

In Dallas, the JFK Fight

By Michael Dorman
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Dallas — Amos Lee Euins, a ninth-grader out of school for the big doings, looked up from the sidewalk to the building across the street and noticed "this pipe thing" poking from a sixth-floor window. Howard Brennan, a steamfitter sitting on a retaining wall nearby, glanced at the same window and saw a man peering toward the street. James Jarman Jr., Bonnie Ray Wil-

liams and Harold Norman — taking a work break on the building's fifth floor — suddenly were startled by the bark of rifle fire directly overhead.

In a car down on the street, President John F. Kennedy lay mortally wounded as his motorcade raced toward Dallas' Parkland Hospital. What had begun as a festive political visit to Texas would end in a chilling miasma of blood and tears. Kennedy would die on an operating-room table, and with him would pass the era some romantics had idealized as Camelot.

Monday will mark the 30th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination. Despite the passage of all those years and the recent publication of a heralded book that would deem to demonstrate conclusively that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, polls show that most Americans believe the assassination resulted from a conspiracy.

More than 500 Kennedy assassination buffs convened in Dallas yesterday a short distance from where the presi-

dent was shot for a five-day conference exploring conspiracy theories. They wore black and white name tags bearing big question marks to convey their lingering doubts about the assassination. Glenn and Robin D'Agostino of Atlantic City said they had come to the conference all three years it has been held. "We're here because we don't think Oswald did it," Robin D'Agostino said. "We want to get more information."

Will there ever be an end to the widespread belief that a conspiracy was responsible for Kennedy's death?

"Nobody believes the lone assassin theory any more," said Jim Marrs, who spoke at the symposium yesterday. Marrs, who wrote "Crossfire," a book that explores a conspiracy theory, said: "A new poll shows that ninety percent of the public doesn't believe the lone assassin theory. What troubles me is that the other nine or ten percent, all happen to be in the media."

"No, we'll never hear the end of the conspiracy theories," Nicholas Katzen-

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Goes On

bach, deputy attorney general under Kennedy and attorney general under President Lyndon B. Johnson, said recently. Like many of those who support the lone-assassin theory, Katzenbach is not attending the symposium.

"The whole notion of the Warren Commission was that, if you didn't get all the information out, it was going to be just like Abraham Lincoln's assassination — which people are still debating today," Katzenbach said. "It was a good commission, headed by the most trusted man in America [Chief Justice Earl Warren]. I never thought there was a conspiracy, but every third country in the world would think it was — because that's the way things are done there. The FBI and the CIA had irrelevant stuff they wanted to conceal, but there was nothing to show a conspiracy. The Warren Commission was criticized for using the FBI and the CIA in the investigation. But what are you go-

KENNEDY from Page 15

ing to do, hire the Pinkertons?"

Rufus Youngblood, the Secret Service agent who shielded Vice President Johnson's body with his own at the first sound of shots, said: "I've been putting up with these conspiracy theories for thirty years and I'm tired of it. There's no end to it — not as long as somebody can make a buck." Youngblood is not at the symposium.

Malcolm Kilduff, the spokesman who announced Kennedy's death, asks: "If there was a conspiracy, is it imaginable that not a single member of the conspiracy has cracked in all these years?"

Gerald Posner — author of the recent book "Case Closed," which many said effectively proved that Oswald was the sole assassin — said: "I hoped my book might put an end to the conspiracy talk. But I underestimated the people on the other side. Their approach was to grind my book into dust."

Michael Dorman, a freelance writer, covered John F. Kennedy's assassination for *Newsday*. His books include "The Secret Service Story."

Please see KENNEDY on Page 47