

decided to burn his original notes after the Commission's story contradicted what he had written down. Not only is this a further indication that the autopsy records were tampered with before publication in the Warren Report but it also rebuts the Commission's fantasy about Exhibit 399 hitting both President Kennedy and Governor Connally. In addition, Governor Connally himself said on a CBS television show on September 27, 1964: "I understand there is some question in the minds of the experts about whether or not we could both have been hit by the same bullet . . . the first bullet. I just don't happen to believe that. I won't believe it, never will believe it, because, again, I heard the first shot. I recognized it for what I thought it was. I had time to turn to try to see what had happened. I was in the process of turning again before I felt the impact of a bullet." Mrs. Connally, who was seated next to the governor, also swears President Kennedy was hit before her husband and by a separate bullet. The Warren Commission chose to ignore their testimony—and if they weren't dealing with the governor of Texas, the Commission would probably have impeached Connally's integrity, as they did with less prominent nonconforming witnesses.

And here's something I just found out: I recently spent several hours in the studios of WNEW-TV here in Manhattan, searching for footage for a documentary program, and in their library I found what may be the sole remaining video tape of the press conference held in Dallas' Parkland Hospital on the afternoon of the assassination. This particular film was taped by Station WFAA-TV in Dallas, an ABC affiliate. WFAA and all the other local stations were visited after the assassination by FBI and Secret Service agents and asked to surrender all their tapes of the hospital news conference. But this film segment was flown to New York soon after the assassination and gathered dust in WNEW's files for three years, apparently without the FBI being aware of its existence. The film shows Dr. Robert Shaw, one of the physicians attending Governor Connally, speaking to the press at 4:30 p.m. on November 22. After Dr. Shaw described the governor's wounds, he said the bullet that caused the governor's wounds remained at that time in Connally's thigh. This is two and a half hours after Exhibit 399—the bullet that the Commission claims caused all the governor's wounds, including the thigh wound—was found by Darrell Tomlinson. So if anything else was needed to discredit Exhibit 399, here it is. If there was a bullet in the governor's thigh two and a half hours after Exhibit 399 was so conveniently found near the stretcher, where is it now?

PLAYBOY: For that matter, where is the bullet that you quoted the FBI as say-

ing entered the President's back and did not exit?

LANE: As I indicated a moment ago, that may be Exhibit 399.

PLAYBOY: There seems to be some confusion about the number of bullets fired. Would you go over them one at a time?

LANE: The Commission concluded that three bullets were fired, with two hits. They say one struck the back of the President's neck, exited from his throat and then passed on into Governor Connally. Another shot missed. Another bullet—the fatal one—then struck the President in the head. But shooting from the Depository window, Oswald simply wouldn't have been able to aim and fire three shots at a moving target in the time he had to shoot. Other evidence further rebuts the Commission's sequence. Roy Kellerman, the Secret Service agent riding in the Presidential limousine, testified that right after the first shot, he distinctly heard the President say, "My God, I am hit!" Although subjected to intense cross-examination, Kellerman insisted this is what the President said. Now when could Kennedy have said this in the sequence offered us by the Commission? Surely not before he was hit. Surely not after a bullet ripped through his throat, severely damaging his vocal cords. Surely not after the fatal shot drove a portion of his skull into the street. So the Commission's review of events does not accommodate the President's verbal reaction to the first shot. It also contravenes the testimony of Governor and Mrs. Connally about the first shot, and the report on the autopsy by the two FBI agents, Sibert and O'Neill, who reported, you will recall, that one bullet had entered "a finger's length" into the President's back and lodged there.

A more plausible sequence, which—unlike the Warren Commission's version—conflicts with none of the above evidence, is this: The first bullet struck the President in the back, causing the non-fatal, nonpenetrating "finger's length" wound to which Sibert and O'Neill testified in their FBI report. This wound was not in the back of the neck, but below the President's shoulder, corresponding exactly to the holes in the back of his shirt and jacket. I don't see how a bullet could have entered the back of his neck and made a hole in the back of his shirt and jacket more than five inches below the top of his collar. In any case, after this first, nonlethal bullet struck, the President exclaimed, "My God, I am hit!" Another bullet—let's call it Bullet Number Two, even though it may not be the second in the sequence—was fired from the knoll in front of the car, striking the President in the throat and causing the entrance wound to which the doctors at Parkland Hospital referred in their statements to the press on the day of the assassination. A third bullet, evidently from behind, struck Governor

Connally. A fourth bullet missed the limousine and its occupants, striking the curb and leaving behind lead traces later discovered by the FBI. This bullet shattered into fragments when it hit the curb, and one of the fragments—or perhaps a piece of concrete—struck a spectator, James Tague, wounding him superficially in the face. A fifth bullet then struck the President in the head, killing him. This bullet must also have been fired from in front of the car, from the direction of the grassy knoll, because the Zapruder frames—when arranged in the sequence in which they were taken—show the President driven back into his seat with considerable force under the impact of the bullet. That could not have happened if the bullet had been fired from behind the limousine. And as I mentioned earlier, a portion of the President's skull was driven back to the left and rear, landing in the street behind the car; if the shot had come from the rear, that skull fragment would have to have been driven forward. So, all told, we have five shots fired—not including the one that may have hit the traffic sign—four of them hitting either the President or Governor Connally, and at least two of them, or possibly three, fired from in front of the Presidential limousine.

PLAYBOY: Didn't the Commission consider this sequence?

LANE: Possibly they considered it but they certainly couldn't accept it, because they must have seen at least two things wrong with it from their standpoint. First of all, five shots could not all be fired by the same man in the available time, and that would dispose of the Commission's single-assassin theory. Secondly, shots came from both the front and the rear of the car, and this would also have canceled out the possibility of a single assassin. In order not to contradict its theory, the Warren Commission ignored the evidence and invented its own convenient three-bullet sequence. Yet it flows from the evidence that there were, in fact, five shots.

PLAYBOY: What about the rifle from which the Commission claims all the shots were fired? You indicate in your book that Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano couldn't have been the sole weapon involved in the assassination. Why?

LANE: For the simple reason that the rifle just couldn't have done what the Warren Commission said it did. It was an old, inaccurate weapon.

PLAYBOY: The Commission concluded that "various tests showed that the Mannlicher-Carcano was an accurate rifle and that the use of a four-power scope was a substantial aid to rapid, accurate firing . . ." Do you challenge these tests?

LANE: I don't challenge the tests; I rely upon them. I challenge the conclusion the Warren Commission draws from them. The rifle tests prove the Mannlicher-Carcano could not have fired the shots.