

6/26/67

Oswald Had Time for Three Volleys--CBS

NEW YORK (AP)—The Columbia Broadcasting System said yesterday its investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy found that Lee Harvey Oswald had enough time to fire three shots at the auto carrying Kennedy.

Many critics of the 26-volume Warren Commission report have contended that the rifle used by Oswald was not capable of being fired three times in 5.6 seconds — the time commission tests indicated was used in firing the shots.

Other critics have pointed to the amateur film taken by Abraham Zapruder on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, which also puts the time angle in doubt.

CBS SAID IN THE first of a four-part series on the assassination that it concluded "a Mannlicher-Carcano rifle can be fired as accurately and rapidly —and probably more—as the commission believed."

Also, CBS said, the film shot by Zapruder "was quite possibly running slower than the commission thought." And blurs on three of the film frames indicates "something startled Mr. Zapruder," CBS said. It said evidence showed "a rifle is what startled him."

CBS News' analysis of Zapruder's film "suggests strongly that the first shot was fired at frame 186" while "the commission said only that the first shot to hit came between frames 210 and 225."

A SLOW CAMERA, CBS said, "most likely meant that the rifleman may have had additional time to get off three shots" in probably seven to eight seconds instead of 5.6 seconds.

"The first shot was fired

from Dallas Texas School Depository building sooner than the Warren Commission said," CBS newsmen concluded.

CBS said that in its experiments from a 60-foot tower, the same height as the sixth-floor window of the school book depository, one of its 11 volunteer marksmen made three hits in 5.2 seconds. CBS said another got one hit from three shots in 4.1 seconds—all with Mannlicher-Carcano rifles.

CBS SAID ITS investigation supported Warren Commission findings that Oswald owned a rifle, took one to the depository building, and Oswald was in the building on the sixth floor when the three shots were fired.

Walter Cronkite who narrated the program, said the network's second and third telecasts would cover conspiracy theories.

"We drew a distinction between Oswald as a killer and Oswald as the killer," Cronkite said. "The Warren Commission —despite the most widely accepted and often restated capsule version of its findings—did not state that Oswald was the only killer. It did state that it could not find any evidence that others had conspired with him."

"Yet," Cronkite added, "it is

precisely on this point that most Americans question the commission's conclusion most strongly. Almost two out of three Americans seem to feel that behind such a monstrous deed there must have been a conspiracy."

CBS's other three telecasts dealing with the assassination will be shown tonight, tomorrow and Wednesday.