

F.B.I. Arms Expert Tells Shaw Trial Kennedy

By MARTIN WALDRON

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NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 22—A firearms expert of the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified today that there was no physical evidence to indicate that any of the shots fired at President Kennedy in Dallas in 1963 came from the front. They came from behind the President, he said.

Robert A. Frazier, a special agent of the F.B.I., testified that he began examining the Presidential limousine less than 12 hours after President Kennedy was killed. The examination of the Lincoln automobile and of objects found in it, plus a study of films of the assassination took weeks.

Mr. Frazier testified he concluded that "there was nothing inconsistent to preclude or indicate that the shots came from anywhere but to the rear and above."

Testimony on Assassination

Mr. Frazier, whose conclusion helped form the basis for the Warren commission finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the only assassin who fired at Mr. Kennedy in Dallas, was testifying in the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw.

Mr. Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman, is charged with helping plan the assassination.

"I didn't intend to get into defending the Warren commission report," said E. Irvin Dymond, chief counsel for Mr. Shaw, "but the state forced us to."

Most of the witnesses in the 11 days of testimony put on by the state dealt with the assassination itself and not with the alleged conspiracy. Several of these witnesses testified that the shots fired at the Presidential limousine came from in front.

Mr. Frazier, who testified briefly yesterday, was on the witness stand most of today as

defense testimony entered the second day.

Before Mr. Shaw's lawyers decided to try to defend the Warren commission's finding that Oswald was a lone assassin, they had estimated that their witnesses would be finished in three days.

Today, it appeared that the trial may last another week.

Mr. Frazier said that one "projectile" definitely hit President Kennedy in the back. He said it was probable that this "projectile," which questioning lawyers referred to as a rifle bullet, exited through the President's tie and collar.

This same bullet could have struck former Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas.

This conjecture has been the basis for one of the continuing controversies about the Warren commission report.

Mr. Connally has said he does not believe he was hit by the bullet that went through President Kennedy's neck.

And persons who have studied closely a motion picture made of the assassination by Abraham Zapruder have contended that Mr. Connally did not begin to show reaction from his bullet wound until at least a second or so after President Kennedy.

Doctors to Be Called

Mr. Frazier said a re-enactment of the assassination conducted on May 24, 1964, showed that Mr. Connally was seated a little to the left in front of President Kennedy in the limousine in Dallas and that the President's neck and Mr. Connally's right side were in line with a sixth floor window of the Texas Schoolbook Depository.

The Warren commission said that Oswald fired from the end window of that floor of the depository.

Mr. Dymond said the defense, in its role of defending the Warren commission, would call the docetors who performed the autopsy on the body of President Kennedy on the eve-

ning of Nov. 22, 1963, in Washington.

Mrs. Ruth H. Paine of Irving, Tex., who was a friend to Mrs. Marina Oswald Porter when she was married to Lee Harvey Oswald, testified this afternoon that she had not known that Oswald had kept a rifle in her garage.

"I wouldn't have wanted it there," said Mrs. Paine.

The tall, slender kindergarten teacher who befriended Marina Oswald was kept waiting for several hours to testify. She passed the time striding up and down the halls of the Criminal Courts Building, snapping her fingers.

She described Oswald as a very neat man.

"I think he liked showers," she said.

Oswald was described by Perry Raymond Russo, the prosecution's chief witness, as a "dirty beatnik."

Mrs. Paine refuted testimony by a state witness indicating that her automobile might have been used as an escape car from the assassination scene. Mrs. Paine said her station wagon, a Chevrolet, was in her driveway in Irving, 30 minutes from Dallas, at the time of the assassination.

Refers to 'Sonic Booms'

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 22 (UPI)—President Kennedy was killed by rifle shots fired from a sixth-floor window behind him, and anyone who heard more than three shots was the victim of "sonic booms" caused by the whiz of bullets, Mr.

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Was Shot From Behind

Frazier told the Shaw trial today.

The testimony by Mr. Frazier contradicted District Attorney Jim Garrison's contention that President Kennedy was killed by a "triangulation of fire"—including bullets fired from the front.

Mr. Garrison charged Mr. Shaw, 55 years old, a retired businessman, with plotting with Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie, a pilot, to murder Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Shaw is charged with conspiracy, not with the actual murder.

Mr. Frazier, chief of the Firearms Identification Unit of the F.B.I. laboratory in Washington, said it was "a relatively easy shot" with the 6.5-mm. Italian military rifle that was found in the depository to the slow

moving Presidential limousine on Nov. 22, 1963.

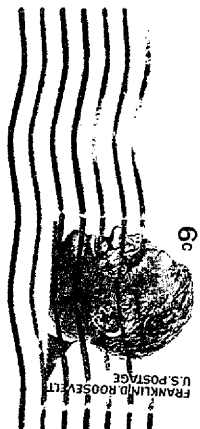
Mr. Frazier said that small "sonic booms" caused some witnesses of the assassination in downtown Dallas to hear more or fewer than the three shots that the Warren Commission said were fired by Oswald.

"When a person is standing in front of a bullet fired faster than sound, they hear a sonic boom from the bullet itself prior to the time they hear the report of the muzzle blast," Mr. Frazier testified.

"In this case one would hear the sonic boom and then a second or a fraction of a second later hear the sound of the report," he said.

"They are very easily confused, unless you are listening for them."

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