

1966

Bethesda Explains Autopsy Details

Bullets Hit JFK Only From Rear, MD Insists

The head of the medical team that performed the autopsy on President Kennedy yesterday said there was "absolutely no doubt" that all bullets came from behind the President when he was assassinated in Dallas.

Most of the recent crop of critics of the Warren Commission Report claim a second assassin must have been involved, shooting from in front of the cavalcade because one of the Kennedy wounds was in front of his throat.

Dr. J. Thornton Boswell, now retired from Bethesda Naval Hospital, said the throat wound was made by the exit of a bullet that hit the President at the base of his neck.

He said Mr. Kennedy was hit by two bullets, one that disintegrated when it hit his head, and the one that passed from the base of his neck thru his throat.

Dr. Boswell said the bullet that passed thru Mr. Kennedy's neck could have been the same one that wounded Gov. John Connally of Texas.

"It wouldn't have lost very much in terms of mass or velocity," he said and indicated, tho. he had not examined the governor, it very possibly could have retained enough power to pass thru Gov. Connally's chest and hit him again in the leg.

He admitted a sketch he had made at the time might have been misleading because in his haste he indicated the spot of the bullet wound at the base of the neck too far down on the back.

His sketch, made under the assumption that autopsy photographs would be included in any report such as the Warren Commission's, apparently misled FBI

observers into referring to "a back wound."

He said the exit wound in the throat was not noted by doctors in Dallas because the head wound was obviously fatal. And the throat wound was made less apparent by the trachotomy performed in Dallas.

Meanwhile, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, commented anew on the rash of criticisms of the Warren report.

"While the critics all have a right to state their views, the

should have more regard for facts."

He said he has no doubt "that Oswald acted alone in his crime. Not a shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy with Oswald."

The autopsy report, he said, and the FBI report are not in conflict as some critics have charged. Rather, the FBI reported what was said during the autopsy, and the autopsy report "records the final findings of the examination."