

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

"THOMAS BUCHANAN ANALYZES THE WARREN REPORT"

(From "L'Express," for October 8-11, 1964, pages 26 and 27)

The report of the Warren Commission, charged with the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, is the fruit of a long labor: the FBI questioned more than twenty-five thousand persons and submitted to the Commission twenty-three hundred reports. The Secret Service questioned fifteen hundred and fifty persons and submitted eight hundred reports. The Commission itself heard five hundred and fifty-two witnesses. The conclusions of the Warren Commission agree with the official theory. The latter was contested at the time by Thomas Buchanan in the columns of "L'Express." He cabled to us from the United States his first remarks:

The Warren Report maintains the theory, according to which no one aided Lee Oswald in killing the President of the United States. Is it convincing?

The report indicates that one of the bullets went astray and has not been found. It even specifies the point of the impact of the bullet on the asphalt and gives the name of a witness wounded by the ricochet. Now, the President was hit by two bullets and Governor Connally by one.

Then we must choose: either four shots were fired, and those in much too short a time for a single individual to have fired them, or the two bullets caused three wounds.

The Commission decided in favor of the theory which would not compel it to conclude that two riflemen existed: it declared in consequence that a single bullet, shot from the sixth floor, hit President Kennedy in the back of the neck and came out through the throat, described a new horizontal trajectory, penetrated the back of Governor Connally, once more modified its trajectory downwards, broke the Governor's fifth rib and came out from the Governor's chest with hardly a slow-down in speed, through the wrist and, finally, lodged itself in the thigh.

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158.6 grains. After all this it was recovered, practically intact. In fact, ballistic tests indicated that it weighed 168.6 grains (one grain equals 0.0648 gram). This type of bullet weighs at the outset between 160 and 161 grains.

Of all the explanations furnished by the investigators, this one is the most difficult to accept, and the testimony recorded by the Commission itself deprives it of credibility.

In fact, Governor Connally stated to the Commission that he had heard two shots which struck the President and that he himself had been wounded during the time which elapsed between these two shots.

The inevitable implication of this testimony is that the three wounds had been caused by three different bullets, plus the stray bullet, making four.

The conclusion of the Commission: "One can reasonably envisage a certain time for the reaction of the Governor between the moment the bullet struck him and the moment when he realized that he was hit, all this despite the fact that the bullet which struck him split a rib and penetrated the wrist bone."

Perhaps, but the wife of Governor Connally confirmed that her husband was not wounded until after she saw the President raise his hands to his throat.

2.3 seconds. The Commission estimated the time which elapsed between the two wounds inflicted upon the President: between 4.8 and 5.6 seconds. It also established that it was impossible for the best of marksmen to recharge a Carcano rifle in less than 2.3 seconds.

If the testimony of Governor Connally and his wife is correct; if the Governor was wounded in the interval between the two shots which hit the President; if the three shots were fired by the same rifleman in the lapse of time estimated by the Commission; we have to conclude that only one of the best marksmen in the world could have accomplished this feat.

All the testimony gathered by the Commission tends to prove that the two shots were made at least at an interval of 2.3 seconds, the time limit fixed by the Commission for

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determining if one or two riflemen were involved. If, on the other hand, one took into account the fourth, lost, bullet, the theory of a solitary assassin does not hold water.

The rest of the report lists some minor details accumulated by the Commission for replying to objections which were raised. For example:

(1) A second rifleman could not, according to the Commission, shoot from the railroad bridge, under which the President's car was to pass.

The proof cited: some spectators were present on the bridge, as well as policemen placed for checking to determine if these spectators had an "authorization" to be there.

Consequently, I retract my statement to the effect that the bridge was unguarded.

The print. The report states that no one was authorized to be on the bridge, with the exception of the railroad employees. It did not say why the railroad employees would be less prone to take part in a conspiracy than other categories of citizens. It still remains, that some journalists saw a man and a woman running, on leaving the bridge immediately after the assassination and that none of the two policemen who were, they say, on the bridge tried to arrest them.

(2) Oswald's fingerprint was found on the rifle. The Commission saw in this the proof that the rifle belonged to Oswald. This has never been contested.

The report indicates that the print was found upon a part of the rifle which Oswald could not have touched, except in disassembling the rifle, and that, according to the FBI experts, other prints found were "without value."

It is not surprising that the owner of the rifle left there his fingerprints in cleaning it. But who were the others who left their fingerprints upon the crime weapon? The FBI has no data to enable it to tell us this.

The first conclusion: the report of the Commission did not establish that the official theory was good.

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The questions remain unanswered.

Thomas Buchanan

Captions of pictures in the text:

- (1) Page 26: "Lee Harvey Oswald."
- (2) Pages 26-27: "Reconstruction: The Trajectory of the First Bullet. From the Back of the Neck of the President to the Thigh of the Governor."
- (3) Page 27: "The Warren Commission Hands Its Report to the President."