

Warren Report on Assassination Challenged Again

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Wick
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

A new-angled Federal Bureau of Investigation report is being used to mount new challenges to the Warren Commission finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of President Kennedy.

J. Lee Rankin, the commission's former general counsel, and Norman Redlich, who was his deputy, say the so-called "F.B.I. Summary Report" was evaluated and discussed during the inquiry. They contend the inquiry, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, relied on hearsay direct and expert testimony.

The issue is whether a bullet passed through President Kennedy's body and hit a wounded Gov. John P. Connally Jr. of Texas. The critics suggest it had to be a separate bullet that struck the Texas Gov. with the same force for the world's not to believe a day that there had to be a second assassin also firing.

On June 29, a report was bringing out that one of a book, "Medical Examination of the President's Body," requested by the Warren Commission, reported to part of the F.B.I. report.

The book, "Medical Examination of the President's Body," is circulating a copy of the plan to publish in 1966, Sept. 8, of a book, "Medical Judgment," by Norman Redlich, a time copy of returned by the world's matter.

The book's report is being cited in a photo book, "Whitney," published personally in 1965 by the author, Harold Whitney, former Senate Civil Liberties Subcommittee member.

It is to be included in "The Oswald Affair," by Leo Burnett, a copy of the book, "The World Publishing Company." It had been published by a Philadelphia publisher, J. Salandria, and was one of the magazine "The Minority of One."

The book's author, Arnold Facke, publisher of the "New York Times," answered questions about the book's content in an interview by Felix Frankfurter, city editor of The New York Times, in 1965.

The Bureau declined comment. But Mr. Rankin, now New York City Corporation Council, says he is "well satisfied that no valid attack has yet been made" on the commission report. He says he is confident that criticism will prove "unsubstantiated and without proper consideration of the material that is available to everybody in the [commission] report and the supporting volumes."

Mr. Redlich, now Executive Assistant Corporation Council, says he has found nothing in the Epstein book or arguments he has yet seen on other points which would cause him to question commission findings.

Arlen Specter, now District Attorney of Philadelphia, is credited with having written the "single-bullet" argument as the commission's chief counsel. He has not yet seen the Epstein book, but he asserts the commission report is "solidly based on the evidence."

One statement in the Bureau's "Summary Report," dated Jan. 9, 1965, says "medical examination of the President's body revealed that one of the bullets had entered just below his shoulder to the right of the spinal column at an angle of 30 to 60 degrees downward, and there was no point of exit, and that the bullet was not in the body."

The F.B.I.'s "Supplemental Report," dated Jan. 15, 1964, notes "Medical examination of the President's body had revealed that the bullet which entered his back had penetrated to a distance of less than a finger length." The above documents are in the National Archives in Washington.

Report of Autopsy
By contrast, the report of the autopsy performed Nov. 22, 1963, by three military surgeons, says the bullet had "entered the right superior posterior thorax, about the scapula, traversed soft tissues, produced contusions on a lung and neck muscles and 'made its exit through the anterior surface of the chest.'"

That is, it made entry in the upper back, five and a half inches below the right shoulder joint tip, and came out the front of the neck.

The clinical summary notes the autopsy had been followed by telephone talk Nov. 23 with Dr. Malcolm Perry, a Dallas surgeon. This developed information that, in trying to save the President's life, "a tracheotomy was performed by emergency medical personnel which had been a small amount of 'the low anterior' ..."

Mr. Perry, a 27-year-old medical student, assistant professor of medicine, indicates the President and Governor were both wounded within 1.8 seconds. So, he argues, "either both men were hit by the same bullet, or there were two assassins."

The evidence, he contends in his book, "indicates that the F.B.I. reports are not erroneous." He says two F.B.I. agents were present at the autopsy. He quotes testimony by two court service agents that autopsy doctors "could not find a path for the bullet" through the President's body.

He offers a suggestion that was made during the autopsy by F.B.I. medical staff of

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"Holmes" (circled)
"Gandy" (circled)

ASSASSINATION
President
John F. Kennedy

Handwritten notes:
"6/20/66" (circled)
"Rosen" (circled)
"Sullivan" (circled)
"Trotter" (circled)
"Tele. Room" (circled)
"Holmes" (circled)
"Gandy" (circled)

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- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Washington Evening Star _____
- New York Daily News _____
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- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
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He said the President's jacket and shirt to contain a bullet entering the back would have had to turn upward to go out the neck.

In rebuttal, Mr. Redlich says the commission study used the best reports of F.B.I. investigative agents, not just the testimony. F.B.I. and Secret Service agents, he says, were those who heard and quoted the "best" discussions going on during the autopsy.

The commission, Mr. Redlich says, used and printed the surgeon's final conclusions in their autopsy report, supplemented by the surgeons' own testimony.

Exhibit Is Cited

He cites Commission Exhibit 205 to reconcile the diagrams and the clothing holes with the "single-bullet" theory and the reconstruction film. This depicts a reconstruction of the assassination, made in Dallas.

A double line for the President's path is shown as at an angle of

21 degrees, 34 minutes, to a line pointing from the sixth floor of the Texas School Depository. A downward line for a bullet passing through the President's back and out past his tie to wound the Governor is indicated at 17 degrees, 43 minutes, 30 seconds, allowing for downward street slope.

Mr. Epstein's book describes the commission's operations. In part, it cites interviews with five of the seven commissioners, although not Justice Warren, and 10 staff members. It also

cites working papers from a former assistant counsel, Wesley J. Liebeler.

Mr. Epstein concludes the commission offered "ample proof that shots had come from the Depository," although he held this "did not exclude" other shots "from a different source."

He says some one else might have used Oswald's rifle, but asserts Oswald's "leaving the scene, shooting a policeman and resisting arrest certainly were not the actions of an innocent person."