

House Panel Suggests Conspiracies Led to Kennedy and King Slaysings

Committee Sees Probable Second Gunman in Killing of President — Reviews by Justice Dept. Sought

By MARJORIE HUNTER

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 — President John F. Kennedy "was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy," the House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded today. It said, however, that it was "unable to identify the other gunman or the extent of the conspiracy."

The committee said that, on the basis of circumstantial evidence, that "there is a likelihood" the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. also was assassinated "as a result of a conspiracy."

Acoustical Experts' Testimony

Those findings were issued by the committee at the end of a \$5.8 million, two-year inquiry, and the committee recommended that the Department of Justice review the findings to determine if further investigation should be made into the deaths of the two men.

The committee seems to have based its conclusion of a conspiracy in the Kennedy

assassination on testimony of acoustical experts who testified that there was a high probability of gunfire from two locations along the Dallas motorcade route. The conspiracy theory in the King case did not focus on the involvement of another gunman but on testimony suggesting that Mr. Ray was abetted and that he hoped to earn a bounty on Dr. King.

While suggesting conspiracies in both deaths, the committee concluded, as other official groups have in the past, that Mr. Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald and that Dr. King was slain by James Earl Ray.

Further, in the Kennedy assassination, the committee ruled out any involvement by the Soviet Union, the Cuban government, anti-Castro Cuban groups, any national syndicate of organized crime, the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Criticism of Other Inquiries

Since Mr. Kennedy's death, on Nov. 22, 1963, there have been repeated allegations that one or more of these groups were involved.

The committee was critical of earlier investigations, including that of the Warren Commission, headed by the late Chief Justice Earl Warren.

While saying that the Warren Commission conducted "a thorough and professional investigation into the responsibility of Lee Harvey Oswald" in killing Mr. Kennedy, the committee stated, "The Warren commission failed to investigate

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adequately the possibility of a conspiracy to assassinate the President."

Warren Unit 'Too Definite'

The committee also said that the Warren Commission "was too definite" in reporting that Mr. Oswald was the lone assassin.

The performances of various Government agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Justice, the Secret Service and the Central Intelligence Agency, also were criticized by the committee.

The Secret Service was deficient in its duties, the committee declared, saying that the agency possessed information that was not properly analyzed, investigated or used in connection with Mr. Kennedy's trip to Dallas and that its agents in the Kennedy motorcade were inadequately prepared to protect the President from a sniper.

A Failure Ascribed to F.B.I.

Another committee conclusion was that the F.B.I. failed to investigate adequately the possibility of a conspiracy in Mr. Kennedy's assassination and failed to share fully with other agencies and departments the information it had.

The Department of Justice, the committee said, "failed to exercise initiative in supervising and directing" the F.B.I. inquiry into the Kennedy death.

The bureau and the Justice Department were severely criticized, too, in the King case. The Domestic Intelligence Division of the bureau "grossly abused and exceeded its legal authority" in conducting a campaign against Dr. King, and the Justice Department "failed to su-

pervise adequately" that division, the panel concluded.

Robert Havel, a spokesman for the Department of Justice, said late today that officials of the department have not yet seen the committee's report but that it would be reviewed in detail next week. He said that the department had worked closely with the committee staff in the investigation and was aware of the new acoustical evidence pointing to a conspiracy several weeks ago.

C.I.A. Held Deficient

He also said that the department has no immediate plans to open a formal investigation but that he could not rule out such an investigation's resulting from the review of the committee's report.

Committee criticism of the C.I.A. in the Kennedy slaying was that it "was deficient in collecting and sharing its information both prior to and subsequent to the assassination."

The acoustical evidence supporting the committee's conclusion was brought out in testimony yesterday by two experts, Mark Weiss and Ernest Aschkenasy, professors at Queens College of the City University of New York.

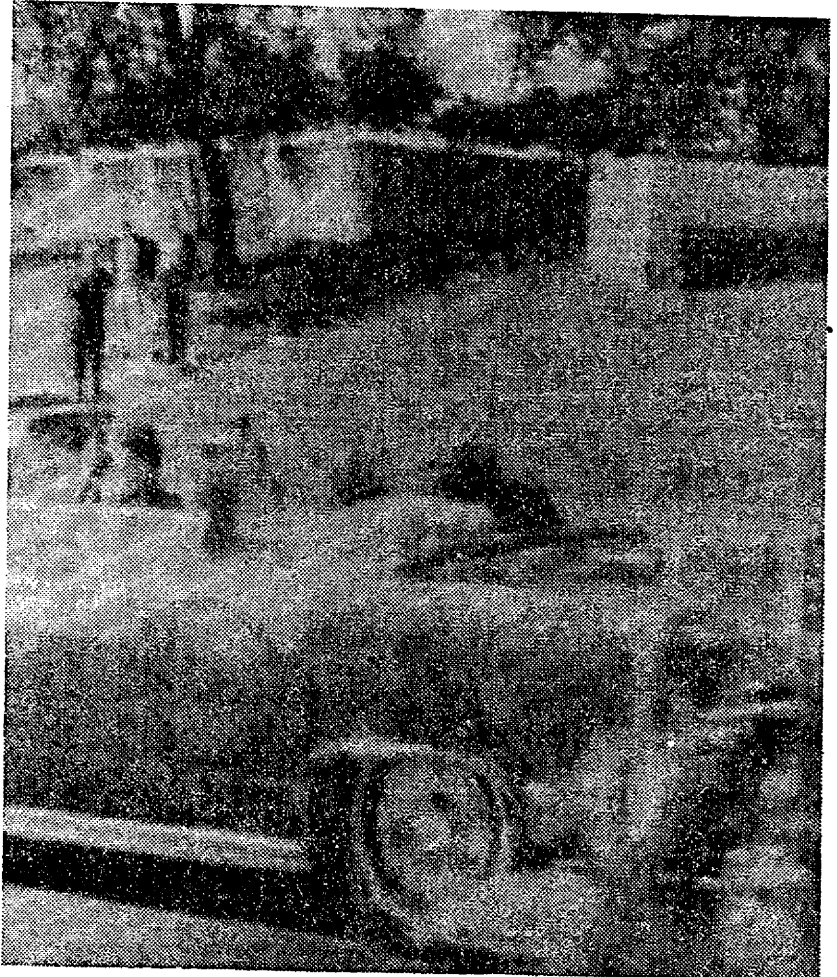
The two men said that, based on their tests, there was a 95 percent chance, or better, that a shot was fired from a

grassy knoll in Dallas as the Kennedy motorcade passed by.

It was not this shot, however, that killed the President, the two men said and the committee agreed. The fatal shot was fired by Oswald as he stood at the window of the Texas School Book Depository, the committee said.

The Findings on King

In its findings on the death of Dr. King, the committee said that James Earl Ray fired one shot at the civil rights leader on



Associated Press
Jacqueline Kennedy aiding the President as he was wounded by gunfire in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Car is shown passing grassy knoll from which, according to acoustical experts, a recording indicated that a shot was fired. The House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that a probable conspiracy existed in Mr. Kennedy's death based largely on that testimony.

April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

The committee made no mention of any other gunman being involved in the King death. Its suggestion of a "likelihood" of conspiracy apparently was based on information presented to the committee that other persons may have abetted Mr. Ray in the killing and that Mr. Ray acted

in hopes of receiving a sum of money offered by some unidentified person for Dr. King's death.

Mr. Ray pleaded guilty to killing Dr. King but has since said that he was set up to take the blame for the murder. He is serving a life term in prison in Tennessee.