RUSH TO JUDGMENT

Unresolved doubts about the shells and bullets become more portentous when they are considered together. During Cunningham's testimony, Commissioner Boggs asked, 'How many bullets were recovered?' Commission counsel answered

Four were recovered from the body of the officer But as you will see from the testimony which we will get into right now, that doesn't mean four shots were fired, because there is a slight problem here. I would rather have the witness develop it.¹⁶¹

Boggs retorted that counsel was 'being very mysterious', ¹⁶² but a reading of the record suggests that 'modest' might have been more appropriate. The 'slight problem' was that three of the four bullets removed from Tippit's body were manufactured by Winchester-Western, ¹⁶³ while just two of the shells found at the scene were manufactured by that company; ¹⁶⁴ and although only one Remington-Peters bullet was taken from Tippit's body, ¹⁶⁵ two shells of that manufacture were found on the scene. ¹⁶⁶

The Commission suggested that 'there are several possible explanations for this variance', ¹⁶⁷ but the only realistic explanation, once one has rejected the possibility that the missiles had been 'hand-loaded', ^{168*} is that at least five bullets were fired. ¹⁷⁰ If that is so, then at least one Remington bullet missed Tippit and at least one Winchester shell was never presented to the Commission. ¹⁷¹ The possibility that two persons were involved in the murder of the officer, reinforced by the presence of bullets of different manufacture in his body, should be considered in the context of the statement of a witness whom the Commission declined to hear Mrs Clemons said that she observed two men at the scene at the time of the shooting. ¹⁷² This was needless to say not among the 'several possible explanations' considered by the Commission. ¹⁷³

The Commission alleged that a light gray jacket discovered approximately two blocks from the scene of the Tippit murder¹⁷⁴ and designated Commission Exhibit 162¹⁷⁵ belonged to Lee Harvey Oswald and was worn by Oswald when he killed Tippit and fled from the scene.¹⁷⁶

^{*} This possibility was discounted by Cunningham as being 'improbable, because we found no indication of any reloading operation

They looked like factory bullets and factory cases.' 169