

New Test Findings Support Assassination 1-Bullet Claim

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There is new and clear evidence that only two bullets struck President John F. Kennedy and former Texas Gov. John B. Connally, the House Assassinations Committee was told yesterday by an expert in nuclear analysis of metals.

Vincent P. Guinn, professor of chemistry at the University of California at Irvine, testified that he reached this conclusion after using a high-resolution lithium-drifted germanium detector to examine bullet fragments taken from the victims and the presidential limousine. The committee counsel, G. Robert Blakey, said this detector is far more sensitive and accurate than a neutron activation device used by the FBI in 1964.

Guinn's testimony, the committee said, has been independently verified another test of the elements in the bullets. His findings contradict theories that three or four bullets were fired at the president's car in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

THE EFFECT OF the Guinn testimony is to lend new and strong support to the "single-bullet theory" which states that one bullet went through Kennedy's chest and throat and then through Connally's chest and wrist before lodging in Connally's thigh.

This bullet is called the "pristine" bullet because it was found on a stretcher at the Dallas hospital with only a slight flattening. A second bullet penetrated the president's head, causing his death.

If the single-bullet theory holds true, all speculation is removed about a second gunman firing at the motorcade from a grassy knoll ahead of Kennedy or from any other vantage point at Dealey Plaza.

Guinn testified that he applied the neutron analysis test to five bullet samples from Oswald's rifle and found evidence that the samples came from only two bullets. Two samples, he said, were from one bullet and three were from a second bullet beyond any reasonable doubt. He said there was no evidence of a third bullet.

GUINN SAID HIS tests were aided by the fact that bullets involved vary widely in composition, unlike most bullets that are pretty much identical.

The characteristics of the "pristine" stretcher bullet agree with the fragments found in Connally's wrist, Guinn testified. The three test fragments from Kennedy's brain and the floor of the car are indistinguishable from one another but markedly different from the bullet that struck Connally's wrist and was found on the stretcher.

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But there was an evidentiary gap in Guinn's tests.

"I cannot tell you," he said Chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, the stretcher bullet went through President Kennedy's back and not the governor's chest because there are no fragments from those wounds."

Asked why the FBI made a neutron test in 1964 and reported the results were inconclusive, Guinn said the equipment available then was probably to blame. He said he did not know why the FBI did not even add making the test until recently.

GUINN SAID HE finally obtained the FBI's raw data from tests made at Oak Ridge, Tenn., and it appeared to him that their findings were identical to his even though the numbers were fuzziier and seemed difficult to make sense of.

"I went over their work and figured out what was wrong with it," Guinn said. "The data were there but were not accurately interpreted."

Guinn said he did not test the same fragments as the FBI, except for the almost-intact stretcher bullet.