

Count Clipping in Space Below

5 doctors back Warren panel on Kennedy slaying

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By Jack Thomas
Globe Staff

Five physicians who examined President Kennedy's autopsy last month have found no reason to challenge the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

Their report will be filed later this month with the Rockefeller Commission investigating the CIA, which ordered the study in response to allegations that more than one person was involved in the murder of President Kennedy.

Encouraged by the disclosures of Watergate and the government's domestic counter-intelligence operations, a growing number of Americans — 78 percent in the last national poll — doubt the assertion of the Warren Commission that Oswald acting alone, murdered Kennedy and that Jack Ruby, acting alone, murdered Oswald two days later in the Dallas police station.

Interest in John Kennedy's assassination has been aroused by the frequent public showing of a bootleg copy of the only known movie of the Dallas shooting. The movie, made by Abraham Zapruder, a Dallas dressmaker, was purchased by Time, Inc., and was never officially released for reasons of taste. It shows President Kennedy's head and the upper part of his body being snapped violently backward. Critics say the film disputes the Warren Commission finding that the President was killed with a single shot fired from the rear.

The shot definitely did not come from the front," said Dr. Richard Lindenberg, head of the Maryland State Department of Mental Hygiene, and one of the five doctors who studied the autopsy last month at the National Archives.

Lindenberg said he and his colleagues with the Warren Commission had examined the head

of the President's head and found it was thrown backwards because of decerebration, a spastic neurological reaction that occurs when part of the brain is removed.

Lindenberg said the five doctors were satisfied from their study that former Texas Gov. John B. Connally was struck by a second bullet which pierced the President's neck. Critics of the Warren Commission report maintain that this bullet could not possibly have struck both Kennedy and Connally, that Oswald did not have time to fire the additional shot, and that, therefore, there must have been at least one other gunman.

The findings of the five doctors, which have not yet been released, were angrily denounced last night by Cyril H. Wecht, Allegheny County, Pa., coroner and a longtime critic of the Warren Commission investigation. He said the five doctors had those involved in a familiar review in 1968 or to the doctors involved in the original autopsy in 1963.

Wecht charged that the five doctors had drawn their conclusions without demanding all the available evidence. "They did not examine the brain itself, nor the microscopic autopsy slides nor neutron activation analysis of bullet fragments which would further aid in, determining their origin," he said.

Lindenberg admitted that he had not examined Kennedy's brain. He said that he had made the request initially, but that after seeing the pictorial evidence, he decided it was not necessary.

The other doctors involved were Lt. Col. Robert N. McMeekin, a pathologist at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology; Dr. Werner U. Spitz, chief medical examiner from Wayne County, (Detroit); Dr. Fred J. Hodges 3d, professor of radiology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, and Dr. Alfred Olivier, director of biophysics at Edgewood

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