



Connally, right, in the limousine with President Kennedy and the first lady before the assassination

Bullet Buried With Connally

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Dallas — Former Texas Gov. John Connally went to his grave with the bullet fragments that conspiracy theorists say could indicate a second gunman took part in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Friends and relatives of Connally were cool to researchers' requests sent to Attorney General Janet Reno that the fragments be removed from the body, and the government made no move to halt the burial Thursday in Austin or to have him exhumed.

Connally, who died at 76 Tuesday

of pulmonary fibrosis, was sitting in the open limousine with Kennedy when the president was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas.

According to the Warren Commission report, one of the bullets — fired by Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone — passed through the president and pierced Connally's back. It exited through his chest, passed through his wrist, went into his thigh and was found on a hospital stretcher, the report said. Critics of the report say a single bullet could not have taken such a path and

come out in such good condition.

Under state and federal law, the fragments could not be removed without the family's permission or a court order. The JFK researchers contend that officials have the authority to compel an examination because the fragments are evidence in a murder investigation. Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern said the department agreed with the recommendation of Oliver Revell, agent in charge of the FBI's Dallas office, who said the fragments should be removed if the family approved.