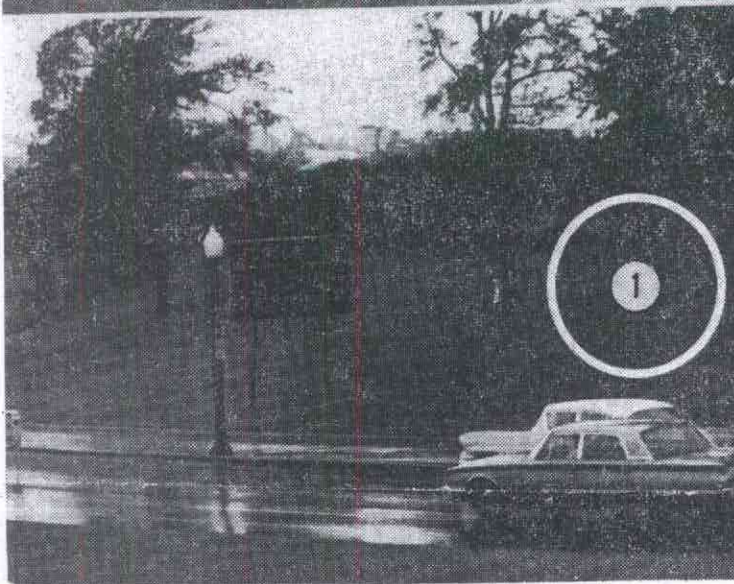
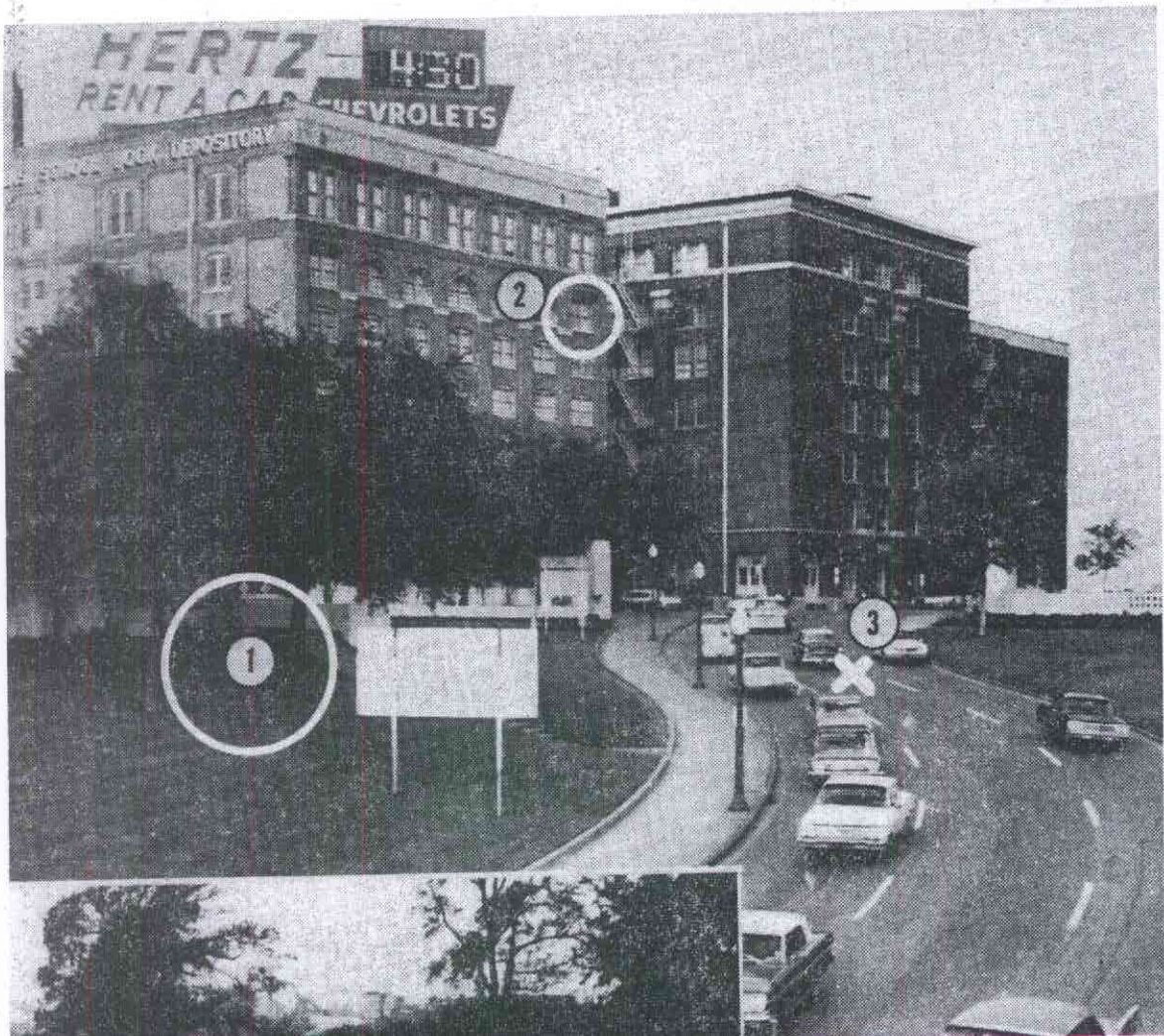


