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ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Hoover: Oswald Acted Alone

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All Facts Show No Accomplice, Critics Are Told

FBI Chief Charges Warren Report Is Misinterpreted

By RONALD SARRO

Star Staff Writer

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said today that all available evidence and facts point to the one conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"Not one shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy with Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy," Hoover said in refuting critics of the Warren Commission report.

Hoover said the FBI reached its conclusion through a "prompt, intensive, objective and thorough investigation of the assassination" ordered by President Johnson.

He said the results of this investigation "were accurately reported" to the Warren Commission, which also concluded that Oswald acted alone in the killing of Kennedy three years ago this week.

The FBI made secret reports on the assassination which the commission considered along with other evidence. The FBI reports have been preserved, but have not been made public.

The Star asked Hoover for a statement on the assassination in light of recent confusion and doubt created about the validity of the commission findings in a rash of books, articles and statements.

Asked About "Conflicts"

In particular, Hoover was asked to comment on alleged conflicts concerning variances in FBI reports, dated Dec. 9, 1963, and Jan. 13, 1964, and the official autopsy report made by doctors to the commission. These have been used by some critics to support their conclusions.

The over question of the commission's final conclusion, Hoover said while critics have every right to state their views, they should show more regard for the facts on record.

"They have ignored certain facts, misinterpreted others, and expressed pure speculation as truth," Hoover said.

Hoover emphasized that he was speaking only for the FBI and not for any other agency or group involved in any phase of the investigation and inquiry into the assassination.

He said that while there is a difference in information reported by the FBI and information in the autopsy report on Kennedy's wounds, "there is no conflict."

"The FBI reports record oral statements made by autopsy physicians while the examination was being conducted and before all facts were known. The autopsy report records the final findings of the examination."

He said two FBI agents were present as the autopsy was conducted the night of Nov. 22,

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KENNEDY

Differences on Autopsy Explained

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1963, at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Hoover said:

"They reported that Dr. James J. Humes, chief autopsy surgeon, located what appeared to be a bullet hole in the back below the shoulder and probed it to the end of the opening with a finger. The examining physicians were unable to explain why they could find no bullet or point of exit.

"Unknown to agents, the physicians eventually were able to trace the path of the bullet through the body. On the morning of Nov. 23, 1963, Dr. Humes contacted doctors who treated the President at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Tex., the previous day and confirmed his assumption that a tracheotomy had been performed using a bullet hole in the front of the neck as the point of incision."

Hoover said the information from the two agents present during the autopsy was summarized in an FBI report dated Dec. 9, 1963. Hoover continued:

"Meanwhile, the clothing worn by the President when he was shot was examined by the FBI Laboratory. This examination revealed a small hole in the back of his coat and shirt and a slit characteristic of an exit hole for a projectile in the front of the shirt one inch below the collar button. A nick on the left side of the tie knot, possibly caused by the same projectile which passed through the shirt, also was noted."

Photos of the clothing were contained among evidence pictured in the Warren Commission report, but public display of the clothes has been prohibited during the lifetime of Kennedy relatives.

Hoover said the lab findings "clearly indicated the examining physicians' early observation that the bullet penetrated only a short distance into the President's back was in error."

Therefore, in its report Jan. 13 the FBI referred both to the early observation by the physician, and the probability that his initial finding was in error in view of the laboratory evidence.

Hoover said the FBI found that the bullet hole in the front of Kennedy's neck was struck by a separate bullet. The December FBI report indicated a bullet that was reportedly found on Kennedy's stretcher at Parkland did not pass through the President's neck. The Warren Commission later found evidence that the bullet came from Connally's stretcher. The FBI report also concluded, based on the wrong stretcher, that "it was entirely possible" an external cardiac massage performed at Parkland caused the bullet to work its way back out of the point of entry. But as Hoover pointed out, the tracheotomy incision was later found to be the point the bullet exited, and the FBI found

NOTE AT OSWALD'S GRAVE RAISES QUESTION ON HIS GUILT

FORT WORTH, Tex. (AP)—A note attached to a large bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums on the grave of Lee Harvey Oswald said "... He has left all the world confused."

Hundreds of visitors yesterday filed by the grave in Fort Worth's Roschill Cemetery on the third anniversary of the day that Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President Kennedy, was shot to death by Jack Ruby, Dallas night club operator.

The typewritten note on the flowers said: "Lee Harvey Oswald. Did he assassinate the President? Was he truthfully accused? Guilty, yes? Or was he innocent? He has left all the world confused."

In a three-hour period Thanksgiving Day more than 600 persons visited the grave.

nally was struck by a separate bullet in the front of Kennedy's neck. The FBI also said the original reference to Kennedy's stretcher was wrong; it was Connally's stretcher.

The evidence that the bullet passed through Kennedy's neck and exit hole in front of the neck and nick on the knot of the tie's left side, indicated the bullet then went into Connally, who sat in front of Kennedy, the Warren Commission concluded.

Connally was struck in the right shoulder, the bullet exited from his chest and went through his wrist, entering his left leg just above the knee. The Warren Commission said another bullet missed and another hit the

President in the back of the head, inflicting the fatal wound. Ballistics reports showed the bullet found on Connally's stretcher was fired from Oswald's rifle.

The FBI director also refuted a charge that the FBI altered color film of the assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder, a bystander, who sold the film to Life Magazine.

"This is totally false," Hoover said. "The FBI never had the original Zapruder film in its possession," he said. Hoover said the FBI "obtained a copy of the original uncut film and reproduced it for the commission, which since has turned it over to the National Archives."

Some critics of the Warren Commission report recently have used the film in an attempt to support a theory that more than one rifleman was involved in a plot to kill Kennedy.

Gov. Connally, wounded as he sat in front of Kennedy in the presidential limousine as the assassin struck, said Wednesday he disagrees with the theory that the same bullet that apparently passed through Kennedy's neck hit the governor in the back.

Connally said he believes he was wounded by a separate bullet, not by one that first hit Kennedy. But Connally said he agrees with the Warren Commission that Oswald alone did the shooting and sees no reason for the investigation to be reopened.

