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Panel to seek funding for JFK film analysis

By EARL GOIIZ

The House Assassinations Committee decided Tuesday to seek funding for a computer analysis of the Charles L. Bronson film that may show two persons in the so-called assassin's window of the Texas Schoolbook Depository minutes before President John Kennedy was assassinated.

The decision for a scientific examination of the film coincides with new acoustical evidence of a possible conspiracy.

request for a special prosecutor to continue the investigation after the panel's term expires this month.

The new acoustical evidence came from a Cambridge, Mass., firm. The firm told the committee last September four spots probably could be distinguished from impasses on a Dallas police radio tape recording made during the shooting in Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963.

The firm of Bolt, Beranek & Newman has presented the committee with

a more detailed analysis, which further strengthens the possibility of a fourth shot that would not have come from the direction of the book depository behind the president. The News has learned.

Committee spokesmen said they could not comment about the closed hearings, which were Monday and Tuesday.

The Cambridge firm's latest findings further challenge the Warren Commission's 1964 conclusion that Lee

Harvey Oswald, acting alone, assassinated Kennedy by firing three shots from a rifle on the sixth floor of the depository, striking the president twice.

Dr. James Berger, chief scientist with the Cambridge group, told the committee his firm has refined its analysis of the third of four shots supposedly heard on the police tape. The recording was made when a police motorcycle transmitter button was left open for five minutes in Dealey Plaza.

The firm has measured the velocity and distance of the third shot's sound waves and determined that it came from a rifle — not a pistol as previously thought — and traveled at a distance equal from the wooden fence atop the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza to the presidential limousine, sources said.

The timing would have had the slug striking the president's head at about the same time he was hit in the head from behind by another shot. Scientific expertise not existing in

1963 enabled the Cambridge firm to follow the bullet's path from the sound on a tape recording after the missile left the gun's muzzle. The Abraham Zapruder film, which showed the president's head being slammed back violently on impact of a bullet or bullets, was used to precisely time when the third of four shots was fired and the spot the limousine was on Elm Street. The developments in the 2-year-old investigation occurred as committee

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members, but to review potential evidence that may determine whether a conspiracy existed.

The presentation was so persuasive some committee staff members have suggested the appointment of a special prosecutor to continue the investigation after the committee disbands at the end of the month. The prosecutor would conduct the probe under the auspices of the U.S. Justice Department, sources said.

Experts in medical and ballistics fields have been asked to determine whether the new evidence could be correlated with their findings.

In addition, the committee has decided to find out what, if anything, the Bronson film shows in the 6th-floor window of the depository building about six minutes before the assassination.

The News has interviewed several witnesses who said they saw two people

In the depository window about the time the Bronson film was taken. One witness, an inmate in the county jail, said other prisoners saw a pair of men with a rifle in the depository. The prisoners were in a 6th-floor cell across the street from the depository, the witnesses said.

"The committee definitely regards the film as significant and worthy of further analysis," said Jane Downey, a committee staff counsel. "We are trying to find some means of financing a computer analysis for it."

The committee has spent all of more than \$5 million allotted by congress for two years of investigation. It is "looking everywhere we can but so far we haven't come up with anything" to finance the computer processing of the film, Mrs. Downey said.

"As you know, we just don't have the money so we are looking for outside sources of funding," she said. "But we are not going to give up. We are going

to keep trying."

The cost of a computer analysis of the 92 frames that show the window is "probably in the area" of \$50,000, Mrs. Downey said.

The film was discovered last month by The News after a previously classified FBI memo indicated its existence. An FBI agent viewed the film three days after the assassination and said he could not see the depository building on any frames.

The 8-mm film was then returned to Bronson, who lived in Dallas at the time. He kept it for home movie use until the depository window scene was detected at a showing in his home in Ada, Okla., last month.

Another acoustical analysis of the police tape that did not pick up the sound of shots also was presented to the committee this week.

Anthony Pellicano, whose Chicago firm made the analysis free of charge — the Cambridge firm billed the com-

mittee about \$75,000 — said Tuesday a member of the committee's staff "had seen my report and they (the committee) are pleased. . . . They will not be able to see me this week but will after the first of the year."

Pellicano, who says the open transmitter was two miles away from Dealey Plaza and therefore was out of acoustical range, scoffed at reports of new findings from the Cambridge firm.