

UVIC SPEAKER:

'Definite Conspiracy' In Kennedy Slaying

President John F. Kennedy died in a conspiratorial cross-fire, a University of Victoria audience was told Thursday night.

The speaker was Sylvia Meagher, a veteran of 21 years as a senior reports analyst for the United Nations who has turned her talents to an analysis of the report of the Warren Commission on the assassination.

"The evidence is quite overwhelming," she said.

"There was a definite conspiracy.

"And it is undeniable that there was a crossfire from at least two different gunmen."

Lee Harvey Oswald may not have been one of the conspirators, she added.

LACKED MOTIVE, MEANS

He lacked any credible motive.

He lacked the means, "unless he had suddenly become a considerably better shot than the three master riflemen of the National Rifle Association who were invited to duplicate the feat. They were unable to match the accuracy or even the speed with which Oswald is supposed to have shot Kennedy," Miss Meagher said.

And he lacked the opportunity.

"He simply didn't have the time to meet the very closely timed schedule the Warren Commission tried to impose on him.

'TOOK COKE AWAY'

"When the commission realized he didn't have enough time after shooting the president to get a coke he was holding moments after the assassination, they simply took it away from him.

"He didn't have enough time

to run down four flights of stairs, over to a coke machine, fish out a coin and wait for the bottle to slide down the chute so he could stand there drinking out of the bottle, not even short of breath from his mad dash, in time for a Dallas policeman to see him there.

"So the Dallas policeman simply forgot about the coke.

"This is just one example of a constant pattern of revision, key witnesses saying one thing before the commission and quite another in sworn affidavits right after the assassination."

DELIBERATE

An amateur painter, Miss Meagher portrayed the Warren Commission Report as "a veritable constellation of defects, some of which are trivial, some are thoughtless, and some are unmistakably deliberate and gross mistatements."

Asked if President Johnson appeared to be linked in the alleged conspiracy, Miss Meagher said:

"I have seen no evidence specifically pointing to any individual at that level, or any other level for that matter.

"But it is true that while there is little evidence even suggesting Johnson's implication in the plot, there is more evidence against Johnson than against Oswald."

Miss Meagher has just completed for publication this autumn of a 650-page work on the defects of the commission report.

Why?

Because I don't think any of us can afford to sit back idly in the face of such a gross miscarriage of justice," Sylvia Meagher said.