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Two persons shot at President?



Many witnesses claim they heard shots coming from a "grassy knoll" (1) in front of the Kennedy motorcade. Oswald, other witnesses testified, fired the fatal shots from the window of the Texas School Book Depository (2). The President's limousine was at (3) when the first shot was fired.

Kennedy assassination probe held necessary

Sylvan Fox, deputy police commissioner of New York City, is former city editor of the New York World-Telegram and Sun where he won a Pulitzer Prize. He is the author of the best-selling book, "The Unanswered Questions About President Kennedy's Assassination."

By SYLVAN FOX
Newspaper Enterprise
Association

Three years after President Kennedy's assassination, the nation's concern over that ghastly event has entered a new phase.

The question no longer is whether the Warren Commission adequately performed its task of determining precisely what took place on Nov. 22, 1963. A wealth of material — books, articles and scholarly studies — has demonstrated convincingly that it did not.

The question now is whether the commission's work was faulty enough to warrant a new examination of the circumstances surrounding the assassination.

ANSWER

The persuasive answer to that question, given by a number of responsible public figures, including, most recently, Rep. Theodore Kupferman, R-N.Y., is yes.

Kupferman has proposed creation of a joint congressional committee that would determine "whether there exists the necessity to re-investigate thoroughly all the facts and circumstances surrounding the events that ended in the assassination of President Kennedy. . . ."

OWN DECISION

If the joint committee de-

cidated, after a study of both the Warren Report and the work of its critics, that further examination was required, it would then conduct a full-scale investigation of its own.

Similar proposals for re-opening the Kennedy affair have been made in recent months by Richard Goodwin, a former Kennedy aide; William F. Buckley, the conservative commentator, and several journalists.

An unofficial inquiry has been launched by two teams of researchers at the University of California (Los Angeles) Law School under the direction of Wesley J. Lieb-

eler, an acting professor at the law school. Liebele served as assistant counsel on the staff of the Warren Commission.

But, as Kupferman himself concedes, the likelihood of any immediate official or congressional action in this direction is slim indeed.

"Gerry Ford (Rep. Gerald Ford, Republican minority leader) told me he didn't think a new investigation was needed," Kupferman explains. Ford was one of the seven members of the Warren Commission.

DOUBTS

Despite Ford's confident attitude, neither the passage of time nor the reassuring words of the Warren Commission have stilled the gnawing doubts or answered the unanswered questions about what really happened in Dallas.

On the contrary, a small flood of books and articles

have raised again and again the questions millions of Americans have vainly asked each other:

—Did Lee Harvey Oswald act alone when he shot the President, as the Warren Commission claims, or was he part of some larger plot?

