

Life Magazine Doubts That Oswald Was

Sole Killer

Cites Connally View on Single Bullet—Asks 2d Inquiry

By PETER KIHSS

Life magazine contended in an editorial yesterday that there was "reasonable—and disturbing—doubt" that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in the assassination of President Kennedy, and it called for a new official inquiry.

The magazine put forward its view after a new examination by Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas of the assassination motion picture film in Life's possession. As a result of this examination the Governor disagreed once again with the Warren commission theory that he and President Kennedy had both been hit by a single bullet. Governor Connally, the magazine said, maintained after he and his wife, Idanell, studied the film, "there is my absolute knowledge, and Nellie's too, that one bullet caused the President's first wound, and that an entirely separate shot struck me."

The report of the commission headed by Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States, held that "although it is not necessary to any essential findings of the commission to determine just which shot hit Governor Connally, there is very persuasive evidence from the experts to indicate that the same bullet which pierced the President's throat also caused Governor Connally's wounds."

At the Governor's mansion in Austin, Tex., he was reported last night to be away hunting in south Texas, and unavailable for comment. Life magazine said he had observed earlier this month, "unless there's some purpose to be served, I just don't want to fan the flames."

Critical Frame

Life magazine said that Governor Connally, in studying at his home in Floresville, Tex., the motion pictures taken by Abraham Zapruder, of Dallas, on the day of the assassination, Nov. 22, 1963, had picked the 234th frame as the probable

point at which a bullet struck him.

"This is at least nine frames and one half second later than the commission says he was hit," the magazine said.

The Governor was quoted as saying he might possibly have been hit a frame or two earlier, but, "I can begin to see myself slump in 234."

The Warren commission had put forward the theory of a single bullet wounding both President Kennedy and Governor Connally as the solution to a problem of timing in its belief that there had been only three shots fired.

The alleged assassination weapon, a 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Carcano carbine that Oswald had ordered from a Chicago sporting goods house by mail the preceding March, needed a minimum of 2.3 seconds between shots, according to the commission's calculations.

The commission held that President Kennedy "was not hit until at least frame 210 and that he was probably hit by frame 225." Mr. Zapruder's 8-mm. movie camera ran at 18.3 frames a second, or a little more than one-twentieth of a second for each frame.

Timing on Camera

Thus, the half-second interval between shots, which would allow President Kennedy to be hit at frame 225 and Governor Connally at frame 234 would require firing from more than one gun.

Even a hit on President Kennedy at frame 210 would still have allowed only 1.3 seconds until frame 234, still a whole second less than the minimum time required to open and close the bolt of the Oswald rifle to fire it.

The Warren Commission calculations were based on its study of the Zapruder film and a reconstruction of the fatal motorcade, which indicated that a gunman sighting for a shot earlier than frame 210 from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository might have had his view of President Kennedy blocked by foliage from an oak tree.

The commission said such obstruction by the tree would have started at frame 186, although it added:

"For a fleeting instant, the President came back into view in the telescope lens at frame 186 as he appeared in an open-

ing among the leaves."

The commission's single-bullet theory has come under attack by a number of critics. But Life noted that District Attorney Arlen Specter, of Philadelphia, who as assistant counsel in the Warren Commission was a principal protagonist of the theory, had again upheld its validity.

Mr. Specter was quoted as saying he believed the film showed Governor Connally "wincing, indicating a probability he's been hit" at frame 230, with his wrist apparently coming up from his lap in frame 229 as if it were wounded.

Life said its photo interpreters and Governor Connally regarded the Texas Governor as looking unharmed in frame 230.

Theory by Bickel

The timing problem was taken up by Alexander M. Bickel, professor of law at Yale University, in the October issue of Commentary magazine.

Professor Bickel contended that an earlier first shot at President Kennedy at frames 185 or 186 was possible and could be the answer to the problems.

He suggested that "the assassin, finger on the trigger, was tracking his victim through his sight" and "could well have

thought that the best fire foliage had been cleared. He added a query as to "how calmly and rationally" the assassin might have been assessing his chances.

A shot at frame 186, Professor Bickel suggested, would give "time for the same assassin to get off a second shot, hitting Governor Connally before frame 240, and then a third at frame 313" when President Kennedy suffered a fatal head wound.

"President Kennedy's reaction to his first wound," Professor Bickel wrote, "must on this hypothesis have been delayed a second or so, just as on the one-bullet hypothesis, Governor Connally's reaction must be assumed to have been a delayed one; but that is not at all unusual."

He continued:

"When exactly the President began to react cannot be determined, since Mr. Zapruder's view was blocked somewhat near this point by a street sign and for some frames before it becomes plain that the President is reacting, the Zapruder film does not show him."

