

Expert suggests 4 shots—

WASHINGTON (UPI)—An acoustics expert yesterday played a reconstructed sound track he said indicated a "probability" of 50 percent that a fourth shot was fired in Dealey Plaza, Dallas during the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

The Warren Commission had concluded there were only three shots, all fired by Lee Harvey Oswald.

The chairman of the House Assassinations Committee, Rep. Louis

Stokes, D-Ohio, opening the second week of its public hearings on Kennedy's death, warned against drawing "sensational conclusions" from the evidence.

Acoustics expert Dr. James E. Barger twice played for the committee his recording of the reconstructed sounds of the moment of the assassination.

Under close questioning as to interpretation of the recording, he told the panel his personal estimate was that

the probability of two shots was 95 percent; the probability of a third shot about 60 or 70 percent, and the probability of a fourth shot around 50 percent.

To reporters, the tape sounded like two shots in quick succession then a pause and two more shots in quick succession.

Rep. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio, who said he was familiar with the sound of rifle shots, said: "My personal

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not 3— were fired at JFK

interpretation is that the first, second and fourth were rifle shots. The third noise sounded like something else."

Conspiracy theorists claim four shots at the motorcade would have been too many for one man to take in the allotted time frame with the suspected murder weapon, Oswald's bolt action repeating rifle.

Barger reported to the House panel on elaborate tests based on a recording of sounds from a police motorcyclist's

microphone inadvertently left open at Dealey Plaza at the time of Kennedy's slaying.

The study involved test firings in the plaza last month, both from the Texas School Book Depository from which Oswald allegedly fired and from the "grassy knoll" at the other end of the plaza, to compare with the police tape. The accounts of 178 eyewitnesses, some of whom believed the shots came from the knoll, were evaluated.

After his elaborate presentation of tapes and graphs, Barger was asked by a staff member, "Is it accurate to say there is evidence of four shots?"

"Yes," the expert replied, "it is a possible conclusion."

Barger is a senior scientist with the firm of Bolt, Beranek and Newman of Cambridge, Mass., who also analyzed gunfire recorded during the shooting at Kent State University and the famous "18 minute gap" in the Watergate tape.