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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Assassination Report 'Ludicrous'

To the Editor: A report of the findings of a secretly-convened group of pathologists claims that "examination of the clothing and of the photographs and x-rays taken at autopsy (sic)" supported the findings of the Warren Commission in indicating that President Kennedy was felled by two bullets fired from behind him, one in the neck and one in the head. Since the bullet holes in the President's shirt and jacket are almost 6 inches below the neck, this is not only ludicrous but impossible in the case of the wound in the back. In addition, it suggests that four federal agents, including Secret Service agent Clint Hill, who received a citation for his alertness, for some unknown reason lied about the position of this wound.

The finding with regard to the wound in the head makes no sense either, since to my knowledge the claim has never been made that a bullet passed through Mr. Kennedy's head from front to back. The claim of those who challenge the Warren Report is that the President was struck in the head from the front by a frangible bullet which exploded and fragmented, never passing through. This was determined by experts who viewed the films of the assassination and noted that the effect of this shot was to drive the President's head forward, not back, and the observation that fragments torn off by the bullet went back and to the left. The damage to the right side of the President's head is consistent with this and it is not surprising that this "new" report does not even confront such evidence.

In the past three years the top experts in the world have been denied access to this material. This raises the same questions as to the manner in which the autopsy was originally conducted: Under top secret conditions, with no civilian experts, by two men who were not even forensic pathologists, and in violation of Texas law.

This "new" report by the Justice Department has succeeded in heaping more shame on the national integrity and further compounding the original dishonesty of the official report on the President's murder.—Gary Richard Schoener, Minneapolis.