

FBI Expert: Oswald's Shot at Kennedy 'Easy'

Dallas Assassin Had Clear View From Sixth-Floor Window, Witness Testifies

BY JERRY COHEN

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NEW ORLEANS — An FBI ballistics expert Saturday disputed an oft-proclaimed theory of Warren Commission critics that not even a master marksman could have shot President John F. Kennedy from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository.

"In my opinion it was a relatively easy shot, slightly complicated, however, with the target moving at the time," testified Robert A. Frazier, a defense witness at the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw.

Frazier added that Lee Harvey Oswald had a "clear view" of the presidential limousine from the sixth-floor window and from there, the Warren Commission concluded, Oswald, and Oswald alone, shot Mr. Kennedy.

Frazier also said:

—That Oswald had at least six seconds in which to "draw a bead" on his victim.

—That with the limousine traveling at an estimated speed of 12 m.p.h., Oswald needed to make only a six-inch allowance in the elevation of his rifle to hit the President.

Angle of Fire

Frazier repeated an assertion he made during a brief appearance on the stand late Friday: The two shots that struck the President both came from the rear.

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, Shaw's accuser, contends

that the fatal shot struck from the front, thus supporting his charge that Mr. Kennedy was caught in a conspirators' cross fire.

To support his conclusions, Frazier cited scientific evidence including that obtained from a study of the bullet holes in the President's coat and shirt.

Number of Shots

He also dispelled at least some of the disagreement about the number of shots, and at the same time offered an explanation for former Texas Gov. John B. Connally's belief he first heard the shot that hit the President in the back, then a second shot that struck him (Connally).

Frazier said a bullet traveling at high velocity, such as those fired in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, creates what is in effect a "sonic boom" because it exceeds the speed of sound.

Thus, the listener may hear two reports from a single high-velocity gunshot, the first when the slug breaks the sound barrier, the second when the explosion from the barrel reaches his ear.

Frazier previously had testified to his findings before the Warren Commission, which he also served as a consultant during its 1964 investigation.

F. Irvin Dymond, Shaw's

chief counsel, kept Frazier under direct examination less than an hour.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Alvin Oser subjected Frazier to a rambling cross-examination that had at least one juror dozing.

Most of Oser's questions

to the FBI man were derived from various theories expounded by writer-critics of the Warren Report during the last five years.

Mrs. Ruth Paine of Irving, Tex., with whom Oswald's wife, Marina, lived for a short time before the assassination, testified briefly before the judge recessed the trial until Monday morning.

Got Oswald the Job

Chief impact of her testimony was the disclosure that she had found Oswald the job at the book depository in late October, 1963, when he badly needed work.

This testimony contradicted Garrison's contention that Shaw, Oswald

and the late David W. Ferrie concocted an involved plot in the summer of 1963 which required Oswald's presence in the book depository when the presidential limousine passed it many weeks later.

Shaw continued to be the forgotten man at his own trial Saturday, as he

has been ever since last week when the prosecution focused the thrust of its case on the Warren Report.

Shaw's attorneys estimated that they can complete their defense in "three or four more days."

Thus, it appears likely the case may go to the 12-man jury by next weekend.