

Lessons From the Kennedy Assassination About Witness Testimony



Quentin Brogdon

Crain Brogdon Rogers

214.598.1009 cell

Qbrogdon@cbrlawfirm.com

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The Most Powerful Man in the World

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Dallas: November 1963

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Dealey Plaza

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Johnson Takes Nation's Helm, Pages 4 and 5

The Dallas Morning News

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John F. Kennedy
Life History,
Pages 16 and 17

KENNEDY SLAIN ON DALLAS STREET

JOHNSON BECOMES PRESIDENT

Receives Oath on Aircraft

By ROBERT E. BARKEN
Washington Bureau of The News

In a solemn and sorrowful hour, with a nation mourning its dead President, Lyndon B. Johnson Friday took the oath of office as the 36th chief executive of the United States.

Following custom, the oath-taking took place quickly—only an hour and a half after the assassination of President Kennedy.

Federal Judge Sarah T. Hughes of Dallas administered the oath in a hurriedly arranged ceremony at 2:30 p.m. aboard Air Force 1, the presidential plane that brought Kennedy on his ill-fated Texas trip and on which his body was taken back to Washington.

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kennedy, her stomach still heaving with blood from the assassination, flanked the vice-president as he raised his right hand in the forward compartment of



Lyndon B. Johnson

Gov. Connally Resting Well

Pro-Communist Charged With Act

A sniper shot and killed President John F. Kennedy on the streets of Dallas Friday. A 26-year-old pro-Communist who once tried to defect to Russia was charged with the murder shortly before midnight.

Kennedy was shot about 12:30 p.m. Friday at the foot of Elm Street as the Presidential car entered the approach to the Triple Underpass. The President died in a sixth-floor surgery room at Parkland Hospital about 1 p.m., though doctors said there was no chance for him to live when he reached the hospital.

Within two hours, Vice-President Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as the nation's 36th President inside the presidential plane before departing for Washington.

The gunmen also seriously wounded Texas Gov. John Connally, who was riding with the President.

Four Hours in Surgery

Connally spent four hours on an operating table, but his condition was reported as "quite satisfactory" at midnight.

The assassin, fleeing from the sixth floor of the Texas School Bank Depository Building near the Triple Underpass, used a Mauser .45 rifle bullet smashing into the President's head.

An hour after the President died, police hauled the 24-year-old suspect, Lee Harvey Oswald, out of an Oak Cliff movie house.

He had worked for a short time at the depository, and police had questioned him while searching the building shortly after the assassination. They turned him loose when he was identified as an employee but not out a pickup order on him when he failed to report for a work roll call.

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