

New Study on Slaying of Kennedy Doubts 2d Gunman Was Involved

WASHINGTON, May 14 (AP) — Recordings cited by a Congressional panel as evidence that a second gunman was involved in the slaying of President Kennedy in 1963 were made a full minute after the shooting and reflect no proof of a conspiracy, the National Academy of Sciences has concluded.

A study, made public today said that the recordings, made when a Dallas motorcycle police officer left his radio transmitter on for five and a half minutes, "do not support a conclusion that there was a second gunman" shooting from a grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza.

The conclusions in the study, which was requested by the Justice Department, conflict with those of two teams of acoustic experts who examined the evidence for the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978.

The committee concluded that the President was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy and that the recording "establishes a high probability that two gunmen fired" at him.

Warren Commission Findings

This conflicted with conclusions of the Warren Commission, which said in 1964 that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in firing three shots from the Texas School Book Depository at the Kennedy motorcade.

"The acoustic analyses do not demonstrate that there was a grassy knoll shot, and in particular there is no acoustic basis for the claim of a 95 percent probability of such a shot," the panel of experts assembled by the academy's National Research Council said.

Spokesmen for the experts who did the 1978 studies said they would have no comment on the new report until they examined it in detail.

The academy's committee, headed by Dr. Norman Ramsey of Harvard University, said there were serious problems with the methods and calculations used in the earlier studies.

Sounds Recorded 'Too Late'

The academy's study said that sounds on the recording that went unrecognized in earlier examinations showed "conclusively that the previously analyzed sounds were recorded about one minute after the assassination and, therefore, too late to be attributed to assassination shots."

The recording, made on a Dictaphone belt used to retain police radio information, contained cross-talk from another broadcast channel that no one previously studied in detail, the study said. Sound spectrograms of those other signals showed that they were a message broadcast a minute after the assassination, the study said.

Representative Louis Stokes, Democrat of Ohio, who was chairman of the assassinations committee, said the academy's report "raised new and serious questions about our conclusions that need to be resolved." He said he would seek Congressional hearings to review the report.

The academy's findings generally agree with those of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which examined the recording and concluded that there was no acoustic evidence of a second gunman