

Ballistics Expert Testifies

Oswald Had 'Easy Shot' --

Lee Harvey Oswald had "a relatively easy shot" at President Kennedy from the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository, an FBI ballistics expert testified today.

Robert A. Frazier of Hillcrest Heights, Md., resumed his testimony in the trial of Clay L. Shaw. On the stand when court closed yesterday, Frazier testified a single gun

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fired the identifiable bullet fragments found in President Kennedy's car after his assassination in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

SHAW, 55, IS ON TRIAL before Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. District Attorney Jim Garrison charges Shaw plotted the slaying here with Oswald and David W. Ferrie.

Frazier testified Oswald's shot was an easy one because the presidential car was moving on a direct line away from him at 12 miles an hour, making the distance the gunman had to "lead" his target almost negligible.

Had the target been moving laterally across the gun-

man's field of vision at that speed, Frazier said, he would have been required to lead the target by about two feet.

FRAZIER SAID HIS OPINION as an expert firearms witness is that he found no evidence at the scene that shots were fired from anywhere except the sixth floor window of the book depository.

Questioned about his examination of the clothing worn by President Kennedy on the day of the assassination, he said it indicated a bullet entered his body through the back. Garrison contends Kennedy was shot from the front.

In his testimony yesterday, Frazier stated the nearly intact bullet found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital where Kennedy and Gov. John B. Connally were taken after the shooting was fired from the same gun as the two bullet fragments found in the presidential limousine.

AS COURT OPENED TODAY, chief defense counsel F. Irvin Dymond returned to direct examination of Frazier. The witness said the metallic composition of the intact

Agent



—AP WIREPHOTO.
ROBERT A. FRAZIER

bullet was the same as that of the bullet fragments.

Frazier testified he examined the clothing worn by Kennedy on the day of the assassination, including a suit coat.

He said the examination showed only one hole in the garment, a quarter inch in diameter, located 5 3/8 inches below the top of the coat collar.

USING DEFENSE ATTORNEY William Wegmann as a model, Dymond had Frazier point out the exact spot the bullet entered the President's back.

Fibers from the back of the coat were pushed inward by the bullet, Frazier testified, indicating "this was the entrance hole of the bullet."

He gave the same opinion regarding the fibers of the shirt Kennedy was wearing. He said he believes a short slit in the front of the shirt is an "exit split, from pressure from inside."

DYMOND ASKED FRAZIER if he could establish the same bullet made a hole in the coat and shirt and then damaged the necktie. He said it could have, but this could not be definitely substantiated.

Asked what direction the bullet came from, Frazier said it came from the rear, but added the actual direction would depend on the position of the President's body.

Frazier, turning to the clothing worn by Gov. Connally, said he found two holes in the coat, one in the back near the seam, another in the front of the coat on the right side.

HE SAID THE COAT HAD been cleaned and pressed when he got it, making it virtually impossible to examine the fibers.

Dymond asked Frazier if he found anything inconsistent about the theory that a single bullet struck both men. Frazier said he did not.

Frazier cited the positions of Connally and Kennedy in the car to support his belief the same bullet could have hit both men.

HE SAID THE FACT CONNALLY'S coat had been laundered prevented him from reaching conclusions about

exactly how it was damaged.

He said, however, he saw nothing in the film of the assassination taken by Dallas dress manufacturer Abraham Zapruder inconsistent with the holes being made by the same projectile.

Frazier said if a bullet fired from the front had made the holes in Connally's trousers, it would have had to penetrate the windshield, and none did.

The witness said a bullet fired the distance from the depository window to the windshield from that type of rifle ordinarily would penetrate the glass, unless something caused it to lose velocity.

"IF IT WOULD HAVE PASSED through a person's head, would it have lost sufficient velocity?" Dymond asked.

"Yes, I think so," said Frazier.

Dymond then went into the matter of the direction of the shot and the possible direction. He then tendered the witness for cross-examination.

Here are the highlights of yesterday's court action:

—Judge Haggerty turned down a defense motion for a directed verdict of not guilty that would have ended the trial and set Shaw free.

—Mrs. Marina Oswald Porter of Richardson, Tex., Oswald's widow, countered several points of the testimony of the state's star witness, Perry Raymond Russo, about her husband.

—Lloyd J. Cobb, president of the International Trade Mart, testified that he knew Shaw's whereabouts at all times during the period in 1963 when Garrison said the assassination plot was hatched.

—Shaw's personal secretary, Miss Goldie N. Moore, introduced documents supporting Shaw's story that his trip to the West Coast in November 1963 was a prearranged business trip and not, as Garrison charges, an overt act in furtherance of the alleged conspiracy.

—Rex L. Kommer, a meteorologist with the U.S. Weather Bureau in Baton Rouge, introduced temperature records for Clinton, La., for August and September of 1963 to show it was consistently hot there in that period. Several state witnesses said they saw Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie there during a cool spell.

Frazier yesterday afternoon qualified as an expert witness in the field of ballistics and said in the early morning hours of Nov. 23, 1963, he examined the limousine in which Kennedy and Connally were riding.

The witness said he observed a crack in the windshield made by a bullet fired from the vehicle's rear. He said it could not have been made by a shot from the front.

THE DIRECTION OF THE SHOTS is a major difference between Garrison and the Warren Commission's account of the slaying. The commission says all the shots came from the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository. Garrison says JFK was caught in a crossfire, with the fatal shot coming from the front.

Frazier said he found blood and tissue all over the outside area of the hood, on the side rails, inside and outside the vehicle. He said he found no other bullet marks.

He said he was unable to determine with any accuracy the length of time between the first and last shots fired at Kennedy.

The state objected strongly to Frazier's testifying about the nearly intact bullet found on the stretcher in Parkland hospital, two large bullet fragments found in the car and three shell casings found near the depository widow.

OSER SAID THE WITNESS had no personal knowledge of where these items came from Dymond said the court

should take judicial notice of them as "a matter of history."

The judge rejected this argument, but allowed testimony about the items as long as their origin was unexplained. The jury was left to draw its own conclusions about them.

All of the items—the bullet, the fragments, and the shell casings—were fired from Oswald's rifle "to the exclusion of all other firearms", the expert said.

The trial was then recessed until this morning.