

Doctor Says Kennedy Had Vertebrae Defect

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PHOENIX, Ariz., Jan. 12 (UPI)—President Kennedy was born with a slight abnormality in one of the vertebrae of his lower spine, it has been revealed by a doctor who examined him when he finished his Navy boot camp training during World War II.

Dr. Paul Magnuson, emeritus professor of orthopedic surgery at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, made the disclosure Tuesday.

Magnuson said Kennedy's difficulties with his back, while aggravated by wartime injuries, stemmed from the congenital abnormality.

He said he never before revealed existence of Kennedy's abnormality because "there was no reason to. Everyone knew the President had back trouble, and I knew there never was a moment throughout his life when he was not in pain."

The doctor said that several operations which Kennedy underwent worsened the condition.

MISSION FOR JACKIE

Attorney William Vanden Heuvel says he will fly to Germany today to represent Mrs. John F. Kennedy in talks with the German magazine Der Stern over its serialization of "The Death of a President."

Vanden Heuvel said he is undertaking the mission as a lawyer and friend of the Kennedys "in an effort to get Der Stern to conform to their contract with Look magazine."

Look is running a 60,000-word serialization of William Manchester's book about the Kennedy assassination, after deleting certain portions that Mrs. Kennedy said she regarded as too personal. Der Stern, which bought German serialization rights from Look, has refused to make similar deletions. Stern has already run one unaltered segment of the Look serialization.

Vanden Heuvel said he expects to be in contact with Look magazine representatives in Germany in the effort to dissuade Der Stern from publishing the uncut serialization.