

New York's
Daily & Sunday
Newspaper

City News

25¢

Vol. 1 No. 22

New York, Tuesday, September 12, 1978

Possible showers.

JFK Slaying Probe Is Told of 4th Shot

By DANIEL F. GILMORE

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Four shots — not three as the Warren Commission concluded — may have been fired in Dealey Plaza during the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas, acoustics expert James E. Barger testified yesterday.

Conspiracy theorists argue that Lee Harvey Oswald could have fired only three shots in the allotted time frame with his bolt action repeating rifle.

Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), chairman of the House Assassinations Committee which is investigating Kennedy's death, warned that the results of Barger's tests "will be troubling to some." But he cautioned against drawing "sensational conclusions" from the testimony.

Barger, a senior scientist with the firm of Bolt, Beranek and Newman, of Cambridge, Mass., reported to the panel on elaborate tests based on a recording of sounds from a police motorcycle microphone inadvertently left open at Dealey Plaza at the time of the assassination.

The House committee first learned of the recording, which was made on a continuous dictabelt, last September. The Dallas Police Department said it had been turned over to the FBI. The FBI denied receiving it.

Copy Obtained

Committee investigators finally obtained a copy from Paul McCaghren, a retired Dallas assistant police chief.

Barger's study involved test firings in Dealey Plaza last month, both from the

Continued on page 26

Continued from front page

Texas School Book Depository and from the grass knoff at the other end of the plaza. His elaborate presentation of tapes and graphs, a staff member asked Barger, "Is it accurate to say there is evidence of four shots?"

"Yes," Barger replied. "It is a possible conclusion."

The major contradiction of the Warren Commission findings came when Barger said that the police recording showed that there was an interval of about 1.6 seconds between the first and second apparent shots, 5.9 seconds between the second and third and .5 seconds between the third and fourth.

Speed of Firing

The commission had found, based on test-firings, that the fastest Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano rifle could be fired was 2.25 to 2.3 seconds. Based on the Zapruder film of the assassination, the commission decided the time from the first shot to the third was between 7.1 and 7.9 seconds.

The Barger testimony came as the House panel opened its second week of public hearings on Kennedy's death on Nov. 22, 1963.

At the same time, in Dallas, an FBI agent, James P. Hosty, was quoted in the Dallas Morning News as saying that he would "drop bombs" if called to testify publicly on the assassination.

"If they are going to try and contain this like the Church (Senate Intelligence) committee and the Warren Commission, they don't want me up there," Hosty said in a copyrighted story.

He doubted that he would be called to testify because "I'm sure . . . they know everything . . . the whole story."

Hosty, whose name, automobile license and telephone number were found in Oswald's personal notebook upon his arrest was the FBI agent in Dallas who monitored Oswald's activities before the assassination.

He said he spent 30 hours describing the "true assassination story" to the Senate Intelligence Committee, but was invited to testify for 3½ hours before the House committee only after he inquired why he had not been called.