

Panel Member Cites Taped Shots

A New Findings Point to 2nd JFK Assassin

By Piet Bennett
Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 10—A member of the House Assassinations Committee said today that new evidence shows "beyond a reasonable doubt" that four shots were fired, from two directions, at President Kennedy when he was murdered in Dallas 15 years ago.

The Warren Commission had found that only three shots were fired, all from the school book depository. It also concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing the president.

Rep. Harold Sawyer (R-Mich.) said the evidence also shows conclusively that the third of those shots came from the so-called grassy knoll rather than from the Texas School Book Depository.

Sawyer, ranking Republican on the Kennedy assassination subcommittee, said the disclosure came from two acoustical experts testifying Monday night during a closed session of the assassinations committee.

"They concluded that there were four shots, the third of which was fired from the grassy knoll," Sawyer reported. He said the experts testified there was a 95 percent probability four shots were fired at Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Sawyer said he cannot recall the names of the two who provided the evidence but he stressed they are experts in the field of acoustics.



Rep. HAROLD SAWYER

... evidence "beyond reasonable doubt"

"I don't know of any reason not to accept it," Sawyer said about the evidence. But he added the disclosure "leaves me entirely up in the air" about who killed Kennedy.

In Washington, a committee spokesman said there would be no comment on the matter.

A knowledgeable source said: "I don't think Mr. Sawyer would go on the radio and lie."

Officials in the office of Rep. Louis

Stokes (I-Ohio), the assassinations committee chairman, also would not comment on Sawyer's report.

The new evidence came from "a refinement of the earlier analysis" of a tape recording made during the Kennedy assassination of the sound coming from a motorcycle police officer's radio. The officer's radio transmitter was left on for about 5½ minutes, including the period when the president was shot.

Sawyer described the technique used as one which allowed the experts to refine sounds on the tape "down to a very narrow window" so they could study tiny details, such as building echoes.

Dr. James E. Barger, an acoustics expert who testified at a public session of the committee Sept. 11, had said his work on the tape showed a 50-50 possibility there were four shots, with one from the grassy knoll.

Sawyer said Barger studied the more recent work of the other two experts and agreed with their conclusion that four shots were fired. "Barger was there and he was totally in concurrence," Sawyer added.

The Warren Commission agreed Oswald could have fired three shots. A fourth shot would have required a second assassin.

Sawyer said, "I'm probably in hot water on the whole thing" by disclosing testimony from an executive session. But he added, "The information

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JFK Panel Gets Data of Conspiracy

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on one of President Nixon's Watergate recordings.

An initial study of the Dallas police radio recording was made for the House committee earlier this year by James Barger, an acoustical expert with the Massachusetts firm of Bolt, Bernack and Newman. In testimony before the committee last Sept. 11, he said his work on the tape showed a 50-50 possibility of a fourth shot, from the grassy knoll area.

Weiss and his colleagues were commissioned by the committee to see if they could reach a more definite conclusion, one way or the other. They concentrated on the third of the four noises that Barger's studies had identified as possible gunshots.

The third had come from the grassy knoll area where photographic evidence—by itself inconclusive—shows an individual behind a fence with a linear object next to him, an object that could not be identified further.

Concentrating on the noise from the grassy knoll, Weiss and his col-

league plotted the echo pattern mathematically and traced every building and other object off which it bounced in 1963.

The work was so precise, one source said, that "they could tell us there was probably a boxcar on the [nearby] railroad tracks. They even identified the press bus coming around the corner."

They also reportedly fixed the position of the motorcycle and even determined the side of the bike where the microphone was located.

As part of the study, the experts obtained an old, presumably similar, microphone and motorcycle and conducted test firings in New York with the help of New York police. From those tests, sources said, "they were able to reproduce the sound on the [Dallas] tape."

Sawyer said that Barger studied the new data and agreed with the findings. "Barger was there [at the Monday night meeting] and he was totally in concurrence," Sawyer said.

The Michigan Republican said he was "probably in hot water" for disclosing testimony taken in executive session, but he said he found himself

under close questioning during the radio show.

"There was no way I could answer them," he said of his interviewers, "without getting into this."

The new findings also leave the committee in a quandary. With its final report due within the next two weeks, Sawyer said, "I don't know how in the name of heaven we are going to handle this . . ."

Only three cartridge cases were found near the window near the sixth-floor window of the book depository where Oswald had been placed. The Warren Commission said that one bullet missed, another hit President Kennedy in the back of the neck and then wounded Texas Gov. John Connally and the third struck the president in the head.

"There is no credible evidence that the shots were fired from the triple Underpass, the head of the motorcade, or from any other location," the Commission concluded. "The weight of the evidence indicates that there were three shots fired."

There is still likely to be considerable debate over whether the shot from the grassy knoll hit the president or not. The House committee may take the position that it missed the presidential party.

Evidence Points to 2nd Killer Of JFK, Panel Member Says

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is going to be made public anyway. It's not anything top secret."

The information emerged while Sawyer was appearing on a talk show at a Grand Rapids radio station. The congressman said he had no idea the program would focus upon the Kennedy assassination, but a college professor questioned him closely on the

"There was no way I could answer them without getting into this," Sawyer said about the professor's questions.

Asked what will happen because of the new evidence, Sawyer said he is uncertain. The committee's work is supposed to be completed by Dec. '1.

"I don't know how in the name of heaven we're going to handle this for matter.

purposes of our report," Sawyer commented. He noted Monday night's session originally was supposed to consider a preliminary draft of the committee report.

There is a meeting involving some committee members set for Friday,

Sawyer reported, but he said no hearing of evidence has been scheduled for that session.

Clips A and C are from the same edition, where the story began at the bottom of page 1.

Clip B is the 2nd half of the story as it appeared in the edition where it began as a 6-column head at the top of page 1.

Unfortunately, when I set out to clip the Post Thursday story, I couldn't find the 6-column edition, so B is incomplete. If the first part turns up I'll send it.

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