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Text of Governor Connally's Statement

Special to The New York Times
AUSTIN, Tex., Nov. 23—Following is a statement made by Gov. John B. Connally Jr. today in discussing the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas three years ago.

So that there will be no misunderstanding or misinterpretation of this news conference today, let me first speak to you from a prepared text.

I want to make it abundantly clear that I have no desire to prolong or pervert the stark memories of the tragedy of three years ago. This conference has been arranged solely as a result of the widespread request of newsmen.

I will take just a moment to reiterate and to clarify once again the events of that day. Let me point out that this information is not new. It is precisely the information I recalled and related in a television interview from a hospital bed in Dallas on Nov. 27, just a few days following the assassination.

It is precisely the way I related it in testimony to the Warren Commission. It also is precisely the way it had been recalled by me in interviews since that time.

I am convinced, beyond any doubt that I was not struck by the first bullet. I know that I heard the first shot, that I turned to see what happened and that I was struck by a second shot. The third shot struck the President and not me.

As I said earlier, this testimony was presented to the Warren Commission. They chose to disagree, which is their privilege. I maintain my original view, and always, shall.

I want to make it very clear, however, that simply because I disagree with the Warren Commission on this one detail does not mean that I disagree with the substance of their over-all findings.

I think the commission did an outstanding job under difficult circumstances. Each of the members of that commission, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Senator Richard B. Russell, Senator John Sherman Cooper, Representative Hale Boggs, Representative Gerald Ford, Mr. Allen Dulles and Mr. John J. McCloy, are men of unquestioned integrity, of long and devoted service to their nation, men whose dedication to the task of seeking truth in these circumstances I would never

question, and men whose patriotism has been manifested so many times in so many ways over such a long period that it now is somewhat shocking to me that in the backlash of tragedy, journalistic scavengers such as Mark Lane, attempting to impugn the motives of these members individually, cast doubts upon the commission as a whole and question the credibility of the Government itself.

I think it is time that we pause and reflect on who these individuals are and rather than calling for a further investigation of the assassination which in my judgment is neither warranted, justified or desirable, we should turn our attention to doing a little research on and evaluation of the credentials of the self-appointed experts who, with no evidence, no new facts, nevertheless use distortion, inference, innuendo, in order to cast doubts and create confusion.

I suspect that a searching investigation into their own credentials will divulge that their motives have political overtones and that their views have been given prominence out of proportion to their value.