

JFK bullet tests back Warren report: experts

WASHINGTON—Expert testimony yesterday disclosed new bullet-path tests have corroborated Warren Commission conclusions that three shots were fired from behind the presidential limousine in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

A photo scientist and a space agency engineer told the Houston Assassinations Committee that teams of experts decided after complex tests that Kennedy was hit by two bullets, one of which also wounded Texas Gov. John Connally, and a third missed the limousine in which both men were riding.

Tracing back the path of the shots from the victims, the researchers also concluded all three came from the Texas School Depository building—most likely from the sixth-floor room where the Warren Commission decided Lee Harvey Oswald had hidden.

Conspiracy theorists believe there were three more shots, at least one fired from a "grassy knoll" in front of the limousine, and hence they could not have been fired by a lone gunman.

An acoustics expert, after studying a tape recording made on a Dallas police transmitter left running in Dealy Plaza the day of the shooting, testified Monday there was a possibility of four shots, and one could have come from the grassy knoll.

"Bullet trajectory... goes to the heart of the issue whether a single bullet wounded both the President and Governor John Connally," said committee chief counsel G. Robert Blakey, introducing yesterday's witnesses. "It also locates the position of the assassin or assassins."

Calvin McCamy, former chief of image optics photography with the National Bureau of Standards, said his team of 20 photo scientists concluded:

- Three shots were fired.
- The first missed.
- The second hit both Kennedy and Connally.
- The third hit the president in the head, killing him.

The experts studied amateur films and still pictures taken during the shooting.

Tom Canning, an engineer with NASA's Space Projects Division, used photographic, geographic and surveying evidence to reach his conclusion the two shots which hit Kennedy and Connally came from the rear and from the book depository building.

Canning said he traced the trajectories of the bullets to the Texas School Book Depository building by a highly technical analysis of the location of the wounds caused by the bullets, location of the presidential limousine at the time of the shooting and the position of the two men in relation to each other.