

LANE GROUP SAYS NEW DATA DO NOT UPHOLD WARREN BOARD FINDING

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Oswald-case details add to doubt

THE CITIZENS Committee of Inquiry, the group organized by attorney Mark Lane to "investigate the unanswered questions" pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy, declared Dec. 1 that the 26 volumes of testimony and exhibits released a week earlier by the Warren Commission "did not substantiate" the conclusions reached in the commission's report to the President last September. In general, the report found that Kennedy was the victim of a lone and deranged assassin—Lee Harvey Oswald—who allegedly fired three shots from the Texas Schoolbook Depository building in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.

In a statement to the **GUARDIAN**, a committee spokesman said: "The new material has served to further damage the commission's own conclusions. The report last September avoided making positive statements in the most important areas of the case. For example, its reluctance to determine how many shots were fired and where they hit. Instead the commission shifted focus of the report to secondary matters. Now we find in the 26 volumes that even these conclusions are not substantiated by the testimony and evidence presented to the commission."

THE SPOKESMAN charged that in numerous instances crucial material contained in the transcript of testimony given before the Warren Commission or to field investigators was omitted from the original report or, in some cases, was taken out of context to lend support to

"the preconceived theory" that Oswald was guilty as charged. The spokesman cited three instances:

"1) Missing entirely from the report is the interesting fact, contained in the 26 volumes, that two-thirds of the Book Depository workers who were questioned as to where they thought the shots came from told the commission that they believed the shots were fired from a grassy knoll in front and to the side of the presidential motorcade or from the railroad overpass in front of Kennedy's vehicle. (Nearly two dozen of about 90 depository workers were asked this question by investigators. Many other eye-

witnesses also testified that they were under the impression that the shots derived from these two areas, not from the building.)

"2) S. M. Holland, railroad worker stationed on the overpass, testified that he was positive that he heard four shots fired from a clump of trees atop the knoll and that he saw two policemen charge up the knoll with guns drawn—yet the commission report concluded that there was 'no credible evidence that any shots were fired from anywhere else than the depository.'

"3) In attempting to demonstrate that Oswald carried the assassination weapon to his job at the depository the morning of Nov. 22, the commission report paraphrased testimony of Mrs. Linnie Mae Randle as follows: 'He carried a heavy brown bag'. This is misleading because it appears that Mrs. Randle said the bag was 'heavy,' that is, it carried a gun.

An examination of the transcript, however, reveals that Mrs. Randle identified the bag as being of 'a heavy type of wrapping paper,' not a heavy bag."

THE CITIZENS Committee spokesman said there was "an enormous wealth of such inconsistencies" between the source material and the summary report on which comment would be withheld "until we have had a chance to peruse each and every word." Lane, who is about to depart for Europe for a series of lectures on "Who Killed Kennedy?", is preparing material for a book that will attempt to demonstrate that the circumstances behind the President's assassination are at variance with the Warren Commission report. Publication is tentatively arranged for early spring.

The 26 volumes of Warren Commission testimony were a distinct anti-climax after publication of the summary report, and were treated as such by the nation's press—which did not attempt to delve into the more significant divergences between the testimony and the commission's conclusions, such as the testimony of Texas Gov. John Connally Jr., among others.

Included in the testimony were statements from Connally that contradicted

the commission's conclusion that the bullet which struck the governor had previously passed through the President's body. Connally insisted that he was wounded by another bullet—a theory that, if correct, would tend to demolish the commission's contention that only three bullets were fired. And, if more than three bullets were involved—as some eyewitnesses have indicated on the basis of having heard more than three rifle reports—it would have been impossible for an assassin to have acted alone.

ACCORDING to testimony given by Connally before a commission hearing April 21, he is convinced that his wound was caused by the second bullet from an as-

assin's rifle, after the first bullet struck the President. The third bullet also struck Kennedy, he believes. Asked, "What is your reason for that conclusion?" the governor answered:

"Well, in my judgment, it just couldn't conceivably have been the first one [the first bullet after having exited from Kennedy's body] because I heard the sound of the shot. In the first place, I don't know anything about the velocity of this particular bullet, but any rifle has a velocity that exceeds the speed of sound, and when I heard the sound of that first shot, the bullet had already reached where I was, or it had reached that far, and after I heard that shot, I had time to turn to my right, and start to turn to my left before I felt anything. It is not conceivable to me that I could have been hit by the first bullet, and then I felt the blow from something which was obviously a bullet, and I never heard the second shot, didn't hear it. I didn't hear but two shots, I think I heard the first shot and the third shot."

Asked why he did not hear the second shot, Connally replied:

"Well, first, again I assume the bullet was traveling faster than sound. I was hit by the bullet prior to the time the sound reached me, and I was in either a state of shock or the impact was such that the sound didn't even register on me.

but I was never conscious of hearing the second shot at all. Obviously, at least the major wound that I took in the shoulder through the chest couldn't have been anything but the second shot. Obviously, it couldn't have been the third because when the third shot was fired I was in a reclining position, and heard it, saw it and the effects of it, rather—I didn't see it. I saw the effects of it—so it obviously could not have been the third, and couldn't have been the first in my judgment."

The report dismisses the governor's recollection, explaining that "there was, conceivably, a delayed reaction between the time the bullet struck him and the time he realized that he was hit, despite the fact that the bullet struck a glancing blow to a rib and penetrated his wrist bone." In its conclusion, the report declared "two bullets probably caused all the wounds suffered by President Kennedy and Governor Connally," the third bullet having gone wild.

Until last May the commission also apparently assumed that Connally was wounded by the third bullet, independent of the bullets that killed the President. This theory was revised after evidence began to accumulate indicating that traces of a bullet were lodged in the pavement, a bullet that could only be considered number four.