

JFK Autopsy Photos Back Warren Report

By John P. MacKenzie
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Justice Department disclosed last night that an independent medical panel had examined the photographs and X-rays of the autopsy of the late President John F. Kennedy and had confirmed the Warren Commission's basic finding that he was shot only from behind.

This revelation was made in partial response to a demand for the autopsy exhibits by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who wants them for the trial Tuesday of Clay Shaw, the retired businessman Garrison has accused of conspiring to kill President Kennedy.

Government documents filed with the D.C. Court of General Sessions included affidavits and reports from the November, 1963, autopsy pathologists and the independent medical panel. They indicated that the Justice Department will strongly resist any court procedure that would compel the turnover of the basic autopsy pictures.

General Sessions Judge Charles W. Halleck, acting under Washington's reciprocal witness law, ordered National Archivist James B. Rhoads, custodian of the photographs under an arrangement with the Kennedy family, to show cause by today why they should not be made available to Garrison.

Conspiracy theories such as the one developed by Garrison depend heavily on the exist-

ence of shots fired from directions other than behind the automobile in which the late President was fatally wounded on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas.

The photographic evidence, which was not seen by the Federal investigating commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, was a continuing source of controversy despite the autopsy team's contention that their 1964 testimony was the best evidence of the source and direction of the shots that killed Kennedy.

According to the autopsy team and the medical panel, Kennedy suffered one wound in the lower neck and another fatal one in the head. The Commission decided that the wounding of Texas Gov. John B. Connally, who was riding with the President, was inflicted by the same bullet that struck Mr. Kennedy in the neck. This theory was an attempt to explain how the two men could have been struck within the same two-second interval.

The medical testimony was the foundation of the Warren Commission's ultimate conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

Although the photographs and X-rays would have buttressed the Commission's report, they were retained by the Kennedy family until October, 1966, when the Justice Department persuaded them to turn them over to the National Archives.

Under an archive statute de-

signed to avoid legal battles over ownership of such historical material, the Government agreed to prevent unseemly display of the pictures. It was that agreement that the Justice Department invoked last night in opposing Garrison's attempt to obtain the material.

The Government also asserted other legal grounds but added that "in the interest of justice," it would disclose the experts' evaluation of the photographs.

A separate statement released by Burke Marshall, an assistant attorney general in the Kennedy Administration and the family's representative, said the Government ordered evaluation of the pictures met with no objection from the Kennedys. The statement added that no family member would have any comment on the matter.

According to the Government papers, Attorney General Ramsey Clark established the independent panel of three pathologists and one radiologist, all nominated by the heads of three major universities and the president of the College of American Pathologists.

Garrison's office in New Orleans indicated last night that it was not satisfied with the Government's response and would settle for nothing less than the actual photographic material.

DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
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Callahan _____
Conrad _____
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Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
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Tele. Room _____
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The Washington Post Times Herald A-9
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

Date JAN 17 1969

Handwritten: O.P. Kennedy
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46 JAN 22 1969
56 JAN 27 1969
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- Holmes _____
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Rosen

John P. MacKenzie
1-17-69

- The Washington Post A-9
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Date 1-17-69

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