

New Study Claims 3 Involved in JFK Slaying

Witnesses Heard

NEW YORK — (UPI) — A

new independent study of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy made public Thursday claims the slaying was a conspiracy and three gunmen were involved, all of whom may still be at large.

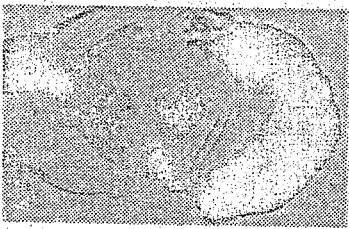
The major conclusions of a two-year investigation of the 1963 tragedy by Dr. Josiah Thompson of Haverford College, Pa., are contained in an article in The Saturday Evening Post which will reach the newsstands Tuesday.

The Post, in an editorial, contends that Thompson "demolishes the Warren report" and demands the assassination case be reopened by the government.

Thompson, 32-year-old Yale Phi Beta Kappa scholar who teaches philosophy, charges that although the details remain unclear, "the essential outline of the assassination is now apparent — the 'one assassin' finding of the Warren Commission is patently wrong; there were four shots from three guns in six seconds."

Some of Thompson's conclusions are based on original research in the National Archives, documents and photos not seen by the Warren Commission, and interviews with eyewitnesses. Others are grounded in further analyses of material in the Warren report.

The author, whose book, "Six Seconds in Dallas," will be published Nov. 27, does not speculate on the identi-



Dr. Josiah Thompson
...author of book

ties of the assassins or their motivation, but he does cast doubt on the guilt of Lee Harvey Oswald. He said Oswald was in the Texas School Book Depository building and his rifle was used, but it is "quite likely" that he was not the assassin at the sixth floor window.

Thompson claims to have had access to a better print of Abraham Zapruder's colored movie of the assassina-

tion than was made available to the FBI. An analysis of this print, owned by Life Magazine, by a new technique involving superimposition of sequential pictures and by a dissecting microscope provided Thompson with data he says indicates:

FOUR BULLETS were fired in Dallas' Dealey Plaza and all hit their mark (the Warren Commission reported three shots, two hits). The first, a cartridge whose explosive power was substantial, made a shallow wound in the president's back. The second wounded Gov. John B. Connally. The third hit Kennedy's head from behind. The fourth hit Kennedy's head from the front and was fatal.

THE BULLETS were fired from three locations — the sixth floor of the Depository Building, the roof of a nearby building, possibly the Dallas County Records Building or the Dal-Tex Building, and the stockade fence behind the grassy knoll at the side of the plaza.

THE THEORY that a single bullet wounded both Kennedy and Connally is erroneous. The superior quality Zapruder film shows the men were not struck at the same time but within a short enough time to eliminate the possibility that the bullets came from the same gun.

Another amateur motion picture of the assassination, made by Orville Nix and taken opposite from Zapruder's position, showed what appeared on enlargement to be a man with a rifle leaning on the roof of a station wagon behind the fence on the knoll and pointing toward the cavalcade.

A months-long independent

study of the film by the Itek Corp. of Lexington, Mass., one of the nation's top photographic laboratories, determined, however, that the "man with the rifle" was simply a blending of shadows of tree branches. It also established that it would have been impossible for a gunman to have hit Kennedy from the station wagon shown in the picture.

The author quotes Connally as saying that to his "absolute knowledge" he was hit by a different bullet than hit the president and Mrs. Connally is quoted as saying "no one will ever convince me otherwise."

Thompson said the Warren

Commission, "recognizing that to believe the governor's account meant also to believe in the existence of a second assassin, put forth its 'delayed reaction' theory" to explain the time lapse between when the bullet supposedly hit Connally and his realization of being hit.

"With few exceptions, all the evidence discussed in this study was available to the Warren Commission," Thompson said. "But the commission, in its haste, its uncritical evaluation of the facts, and its predisposition to prove Lee Harvey Oswald the lone assassin, overlooked much of it."