—Could the assassination have taken place as the Warren Commission says it did, or was the commission's judgment and investigative objectivity clouded by a desire for answers that would allay the nation's fears?

Criticism of the Warren Report falls into two major categories: The first, exemplified by Edward Jay Epstein's "Inquest," concentrates on the Warren Commission's hasty and often slipshod methods; the second, exemplified by other books, including those by French journalist Leo Sauvage, former congressional investigator Harold Weisberg, philosophy professor Richard H. Popkin, attorney Mark Lane and this writer, attack not only the commission's methods but the reasonableness of its conclusions.

KEY POINTS

At the heart of most of the criticism lie a few key points accepted by the Warren Commission and challenged by its critics:

—The commission contends that President Kennedy and

Gov. John Connally of Texas were struck by the same bullet. Connally insists he was hit by a separate bullet. The critics demonstrate that much of the evidence supports Connally and that if the governor is correct, Oswald could not have been the sole assassin because it would have been physically impossible for him to fire all the shots in the time required.

—Well over half the witnesses questioned about the source of the shots that killed Kennedy said at least one came from an area to the front of the President's motorcade, rather than above and behind it. If their recollections are correct, there must have been at least two persons firing at the President.

—The commission asserts that the President was struck once in the head and once in the back. The bullet that hit the President in the back, it says, exited through the throat. The critics, supported by certain important FBI documents and other evidence, argue that the throat wound was caused by a bullet striking the President from the front — which again would mean more than one assassin.

FAILURE

There are a host of other important areas of disagreement. The essential point, however, is that the commission failed, in the view of the critics, to prove its basic contention that Oswald was the lone assassin.

One writer, Richard Popkin, a professor at the University of California, accepted the commission's challenge to provide an alternative theory of the assassination. Using only the evidence contained in the Warren Report itself, Popkin spins a fascinating and plausible web which shows that there might have been two or even three Oswalds — the real one and one or two others posing as Oswald to confuse the trail and provide alibis.

The significance of Popkin's work does not necessarily depend on its veracity. It may or may not approach the truth about an assassination plot. What is far more important is that a theory could be developed from the evidence contained in the report with-

out assuming, as the commission did, that the assassination was the work of a single deranged man. What Popkin found, the commission should have been and investigated. It did not.

EXAMPLE

Popkin's work is merely one instance of the abundant material that the Warren Commission either ignored or overlooked.

Only by opening the entire matter to re-examination can these loose ends be drawn together into a tighter fabric than we now have.

"At some point," said British journalist Henry Fairlie, a disinterested observer who can neither be considered a critic nor a supporter of the Warren Report, "it is clear there will have to be another independent inquiry."

'LESS THAN THOROUGH'

"The report of the Warren Commission," he added, "is now under severe and, in some cases, persuasive attack. It is hard to disagree with the general judgment of its critics that it did a hurried and slovenly job. It seems to have been less than thorough in the examination of some key witnesses, less than skeptical of some of the official evidence with which it was supplied, less than careful to consider in detail every possible explanation of the assassination other than Oswald's sole guilt."

Perhaps a new investigation would merely reaffirm what the Warren Commission concluded in the first place. In that case, all the responsible criticism would be silenced and the ugly rumors, which have touched even President Johnson, would be set at rest.

PERSPECTIVE

More likely, important evidence would be uncovered which would place the events of Dallas in a new perspective and give us all a better glimpse of the truth.

Such an investigation will not take place soon, to judge from the official response the idea has received up to now. But it is certain that unless a new inquiry is launched, the restless specter of doubt and suspicion will continue to walk among us for decades to come.

Dallas to dedicate Kennedy plaque today

DALLAS (UPI) — A clean-lined, curved and polished slab of granite on which are mounted two bronze plaques marks a place of history and sorrow in Dallas — the site of the assassination of President Kennedy.

The city unveiled the memorial Wednesday with a simple ceremony. A more formal observance will be held today,

the third anniversary of the assassination, and some of the people who fought to get the plaques worded a certain way will be there.