Recommended Step

Like Life, Professor Bickel contended that "through some disinterested investigative agency, our Government must either rehabilitate the one-bullet theory, or establish some other probability."

The Life magazine said: "One conclusion is inescapable: the national interest deserves clear resolution of the doubts. A new investigating body should be set up, perhaps at the initiative of Congress."

A leading critic of the Warren report, Mark Lane, author of the best-selling book, "Rush to Judgment," called yesterday for creation of a new investigating commission "made up of leading faculty members at universities, medical schools, experts in various fields."

In a taped "Youth Wants to Know" interview over WABC-TV yesterday, Mr. Lane proposed that such a commission get full Government support, with power of subpoena and power to punish witnesses for contempt. He said it should not have members associated with the Government.

Mr. Lane also reported he had written to the late President's brother, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Democrat of New York, asking permission to examine X-rays and photographs taken

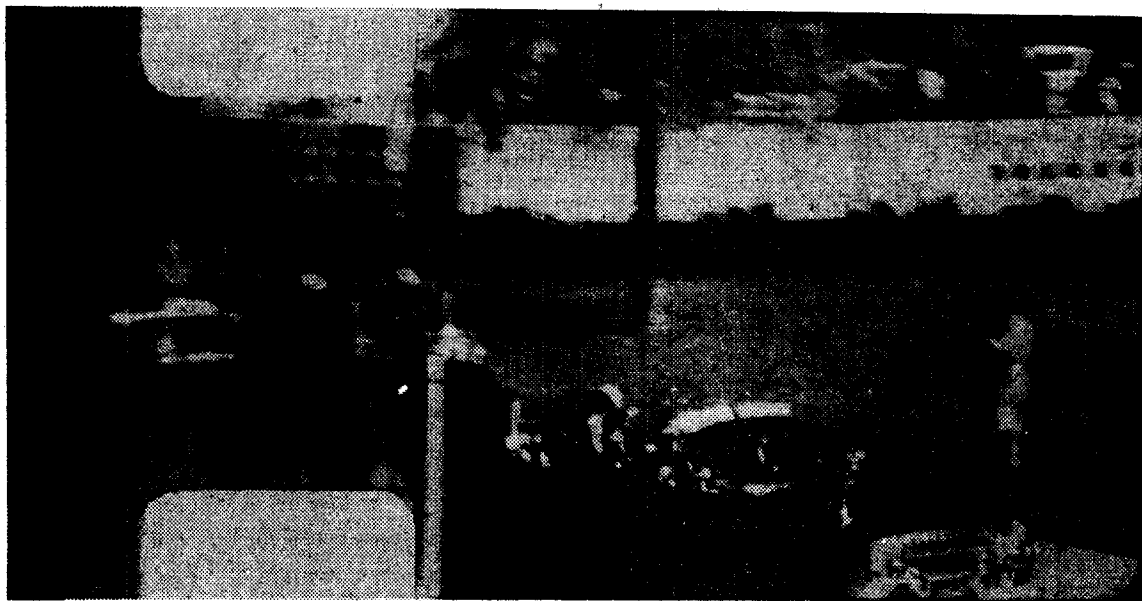
during the autopsy on the President.

The New York lawyer asserted Senator Kennedy had not yet responded, but said: "I know Robert Kennedy sent a message to Professor [Hugh] Trevor-Roper, who wrote the introduction to my book, in which he said to keep up the good work."

Professor Trevor-Roper, a historian, reached last night in Oxford, England, said, "No such message from Robert Kennedy has ever been received by me."

