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Assassination of President
John F. Kennedy

Briggs
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UPI-110

(JFK ASSASSINATION)

B. APPROX. 1977

AUSTIN--ALTHOUGH HE IS "CONVINCED BEYOND ANY DOUBT" THAT THE WARREN COMMISSION WAS WRONG ON ONE POINT, TEXAS GOV. JOHN CONNALLY SAID TODAY ANOTHER INVESTIGATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION WOULD BE "NEITHER WARRANTED, JUSTIFIED NOR DESIRABLE."

CONNALLY CALLED CRITICS OF THE COMMISSION "JOURNALISTIC SCAVENGERS" AND SAID INSTEAD OF CALLING FOR ANOTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION, "WE SHOULD EVALUATE THE CREDENTIALS OF THESE SELF-APPOINTED EXPERTS."

HE SAID HE IS SURE HE WAS NOT HIT BY THE FIRST OF THE ASSASSIN'S BULLETS, AS THE WARREN COMMISSION CONTENDED.

CONNALLY WAS RIDING IN THE SAME CAR WITH PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN DALLAS NOV. 22, 1963 AND WAS WOUNDED IN THE BACK, WRIST AND LEG.

THE WARREN COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S FIRST SHOT HIT KENNEDY IN THE BACK, EXITED THROUGH HIS THROAT, THEN ENTERED CONNALLY'S SHOULDER, PASSED THROUGH HIS BODY, STRUCK HIS WRIST AND THEN LODGED IN HIS LEFT LEG.

CONNALLY SAID HE CLEARLY RECALLS HEARING A RIFLE SHOT BEFORE HE WAS HIT. HE SAID HE DID NOT HEAR THE SHOT THAT HIT HIM, BUT AFTER HE WAS STRUCK, HE HEARD THE THIRD SHOT THAT KILLED KENNEDY.

DESPITE HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE COMMISSION OVER THE SEQUENCE OF BULLETS, CONNALLY SAID HE ACCEPTS THE COMMISSION'S CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE ASSASSIN "BECAUSE OF ALL THE OTHER TESTIMONY AND BECAUSE I HAVE COMPLETE TRUST IN THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION."

"I'M NOT GOING TO SET MYSELF UP IN THE POSITION THAT I'M INFALLIBLE," HE SAID. "IT MAY BE THAT WE'RE BOTH WRONG."

CONNALLY, 49, DISCLOSED HE HAS A SMALL STOMACH ULCER, BUT SAID HE SUFFERED NO LASTING ILL EFFECTS FROM THE BULLETS.

IN REPLY TO A REPORT THAT A FRAGMENT OF ONE OF THE ASSASSIN'S BULLETS IS STILL IN HIS THIGH, CONNALLY SAID HE THINKS DOCTORS TOLD HIM ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO THAT "A VERY SMALL FRAGMENT" WAS LODGED IN THE LEG BUT NEEDN'T BE REMOVED BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT CAUSE TROUBLE."

HE SAID "I HAVEN'T PAID ANY ATTENTION TO IT SINCE."
CONNALLY CHARGED THAT ATTACKS ON THE WARREN REPORT WERE "RECORDED" "POLITICALLY MOTIVATED," BUT REFUSED TO EXPAND ON THAT ASSERTION.

THE ONLY ONE OF THE CRITICS HE MENTIONED BY NAME WAS MARK LANE, 30 1966 AUTHOR OF ONE OF THE MANY BOOKS ON THE ASSASSINATION.

HE ACCUSED LANE AND OTHER CRITICS OF DISTORTING THE WARREN COMMISSION'S EVIDENCE.

THE INVESTIGATION SHOULD NOT BE REOPENED, HE SAID, "UNLESS AND UNTIL THERE IS SOME NEW EVIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE."

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