

Connally Hopes Report Will Silence JFK Rumors

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AUSTIN—Gov. John Connally, 90 per cent recovered from wounds received in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, viewed the Warren Commission report Monday with the hope that it will lay to rest rumors surrounding the tragedy.

"I have never thought it was a conspiracy. The commission thinks it was not. Much of the talk of a conspiracy was Communist-inspired in the first place. I hope this will lay to rest the speculation that has occurred," the governor stated.

His reactions were expressed in a Sunday afternoon press conference.

Gov. Connally said the report was not emotionally disturbing to him except that it again brought into focus all of the memories of the 10-month-old event.

"It brings to mind all of the events, which, frankly, you have

to put out of your mind. Mrs. Connally and I don't talk about it," he remarked.

EVENTS REVIEWED

The governor reviewed for newsmen his recollection of the sequence of shots which caused President's death and his own critical wounds. The commission found "very persuasive evidence from the experts to indicate that the same bullet which pierced the President's throat also caused Gov. Connally's wounds." This was the first shot fired.

"I am convinced beyond any question of a doubt that the first shot that was fired did not hit me," Gov. Connally said Sunday. "I had time to think. I had time to react. I turned to my right because I immediately thought of an assassination attempt the minute I heard the shot," he recalled. He said he did not then and has not now any memory of the sound of the shot that hit him. He said he heard the third shot, heard it hit the President, and "saw the results of it."

Gov. Connally has no doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald was the man who shot him and also that he was not Oswald's target.

BETTER OPPORTUNITIES

"If he had wanted to shoot me or kill me, he could have picked many occasions that were easier," the governor observed.

In answer to a question, Gov. Connally said he saw nothing in the commission's report that leveled blame for the assassination at the City of Dallas or its right-wing element.

"Absolutely not. I feel very strongly on this point and have said so any number of times. This Marxist, this mentally-deranged man was not a product of Dallas, not a product of its school system, not a product of its environment, not a product of its economic system or its cultural environment.

To condemn a city for the actions of a man who chose that spot for a dastardly deed is unfair and unjust," he stated.

The commission's criticism of Dallas law enforcement officers' handling of the aftermath of the assassination, he said, should be read in the light of the chaos that existed at the time.

SITUATION EXISTED

"We ought to remember the circumstances that existed. I am inclined to be more charitable than many. It is not every police chief or district attorney that has been confronted with this sort of situation," he stated.

The governor said he hopes a report to be issued by Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr within the next 10 days will contain recommendations for tightening of restrictions and regulations surrounding major events in the state. The report is being prepared by the attorney general and his representatives in the Warren Commission hearings, attorneys R. G. Storey of Dallas and Leon Jaworski of Houston.

Gov. Connally expressed the opinion that more protection should be afforded the governor of the state and said he will make recommendations to this effect to the next legislature.