt. Fritz had sent for him. The officer left and then came back with two detectives. They were escorting Mr. Hodge to an office and as they walked past a large window, Mr. Hodge saw Capt. Fritz sitting on the edge of a table talking to Oswald, who was sitting in a chair under a light. Mr. Hodge stated that he doesn't believe there was anyone else in the room, except Capt. Fritz and Oswald. Before Mr. Hodge reached the office he was going to, someone told him that he was blocking a detectives car and he would have to move it. The two detectives told Mr. Hodge that they would escort him down and then back up. As they got on the elevator (third floor), Jack Ruby got on also. Jack Ruby and Mr. Hodge knew each other, well. Jack Ruby asked Mr. Hodge what he was doing there and Mr. Hodge, thinking that it was not any of Ruby's business told him that he was under arrest. Ruby asked Mr. Hodge, what he knew about this thing, meaning the assassination. Mr. Hodge didn't say anything and Ruby asked the detectives why Mr. Hodge was arrested and everybody began laughing.

Jack Ruby got off at the first floor and Mr. Hodge continued on to the basement and moved his car. After going back to the third floor, Mr. Hodge walked past the same window again and saw Capt. Fritz and Oswald talking. Mr. Hodge doesn't believe there was anyone else in the room. Mr. Hodge was

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escorted into an office and observed what he described as two F.B.I. agents examining the hand gun, the cylinder was open. Mr. Hodge asked the agents for the serial numbers, so that he could check to see if he had sold them. Mr. Hodge stated that he had Carcanos and cut down Smith and Wessons in his gun shop but after checking later found that he had not sold those particular weapons. After getting the serial numbers, Mr. Hodge was walking back to the elevator and for the third time, saw Capt. Fritz and Oswald talking. Mr. Hodge stated that he cannot remember anyone else in the room on any of the three times, he passed the office but he was looking mainly at Oswald and is not positive about anyone else being in the room. Mr. Hodge stated that after seeing Oswald, three times that night, he thought it may have been Oswald who came into his gun shop, three or four days prior to the assassination, carrying something wrapped in paper, that could have been a long gun. Mr. Hodge stated that this man was looking at different rifles in the shop. Mr. Hodge emphasized that it could have been Oswald, he did not say positively.

Mr. Hodge stated that he became acquainted with Jack Ruby because Ruby had a club called the Silver Spur, not too far from Mr. Hodge's bar and gun shop and Ruby would come into his bar and talk with him.

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Mr. Hodge stated he had been interview by the Warren Commission attorneys.

Mr. Hodge was asked about the Carcano rifle and he stated "anything that will fire, will kill you".