

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

No police coverup in JFK case, Curry says

By GRETCHEN MOSER
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An official who investigated the John F. Kennedy assassination admits there still are many unanswered questions concerning the crime but he denies allegations of a coverup by Dallas police.

"I don't believe Dallas police were lying after the assassination and I don't believe they're involved in a conspiracy," said former Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry, who headed the department from 1960 to 1966.

"There wouldn't be any reasons for them to lie," he said.

The allegations of a police coverup surfaced this week at a Washington, D.C., news conference when a former

Central Intelligence Agency official revealed evaluations of voice recordings made by accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald after his arrest.

George O'Toole, who claims to have made an exhaustive study of the 1963 assassination, said leading polygraph authorities used a Psychological Stress Evaluator (PSE) and determined Oswald was telling the truth when he told Dallas police, "I didn't shoot anybody."

O'Toole called for a reopening of the murder investigation. He said he was determined a number of police lied under oath to the Warren Commission investigating the assassination.

"The evidence implicating Oswald did not come about by chance. Oswald

could not have been the victim of circumstance; he must have been the victim of people who deliberately implicated him in the assassination.

"The physical evidence was collected and examined by the Dallas

police. The witnesses against him were first located and questioned by the Dallas police. The Warren Commission's case against Oswald was essentially the case that had been built by Dallas police as of Nov. 23, 1963. The conclusion seems inescapable that at least some of the people who framed Lee Harvey Oswald were members of the Dallas police," O'Toole stated in a book he has written.

However, Curry said the Dallas police never assumed Oswald was guilty.

"The press spread the story of the shooting from the Texas School Book Depository and the public was already being convinced that Oswald was guilty," he wrote in an account of his personal experience in the assassination investigation.

"Some spectators to the front of the motorcade were convinced that the shots came from ahead and to the right, perhaps from the triple underpass or the parking area above the grassy knoll where Elm Street begins its descent into the underpass," wrote Curry.

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"Most of the people watching the motorcade at the assassination site were behind it near the School Book Depository. By weight of numbers, their testimony carried the most impact," Curry said.

He recalled the search through the depository, the determination that the gunman was not there, the shooting of Officer J. D. Tippit and the arrest of Oswald in the Texas Theatre.

"I'm relatively sure Oswald shot Tippit because there were witnesses who saw him and I feel sure Oswald was involved in the assassination.

"But I always felt there might have been a possibility that Kennedy was shot from the front," said Curry.

O'Toole said he is certain Oswald

did not shoot Tippit or Kennedy.

O'Toole only speculated on reasons for the alleged frame-up. He voiced the theory Oswald had been an FBI informer in Dallas and his role as an informer was used to entrap him into self-incriminating actions such as going to the Texas Theatre.

Curry, on the other hand, said he has no knowledge of Oswald's alleged role as an informant. He contended the unanswered questions in the Warren report are the result of such factors as the hasty removal of the President's body before a proper autopsy could be performed, and the involvement of so many law enforcement officers in the interrogation of Oswald.