

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Griffith
1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt

Mr. Conrad

April 22, 1964

W. D. Griffith

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION**

At the request of the President's Commission, Inspector J. R. Malley of the General Investigative Division, Inspector L. J. Gauthier of the Administrative Division and SA L. L. Shaneyfelt of the Laboratory were present at the Commission on 4/21/64 for a review of the Zapruder film of the assassination with Governor and Mrs. John Connally. The additional review of the film was for the purpose of determining whether or not the Governor could establish the point in the film where he was hit. It is noted that this has never been established. The following individuals were also present:

Dr. Gregory and Dr. Shaw who examined Governor Connally at Parkland Hospital in Dallas

Dr. F. W. Light, Jr., and Dr. A. G. Olivier from the Wound Assessment and Wound Ballistics Department of Edgewood Arsenal

Dr. Joseph Dolce, consultant to the Biophysics Division of Edgewood Arsenal

It is noted that representatives of the Secret Service who have attended past reviews were not present.

The following summary sets out previous theories of representatives of the Commission resulting from review of the film and observations of the Doctors as well as the effect of Governor Connally's opinion on these theories:

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1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Malley Room 5710)
1 - Mr. Sullivan (Mr. Lenihan Room 645 RB)
1 - Mr. Mohr (Mr. Gauthier Room 331 GPO)

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Memo to Mr. Conrad
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
62-109060

1. The original consensus was that the President was hit during a portion of the film where the car and occupants were behind a sign board and out of camera view since the President's actions as the car emerges from behind the sign leave no doubt that he has been hit. The third shot is well established and is five to six seconds after the shot that occurred behind the sign. It was theorized that Governor Connally may have been hit at a time approximately half way between the sign and the third or last shot.
2. Review of the film with Dr. Hume, who performed the autopsy on the President at Bethesda, and Dr. Gregory and Dr. Shaw from Parkland Hospital, who are familiar with the Governor's wounds, resulted in their unanimous opinion that the Governor could not have received the chest wound subsequent to a point in the film approximately one second after the previously estimated first shot behind the sign. This gave rise to the theory that the shot that pierced the President's neck also went through the Governor's chest and hit the Governor's left knee. This bullet may have lodged in the Governor's clothing and would be the bullet that was found on the Governor's stretcher.
3. Governor and Mrs. Connally reviewed the film and located a point in the film where it appears "he has been hit" but could not pin point the exact frame in the film where the bullet struck. This area of the film is approximately one-fourth to one-half second after the previously estimated first shot and gave further basis for one bullet having hit both the President and the Governor when variations in reaction times are considered.
4. Doctors Light, Olivier and Dolce, who have made studies of the effects of bullets striking flesh and bones, feel that the bullet that hit the President and Governor and lodged in the Governor's clothing could not have caused the wound in the Governor's right wrist since the shattering of the bones in the wrist would have deformed the bullet and the bullet

Memo to Mr. Conrad
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
62-109060

recovered from the Governor's stretcher is relatively undamaged. They feel that this bullet could have pierced the President's neck, the Governor's chest and hit the leg without being deformed.

5. Regarding the wrist wound, the Doctors feel it could have been caused by a separate shot that hit the wrist or could have been caused by a bullet fragment from the third shot that hit the President's head. They cannot definitely eliminate the possibility that the undamaged bullet could have caused the wrist wound when traveling from the chest to the leg of Governor Connally.
6. Governor Connally states that he heard the first shot and was hit after that by the second shot. Neither the Governor nor Mrs. Connally saw the President between the first and third shots and in fact cannot say whether he was hit by the first shot that they both heard. If the President was hit by the first shot they heard, it would logically place this shot approximately two and one-half seconds before the point where the Governor states "he has been hit." During approximately one and one-half seconds of this portion of the film the President is waving to the crowd and showing no reaction to being shot.

SUMMARY

If the President and Governor Connally were both hit by the same bullet that hit the Governor's leg and lodged in his clothing, the wrist could have been hit by the same bullet, a separate shot or a fragment of the bullet that hit the President in the head. There is a possibility that the first shot occurred two to three seconds before the car disappeared behind the sign and was a complete miss. This would account for the shot heard by the Connallys. The action of the Governor in this portion of the film generally conforms to his description of his actions after he heard the first shot. In addition it is noted that Mrs. Kennedy turns and looks at the President approximately two seconds before the car goes behind the sign.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information only.