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Pathologist Says New Tests Warranted in JFK Murder

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (UPI) — A pathologist who won a six-year legal fight to obtain secret FBI ballistics evidence from the John F. Kennedy assassination said Tuesday the FBI tests were full of holes and new tests are needed to determine whether there was more than one assassin.

Dr. John Nichols said another suit will be filed to obtain and conduct new tests on the original bullet fragments recovered from Kennedy's head, the presidential limousine, former Texas Gov. John B. Connally's body and a stretcher at Parkland Hospital.

Nichols, an associate professor of pathology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, spent a month conducting a computer analysis with another researcher on 73 pages of raw data from FBI tests conducted in 1964 on the fragments. He said the data "is incomplete, contains

errors and has essential factors missing."

More sophisticated tests than were possible 11 years ago might be able to show whether the fragments came from different bullets, and thus whether there was more than one gunman, Nichols said.

The Warren Commission's single-assassin theory hinges on the belief that the same bullet which caused Kennedy's throat wound also caused Connally's wound, because it was determined that the gun allegedly used by Lee Harvey Oswald could have been fired only once in the time span in which both men were wounded.

The pathologist lost his original suit filed in 1969 against the FBI and the U.S. archivist to obtain results of FBI neutron activation analysis tests on the fragments and the original fragments for fur-

ther study in an atomic reactor.

In February Nichols filed another suit when amendments to the Freedom of Information Act took effect, and the FBI turned over the data to him last month.

Neither the data nor a letter written by then director J. Edgar Hoover about the tests was included in the commission's 26 volumes of evidence published with its report.

In the neutron activation process, a sample of metal is bombarded with radiation, and the emissions it gives off show with precision to a millionth part the amount of each element present in the sample.

In July 1964, Hoover told J. Lee Rankin, general counsel to the commission, that "while minor variations in composition were found by this method, these were not considered sufficient to permit positively differentiating among the

larger bullet fragments and thus positively determining from which of the larger bullet fragments any given small lead fragment may have come."

Dr. Nichols and his associate, Dr. Vincent Guinn, director of atomic research at the University of California-Irvine, said their analysis of the data was also inconclusive.