

vA professor thinks three gunmen fired

Josiah Thompson has never got over the shooting of President Kennedy. Nor, he believes, has the country. "The assassination was our loss of innocence, a turning point in our history," explains Thompson, 40, author of *Six Seconds in Dallas*. "From that time on, things started going wrong."

Thompson's first involvement in the Kennedy case came as a Yale graduate student, when he wandered into the New Haven, Conn. FBI office to point out discrepancies in the published accounts of the shooting. "I thought if I could see the contradictions, so could the FBI," he recalls. "They were very attentive and polite, and I guess they threw my report in the wastebasket."

Later, Thompson began digging on his own. "I was still at Yale," he says, "and the library had the Warren Commission's 26 volumes of evidence. When I got tired of working on my thesis, I would go upstairs and read about the assassination." Eventually, Thompson decided there were three essential

questions: What happened? Who did it? And why?

He made a painstaking study of the Zapruder film and other photographs of the assassination scene and spoke with witnesses. His conclusion: there were three gunmen who fired four shots—the first hit Kennedy in the back, the second hit Texas Gov. John Connally, the third and fourth hit Kennedy's head. Thompson does not claim to know who participated in the killing but suspects its origins lie in New Orleans, perhaps in an alliance between the Mafia, CIA and anti-Castro exiles.

Now an assistant professor of philosophy at Haverford College in Pennsylvania, Thompson lives amid a comfortable clutter of books and antiques with his wife, Nancy, (Sarah Lawrence '58, and a recent graduate of a bartenders' school), two children, Lisa, 11, and Everson, 9, and Metaphysics, a huge calico cat. He looks forward to a Congressional investigation of the assassination. "It is terribly important to know our real history and to solve the Kennedy mystery," he maintains. "It is the way to get our government out in the open again." □

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