

The JFK Committee: See No Evil

The first week of the House Assassination Committee's hearings in 1976, the murder of John Kennedy, fascinated millions but disappointed long-time followers of assassination research. Many items were publicly aired that further damaged the Oswald-as-lone-assassin theory, but the committee, as we predicted two weeks ago, is clinging to that theory to the point of ignoring evidence that doesn't fit. The first five days of hearings addressed the actual gunplay in Dallas's Dealey Plaza. Medical, ballistic, neurological and other criminological evidence was presented. Witnesses with material supportive of the lone-assassin theory, such as pathologist Cyril Wecht and former Texas Governor John Connally and his wife, were, as was proper, critically questioned at great length. But those with testimony favorable to the committee's thesis were let off with frustrating ease, and were seldom asked about even the most well-known material that conflicts with what they presented. Some examples:

The "single bullet theory," which holds that one shot hit both Kennedy and Connally, requires that the bullet went all the way through Kennedy's body. When Dr. James J. Humes, who performed the autopsy on Kennedy, failed to ask him about the famous FBI report that he probed the president's back wound and found it only penetrated a couple of inches, *Maybe Humes would have retraced or explained away his original story, which has been a stuck item in some conspiracy scenarios, or maybe he would have stuck by it; the committee was uninterested.*

The committee was able to take its pick of other, often contradictory material in building its case. For instance, had there been a bullet hole in the back of the head of Kennedy's car, it would have been a medical panel finding that it was four inches lower. Other persons at the autopsy told the Warren Commission there was no entrance wound at all in the back of the head, but rather, that the whole back of the head was blown away. The committee ignored these statements.

The committee presented a ballistics expert, *whom* it interviewed in pathology, who asserted that the backward path of Kennedy's head and body from impact to the first head shot was a mathematical inevitability about anyone from the grassy knoll fired at him. This explanation, first officially offered by the Rockefeller commission in 1975 and repeated by photo experts hired by CBS-TV in 1976, was received by the committee skeptically. Critical questions went unasked, such as how to explain the backward burst of debris from Kennedy's lower neck skull, as forecasted by a motion picture cycle corp behind the *Imagined* and the debris during him.

Ballistics experts were showered with any follow-up questions, including Oswald's first shot was "easy" whether or not this was true, it was *not* true. The latter fact alone would suggest "rapid-fire" shots were not uncharacteristic. Many alleged that such "fast" firing during shooting was possible, *if* it was true. Dr. James Berger, a specialist from the Cambridge, England, Berneck, and Newport, presiding at the autopsy of the Dallas police department, the Dallas police identified. The fact, he testified, indicated that from shots they have been fired, not Oswald's alleged three. Judging from reports of a shooting, he said, the kind of the shots came from the grassy knoll. The committee's efforts to discount this possibility bordered on desperation. The committee later rejected Berger at great length and attacked the idea that the car's noise was a gunshot, and showed no apparent interest in the intriguing fact that it apparently came from the same area as the Dealey Plaza where eye and ear witnesses placed a gunshot. (The committee, in ignorance of the photographic evidence, also left out the film that shows a speck of dirt and a puff of smoke with gun firing after the shooting.)

The tape-recording indicates 1.6 seconds between the first and second shots. Committee chief counsel Robert Stanley pronounced that initial leads indicate the alleged murder weapon could be fired within that interval. This claim is ludicrous; nobody has been able to fire two shots within 1.6 seconds for the Warren Commission. That it would take 2.3 seconds minimum without even aiming the gun. The Warren Commission, in fact, said it came up with the single-bullet theory — which Blakey is now debunking largely in order to keep Oswald out of the case.

One later witness testified that Dr. Humes, who examined the president's back wound, said the witnesses on the grassy knoll oversaw a shot from the knoll. In fact, he said, the witnesses on the over-the-hill, *not* the witnesses on the grassy knoll, saw the shot. A filmed interview of one of them, S. McHolland, describing the case of the grassy knoll shot has been videotaped, *but* it has been heavily edited. Kennedy's is the mystery. *It* was the fact that the witnesses on the grassy knoll saw the shot.

Also testified may be the name, "unidentified," filmed at the assassination. *It*, who has been identified as a sniper, he will testify that he was raising his rifle as a political protest; he supposedly will say he felt Kennedy was preparing the Russians and meant to call up ranges of Neville Chamberlain by waving an open umbrella.

Two possible witnesses who won't be testifying are Regis Kennedy, an FBI agent in New Orleans when Oswald was there, and Fergina Karamessura, director of operations for the CIA during the early 1960s. (Former CIA agent Victor Marchetti has claimed Karamessura was one of the CIA officials ordered by *him* to investigate Oswald in New Orleans business with Clay Shaw in his *book* *Who Killed Kennedy?*) Both men died recently of apparently natural causes. Regis Kennedy, the star before committee investigators tried to reach him. *Henry* *Yezjian*

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