

# Kennedy "Made No Cry," Mrs. Connally Remembers

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## Governor's Wife Tells Probers of Fatal Day

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WASHINGTON — "He made no utterance. No cry. I saw no blood, not anything. It was just sort of nothing, the expression on his face, and he just sort of slumped down."

Thus did Mrs. John Connally, wife of the Texas governor, describe to the Warren Commission President John F. Kennedy's reaction to the first of two shots that killed Mr. Kennedy in Dallas a year ago.

Mrs. Connally, who was seated in the limousine's jump seat in front of Mrs. Kennedy, was the only one of the passengers to see the President's first reaction to the shot.

### 'Frightening Noise'

She heard "a frightening noise" from the right, she said, turned to look back over her right shoulder "and saw the President as he had both hands at his neck."

The governor himself said he knew immediately that the noise was a rifle shot, and "the only thought that crossed my mind was that this is an assassination attempt."

He instinctively turned to the right where he thought the shot had come from. Seeing only the crowd and failing to see the President out of the corner of his eye, he began to turn to his left.

The governor, who was

seriously wounded by one of the shots, testified he was hit just as he began to turn left and that he said, "My God, they are going to kill us all." The governor said,

### 2 or 3 Involved

"The thought immediately passed through my mind that there were either two or three people involved or more in this or someone was shooting with an automatic rifle."

"These were just thoughts that went through my mind because of the rapidity of these two . . . of the first shot plus the blow that I took. And I knew I had been hit, and I immediately assumed, because of the amount of blood, and the fact that it had obviously passed through my chest, that I had probably been fatally hit.

"So I merely doubled over and then turned to my right again . . . and Mrs. Connally pulled me over to her lap . . . I reclined with my head on her lap, conscious all the time, and with my eyes open; and then, of course, the third shot sounded, and I heard the shot very clearly. I heard it hit him. I heard the shot hit something, and I assumed again it never entered my mind that it ever hit anything but the President."

### Assumed It Was Him

"Immediately I could see on my clothes, my clothing, I could see on the interior of the car . . . a pale blue . . . brain tissue, which I immediately recognized. And I recall very well, on my trousers, there was one chunk of brain tissue as big as almost my thumb, thumbnail, and again I did not see the President at any time

either after the first, second or third shots, but I assumed always that it was he who was hit."

"Neither the governor nor Mrs. Connally heard Kennedy say anything, testified. However, Secret Service agent Roy Keller, man, who was in the right front seat, said the President cried out "My God, I've been hit."

### Faster Than Sound

Connally also testified he believed he was struck by the second shot. However, the Warren Commission, on the basis of medical evidence, reported the shot that went through Connally's chest and then struck his wrist and knee was actually the first shot, which already had pierced the President's neck.

Connally said he did not hear the shot that he be-

lieved he heard before the sound reached him.

"I was in either a state of shock or the impact was such that the sound didn't even register on me. I was never conscious of hearing the second shot at all," he told the commission.

He lost consciousness on the way to the hospital, the governor said, but awoke when the car braked to a stop.

"The only thought that occurred to me," he testified, "was that I was in the jump seat next to the door, that everyone was going to be concerned with the President, that I had to get out of the way to the door to get to

... I wanted  
I reached out to her (Mrs.  
Connally's) arms and tried to  
stand upright to get myself  
out of the car.

#### Collapsed Again

I don't really know how  
I got. They tell me I got  
almost upright, and then  
I collapsed again. And  
someone then picked me up  
and put me on a stretcher.  
Mrs. Connally said that  
her husband was shot  
and did not once look back  
at the Kennedys but held his  
head down over her  
head's.

At first she seemed to  
be dead, she said, but there  
was a slight imperceptible  
movement just above  
something that let me know  
there was still some  
life there when I was  
talking to him, "It's  
all right."

In his testimony Connally  
also said he was not  
whether Lee Harvey Oswald  
intended to shoot him as  
the President.

"I think he said  
that an individual here  
is a completely warped  
minded mind who  
whatever reason wanted  
to vent his anger  
back against many people  
and many things. He did  
the fashion that would  
be for him, in however  
inuous a fashion, a catch  
the history books of  
country. And I think he  
deserves to get out to  
what he did and that's  
every thing that I can tell  
you."