

MD Discredits Story Of 'Key' JFK Witness

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WASHINGTON — A psychiatrist who treated the now-dead "key witness" of the House Assassinations Committee says George de Mohrenschildt talked openly of suicide last year and never mentioned being involved in a plot to kill President John F. Kennedy.

De Mohrenschildt apparently killed himself in Florida on March 29, hours after being contacted by committee investigators pursuing his claim that he was a middleman between assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and H. L. Hunt, the late Texas oilman.

But the Texas psychiatrist who treated De Mohrenschildt has told newsmen the story never emerged during his patient's eight weeks of hospitalization late last year, despite repeated examinations and electric shock treatments.

The account of the physician, who asked to remain unidentified, is another blow to the Assassinations Committee, which claims to have uncovered "new leads" in the killings of Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

At almost the same time, another problem has emerged regarding one of the other "major discoveries" of the committee staff.

The former head nurse in the emergency room where Kennedy died Nov. 22, 1963, has told newsmen she has nothing to back up her story that four or five bullet fragments were removed from the body of Texas Gov. John B. Connally that day.

A central conclusion of the Warren Commission was that one bullet hit Kennedy in the neck and then caused five wounds in Connally. The Warren panel reported three fragments from that bullet were removed from Connally.

The House committee staff seized on the report from the nurse as an indication that more than one gunman was involved in the killing. It is hunting for the alleged extra fragments.

Contacted by reporters, Audrey N. Bell said:

"Please bear in mind, this happened

13 years ago. I have no proof of anything. I have no records. It's strictly on recall."

In addition, the De Mohrenschildt story raises serious questions about the substance of the work being done by investigators for the House committee.

Eight days before De Mohrenschildt was found dead, the psychiatrist's name and telephone number were turned over to the chief investigator for the committee in the Kennedy case by the news media, along with an account of his report on De Mohrenschildt.

Committee investigators had not contacted the psychiatrist by the time De Mohrenschildt — their "key witness," according to staff documents — died.

The psychiatrist told newsmen De Mohrenschildt came to him Oct. 29, saying he was exhausted and asking to

be committed for mental observation. After examination, the doctor agreed.

But when arrangements with a Texas state mental institution were completed four days later, De Mohrenschildt refused to enter the hospital, according to the doctor.

One week later, De Mohrenschildt's wife began involuntary commitment proceedings and De Mohrenschildt then agreed voluntarily to enter the hospital, according to the psychiatrist.

De Mohrenschildt received treatment as a chronic depressive and the psychiatrist quoted his patient as saying: "I'm depressed. I'm going to kill myself."

Never was the Kennedy assassination mentioned, according to the physician.

After De Mohrenschildt was found dead of a gunshot wound in the head, a Dutch newsman testified to the House committee that De Mohrenschildt told him he was involved in a plot against Kennedy and had talked of connections with Oswald, Hunt and the CIA.

The committee is investigating that.