When the memorial was first planned, it was to mention not only Kennedy's murder but also other facts of Dallas history. Some citizens protested, contending only the assassination should be mentioned

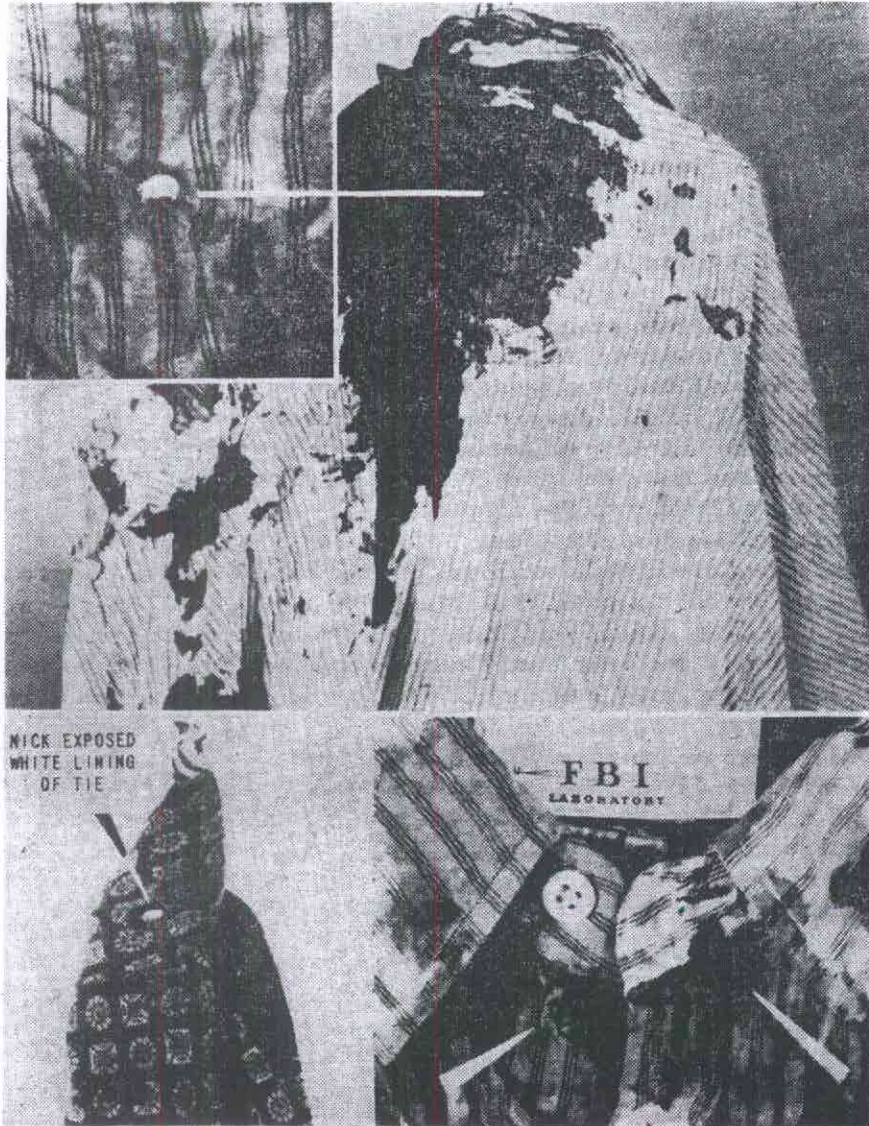
on a memorial erected mainly because of the assassination.

The wording was changed by the City Council and now summarizes briefly the events of the Kennedy slaying. A chart accompanies it, showing where assassin Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots.

The memorial is in Dealey Plaza near the assassination site. It cost \$8,400.

•
Lee Harvey Oswald is shown after his capture. Oswald refused to admit anything and was permanently silenced by Jack Ruby's bullets.





The bullet hole in the back of Kennedy's shirt is $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches below the collar top. The position of the wound in his body was considerably higher as described by the Warren Commission.