

November 23, 1966

The Warren Commission and its findings concerning the assassination of President Kennedy currently are being severely criticized. The conclusions of the Commission, especially its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination, have been openly challenged.

In support of their speculations, some of the critics allege, among other things, that there is a "conflict" between portions of two FBI reports and the official autopsy report regarding the wounds found in the President's body.

While there is a difference in the information reported by the FBI and the information contained in the autopsy report concerning the wounds, there is no conflict. The FBI reports record oral statements made by autopsy physicians while the examination was being conducted and before all facts were known. The autopsy report records the final findings of the examination.

Briefly, this is what happened. The autopsy was conducted at Bethesda Naval Hospital on the evening of November 22, 1963. Two

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ENCLOSURE

PLH ITEM # 937

FBI Agents were present. They chief autopsy surgeon, located back below the shoulder and pro- finger. The examining physician could find no bullet or point of

Unknown to the Agents, it

able to trace the path of the bullet of November 23, 1963, Dr. President at Parkland Hospital confirmed his assumption that a bullet hole in the front of the

The information the autopsy was summarized on December 9, 1963. Meanwhile, the clothing when he was shot was examined revealed a small hole in the back of his coat characteristic of an exit hole for a projectile in the below the collar button. A nick on the left caused by the same projectile which passed noted.

These findings clearly indicated the examining physician's early observation that the bullet penetrated only a short distance into the President's back probably was in error. Since this observation had been included in the FBI report of December 9, 1963, another reference was made to it in the report of January 13, 1964, in conjunction with the Laboratory findings to point up this probability.

The FBI and the Warren Commission each received a copy of the official autopsy report on December 23, 1963, from Secret Service following a specific request for this document. Since the FBI knew the Commission had a copy of the official autopsy, its contents were not repeated in an FBI report.

Recently the charge has been made that the FBI altered the film of the assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder. This is totally false. The FBI never had the original Zapruder film in its possession--it was purchased by a national magazine. The FBI obtained a copy of the original uncut film and reproduced this for the Commission which since has turned it over to National Archives.

At the direction of President Johnson, the FBI conducted a prompt, intensive, objective and thorough investigation of the assassination. The results of this investigation were accurately reported to

the Warren Commission. Not one shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy with Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy. All available evidence and facts point to one conclusion--that Oswald acted alone in his crime.

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