

Second Bul Was Fatal

Exclusive to The Times from
the Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Kennedy was shot twice, both times from the rear.

He could readily have survived the first bullet, which was found deep in his shoulder.

However, the second bullet hit the President tore off the right rear portion of his head so destructively as to be "completely incompatible with life." A fragment was deflected and passed out the front of the throat, creating an erroneous belief that he may have been shot from two angles.

These are the findings of

the pathologists who performed the autopsy on the President's body the night of Nov. 22. Their report is still not official.

The first shot, hitting him high in the back shoulder, caused a hematoma (a pooling of blood) inside the neck and shoulder muscles, but no critical harm.

The fatal bullet smashed off the lower right back side (occipito-parietal region) of the head. As far as public understanding of the subject is concerned, the wound was instantly fatal.

The President, however, still showed some physical movements of life on his arrival at Parkland Memorial

Hospital, Dallas, and was not officially pronounced dead until 22 minutes later.

The disclosure that a bullet hit the President in the back shoulder, 5 to 7 in. below the collar line, came as a complete surprise to doctors at the Dallas hospital. The President, they said, was on his back from the moment he was brought into the hospital until the body was covered with a sheet after the death pronouncement.

Dr. James Carrico, the hospital's resident in surgery and first to examine the President, confirmed the

was not observed.

As to the President's condition on arrival, he said the victim showed "slow, agonal respiratory efforts," with occasional heart movement (discernible on auscultation (listening)).

The President, however, showed no pulse or blood pressure, and was not bleeding as he would have been had his heart been pumping blood, Dr. Carrico said.

Dr. Carrico also added that from the moment the President was brought into the hospital until the body was covered, the pupils of his eyes were dilated and fixed.

The Dallas doctors admittedly were in disagreement. Some believed the President had been shot twice, the neck wound being from a glancing hit; one of the surgeons explained over television that he was shot

Only one bullet was

ent from the bullet that in the head coursed downward and emerged through the front of the throat.

The shot that killed was the third one fired; the second struck Texas Gov. John Connally, although it too may have been aimed at the President.