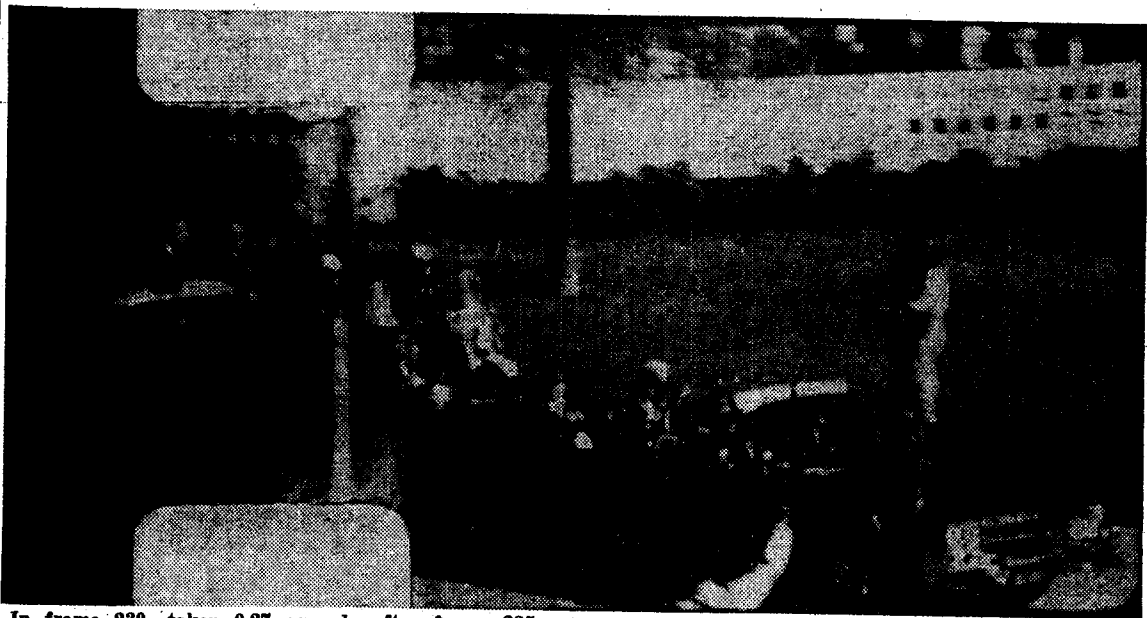
Mr. Lane could not be reached for further comment, nor could Senator Kennedy or spokesmen for him.

Another taped discussion of the Warren report took place yesterday on the "Open Mind" program on WNBC-TV, after a transcript had been released last Monday. *end*



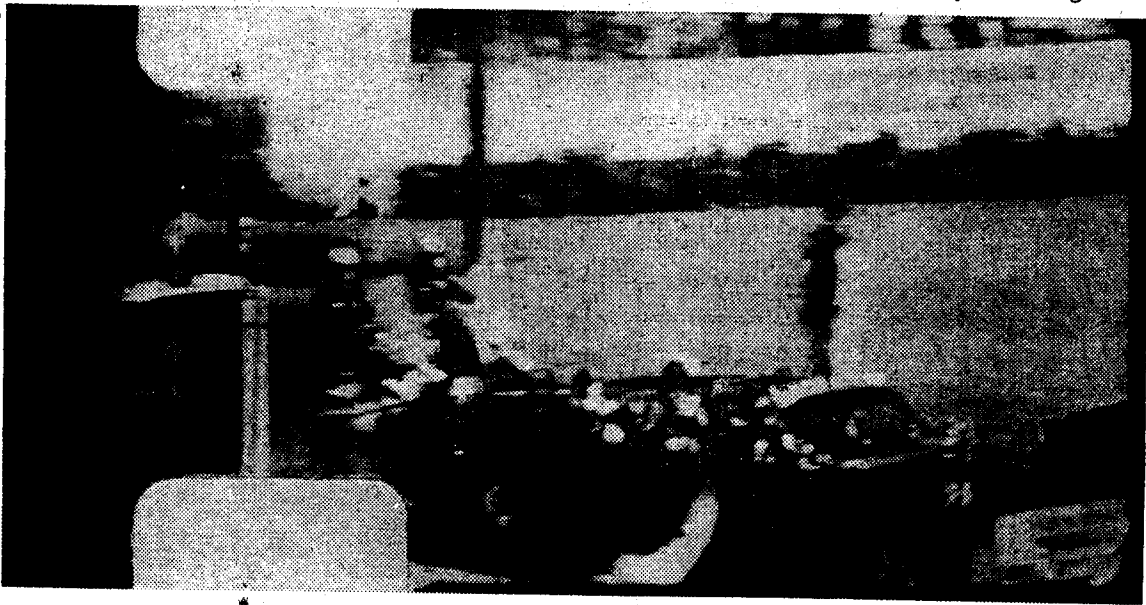
This is frame 225 of an 8-millimeter film made by a Dallas resident, Abraham Zapruder, and now in possession of Life magazine. Life says it shows President Kennedy's face distorted and his right hand rising toward his neck.

Warren Commission held that "he was probably hit by frame 225." Texas Gov. John B. Connally Jr., who is seated in front of Mr. Kennedy, and who also was hit during the assassination, seems unperturbed here, Life says.



In frame 230—taken 0.27 seconds after frame 225—Mr. Connally is gripping brim of his hat with the fingers of his right hand, Life says. Its photo interpreters and

Mr. Connally regard the Governor as looking unharmed in this frame. Warren Commission staff member has been quoted as believing that Mr. Connally is “wincing” here.



Life says that Governor Connally picked frame 234, shown above, as the probable point at which a bullet struck

him in the right wrist. This is at least “one-half second later than the commission says he was hit,” Life declares.

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