

JFK Assassination

To ward off a possible court order releasing pictures and x-rays of President Kennedy's body to District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans, the Justice Department has published a report by a panel of four doctors, whom it commissioned a year ago to make a fresh examination of the photographic material and the clothing deposited in the National Archives by the Kennedy family. The Warren Commission did not examine the pictures and x-rays, relying instead on the testimony of the official doctors who performed the autopsy. Not surprisingly, the new panel found that the autopsy doctors committed no elementary errors in locating the President's wounds, and told no lies. The President, it is now confirmed, received two bullets, one at the base of the neck, the other in the head, both fired from behind and above. Taken together

with other evidence concerning Lee Harvey Oswald, this conclusion in turn confirmed the Warren Commission's finding that Oswald shot at the President, and that he found his mark. What remains no better established than it was before is that *only* Oswald, Oswald *alone*, did all the shooting.

The possibility of a second assassin is just that; but it is not excluded by the Warren Commission's report, nor by the conclusions of the new panel of doctors. The possibility arises from the fact that Governor Connally was also wounded. The Warren Commission decided that he was hit by the same bullet that inflicted the President's neck wound, and that the bullet in question was one found at Parkland Hospital. But the proof that the Parkland Hospital bullet had ever been in Governor Connally is weak, and its condition was such—it was virtually whole—as to raise very grave doubts that it could have caused the bone wound that Governor Connally suffered. And if this bullet did not hit both the President and the Governor, then three shots found their marks, and they must have been fired in a sequence for which Oswald, by the Warren Commission's own calculations, could scarcely have had the time. Hence the possibility of an accomplice.

These are the nature and the sources of legitimate doubts that linger, and that are not dispelled by the doctors' report now released. There is a chance, if a slim one, that the trial of Clay Shaw, which has begun in New Orleans, may throw some light on the problem. The autopsy pictures and x-rays do not solve it.