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Panel Clears CIA In JFK's Death

From Combined Services

WASHINGTON — The Rockefeller commission has rejected all hints and suspicions that the CIA or any of its agents had anything to do with the assassination of President Kennedy.

"Numerous allegations have been made that the CIA participated in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy," the

commission said at the end of an 18-page refutation of such allegations, released last night as part of its report on CIA activities.

"On the basis of the staff's investigation, the commission concluded there was no credible evidence of any CIA involvement."

The panel in effect confirmed the basis of the Warren Commission's con-

clusion nearly 11 years ago, that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in assassinating Kennedy.

The panel thus discounted all of the major conspiracy theories surrounding the slaying.

The Rockefeller report also rejected claims that photos showed E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis, who later took part in the Watergate burglary, at the assassination scene in Dallas.

But Cyril H. Wecht, a

forensic expert whose testimony was included in the report, says his views were misrepresented and that he still believes at least two gunmen were involved in the Nov. 22, 1963, slaying. [Story on Page 5.]

The commission said it had assembled a new panel of five experts to re-study motion pictures,

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autopsy photographs and X-rays, recovered bullet fragments and the clothing and back brace Kennedy wore the day he was shot.

The panel was made up of five doctors, none of whom had served on the Warren Commission or the autopsy commission set up by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark seven years ago, the Rockefeller commission said.

The new study, according to the panel's report, disproved contentions that Kennedy had been shot by a sniper hiding to the right front of

the presidential motorcade and showed that the two shots that killed him had come from the rear, where Oswald was.

It also said there is no credible evidence showing that the CIA had any connection with Oswald or with Jack Ruby, the Dallas nightclub operator who shot and killed Oswald.

Critics of the Warren commission report have long maintained that an analysis of the movie film of the murder casts doubt on the conclusion that Oswald was the sole assassin and that he fired at Kennedy from a window of the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, above and to the rear of the presidential car.

"It was claimed by critics

Excerpts from the Rockefeller report. Page 68; 69.

that the movement of the President's head and body backward and to the left is consistent only with a shot having come from the right front of the presidential car—that is, from the direction of the grassy knoll," the commission report said.

It said its own panel of medical and scientific experts was unanimous in finding that Kennedy had been struck by only two bullets, both of which were fired from the rear, "and that there is no medical evidence to support a contention that the President was struck by

any bullet coming from any other direction."

On another subject, the report said there is no credible evidence for various claims that the movie film shows one or more assassins in the areas of the grassy knoll to the front of the presidential car. It said a study by the FBI of the film and of the entire library of photos taken of the assassination site bears out that conclusion.

A similar FBI photo analysis showed there is little or no similarity between former CIA agent Hunt and Sturgis and two "derelicts" who were photographed near the assassination site after they had been taken into custody by police.

It said there are several key pieces of evidence that link Oswald and only Oswald

to the assassination, including:

¶ The bullet fragments found in the presidential car which were large enough to bear ballistic marks were determined by the FBI to have been fired only by the Oswald rifle found in the book depository.

¶ Most eyewitnesses testified that only three shots were fired, and three shell casings were found near the window at the southeast corner of the sixth floor of the depository. All of them were determined by the FBI to have been fired only by Oswald's rifle.

¶ A man was seen firing a rifle from the depository window and three workers on the fifth floor of the building heard the shots.