

Experts: 3 Shots Fired

By DANIEL F. GILMORE

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Expert testimony disclosed yesterday that new bullet-path tests have corroborated Warren Commission conclusions that three shots were fired from behind the presidential limousine in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

A photo scientist and a space agency engineer told the House Assassinations Committee that teams of experts decided after complex tests that Kennedy was hit by two bullets, one of which also wounded Texas Gov. John Connally, and a third missed the limousine in which both men were riding.

An acoustics expert, after studying a tape recording made on a Dallas police transmitter left running in Dealey Plaza the day of the shooting, testified Monday there was a possibility of four shots, and one could have come from the grassy knoll.

"Bullet trajectory . . . goes to the heart of the issue whether a single bullet wounded both the President and Governor John Connally," said committee chief counsel G. Robert Blakey, introducing Tuesday's witnesses. "It also locates the position of the assassin or assassins."

Tracing back the path of the shots from the victims, the researchers also concluded all three came from the Texas School Depository building, most likely from the sixth-floor room where the Warren Commission decided Lee Harvey Oswald had hidden.

Conspiracy theorists believe there were more than three shots, at least one fired from a "grassy knoll" in front of the limousine, and hence they could not have been fired by a lone gunman.

Calvin McCamy, former chief of image optics photography with the National Bureau of Standards, said

his team of 20 photo scientists concluded:

- Three shots were fired.
- The first missed.
- The second hit both Kennedy and Connally.
- The third hit the president in the head, killing him.

The experts studied amateur films and still pictures taken during the shooting.

Tom Canning, an engineer with NASA's Space Projects Division, used photographic, geographic and surveying evidence to reach his conclusion the two shots which hit Kennedy and Connally came from the rear and from the book depository building.

Blakey explained at the opening of Tuesday's hearing the teams of experts plotted the projectile path and moving away, instead of assuming the bullets came from the book depository and working toward the motorcade as the Warren Commission did.

In an elaborate reconstruction, the team established where Kennedy and Connally were hit, the relative positions of their bodies at the time of impact, the location of the limousine at the time, and its speed.

Canning was asked point blank whether he was absolutely sure his tests showed a single bullet could have caused Kennedy's neck wounds and multiple wounds inflicted on Connally.

"I am confident that this is the case," he replied.



UPI Photo

Dr. James Barger, an acoustics expert, tells House Assassinations Committee about possible fourth gunshot during the killing of JFK. That's a photo of Dealey Plaza in Dallas next to Barger.