

2D-GUN VIEW GAINS IN KENNEDY KILLING

2 Acoustics Experts Firm in Draft
of Final House Panel Report

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WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP) — In a draft of the House assassination committee's final report, two acoustics experts stand by their assertion of a 95 percent likelihood that a second gunman fired at President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Several of the 11 committee members have said they disagree with that conclusion, even though the acoustics finding contributed in large part to the panel's earlier assertion that Mr. Kennedy "probably" was the victim of a conspiracy.

In the draft of the final report, released today, the two experts, Mark R. Weiss and Ernest Aschkeasy, emphasized that the 95 percent likelihood of a second gunman also meant that there was about a 5 percent chance that the suspected gunshot sound, unaccounted for earlier, was only a motorcycle backfire or some other noise.

In a rare public response today, G. Robert Blakey, the chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, said "it is not true" that the two experts had backed off in any way from their conclusion. "Everything we've had since their testimony tends to confirm it," he said.

The draft report also says that immediately after the assassination the President's brother Robert suspected that Jimmy Hoffa, former president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, might have been involved.

"The committee learned that Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and White House Chief of Staff Kenneth O'Donnell contacted several associates about the possibility of teamsters union or organized crime involvement," the draft report said.

However, House investigators have no direct evidence that either Mr. Hoffa or mob leaders conspired to assassinate the President, according to the draft material.

Robert Kennedy was himself slain at a Los Angeles hotel in June 1968. Sirhan B. Sirhan, a Palestinian immigrant, is serving a life term for Robert Kennedy's slaying. Mr. Hoffa disappeared on July 30, 1975 and has not been seen since.