

Area political scientist questions doctor's findings from JFK x-rays

By Catherine Watson
Staff Writer

The conclusions that a New York physician has drawn from x-rays and photographs of the late President John F. Kennedy's body cast serious doubt on the Warren Commission report, a Minnesota political scientist said Sunday.

Statements made Friday by Dr. John K. Lattimer, a urologist who was allowed to see the 65 x-rays, color transparencies and black-and-white negatives taken during the Kennedy autopsy, underscore "serious discrepancies" between the Warren report and the report of the original autopsy, as reprinted in the commission's documents,

Edwin L. Crosby said yesterday.

Crosby, Ridge Road, Shorewood, pointed to Dr. Lattimer's emphasis on the acuteness of the angle of the first bullet to enter the late president's body.

Lattimer told the New York Times Friday that the initial bullet passed through the president's body at a more downward angle than that shown by the drawing released with the Warren report in 1964.

Dr. Lattimer, who said his findings support the Warren Commission's conclusions, stated that "if anyone were to have shot him (Kennedy) from the front, they would have had to be squatting on the floor in front of him."

But if the angle really were that acute, Crosby said yesterday, then that first bullet could not have pierced the president's body and still have continued on to inflict the wounds suffered by Texas Gov. John Connally, who was riding in the seat ahead of Kennedy at the time of the assassination, Nov. 22, 1963.

This, Crosby said, destroys the "single-bullet theory" that is crucial to the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was Kennedy's sole assassin.

"If a single bullet did not go through President Kennedy's neck and inflict all of Gov. Connally's wounds," Crosby said, "then the Warren Commission is wrong and there was more than one person shooting."

There are other discrepan-



Edwin L. Crosby

cies between the Warren report and what Dr. Lattimer says he saw in the autopsy material, Crosby said.

For example, the report of the original autopsy, conducted by three military physicians, as it appears in the 26 volumes of evidence presented before the Warren Commission does not mention any metal in the president's neck, Crosby said.

But Dr. Lattimer stated that the initial bullet which passed through the president's body left two tiny flakes of metal in the tissues along its path, and that these are visible in x-rays of the body.

The Commission report said that the initial bullet, which was later found, lost practically no metal, Crosby said. If the two flakes Dr. Lattimer reports seeing and those from Connally's body add to more than 2.5 grains—the amount of weight lost by the bullet — then "we have another disproof of the Warren Commission's case," Crosby said.

He said Dr. Lattimer's statements raise more questions than they answer" and remind him of the 1968 Panel Review — a team of four pathologists

who looked at the autopsy materials and made a report supporting the Warren Commission's conclusion. But the panel's findings also differed from the original autopsy report, Crosby pointed out.

The 1968 review panel's report "places the final entry wound near the top of the President's head, almost four inches higher than the original autopsy report did," Crosby said, using the panel's report and documents from the commission hearings to support his contentions.

Crosby, 35, holds degrees in psychology and political science from the University of Minnesota and is completing a doctorate in political science there.

He is on the boards of directors of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, Inc.; Operation de Novo (a rehabilitation program for lawbreakers); and the African-American Institute, New York, N.Y.

He has spent "about eight months of full-time work on the assassination of President Kennedy because I initially did not believe it was possible for men of such fine reputations and such obvious intelligence (as the Warren Commission and its staff) to defraud the American people with such poor work," — that is, with the commission report itself.

According to the wishes of the late president's family and the contract under which the autopsy materials are held in the National Archives, Washington, D.C., only "recognized experts in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology," may see the materials, the New York Times said in reporting Dr. Lattimer's statements.

Dr. Lattimer, 57, is chairman of the department of urology at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is not listed as a pathologist in Who's Who in America, 1970-1971, Crosby emphasized.