

Frederick writer plans his 7th

By NANCY LUSE
News-Post Staff

Every time something new crops up in the John Kennedy assassination story - a blockbuster film, or, like last week, the death of former Texas governor John Connally - Harold Weisberg gets calls.

Even when there's nothing new, it's not unusual for him to receive letters or visitors to his home on Old Receiver Road, Frederick, where the basement is lined with file cabinets filled with material on the assassination.

"The actual interest is a constant," Mr. Weisberg, 80, said this week sitting upright in a recliner.

Battling heart and circulatory problems for years, he has spent

countless hours in the chair, combing through file after file of assassination information, much of it in his hands because he pushed for it through the federal Freedom of Information Act.

He said the hours of research, with his elbows rubbing on the chair arms as he flipped through papers, made it necessary for his wife, Lillian, to sew patches on the elbows of his shirts.

For the past four months, the work has been focused on a new book, Mr. Weisberg's eighth, and the seventh one on the Kennedy assassination. His last book was published in 1975.

"The important thing is that it brings everything together," Mr. Weisberg said. "I don't speculate who (killed Kennedy), I just prove that one person couldn't have done it,

and I do that with official evidence that they (the government) ignore or misrepresent."

Lately, he said, "I've had to rethink my role. With the knowledge I have, I have to try to perfect the record for history.

"The book is a broader and deeper overview," he said, and one in which, for instance, he traces "the disappearance and alteration of records," such as the original JFK autopsy report, which he said was burned and later rewritten with serious editing changes.

"There was a conspiracy. It's not a theory. I prove it," Mr. Weisberg said.

Also a part of the new book, he said, will be documentation of how

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JFK assassination book

expert shooters were unable to duplicate what the Warren Commission concluded was possible for JFK's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, described as an average marksman at best.

He also delves into "a fear" of former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and the agency and how that played a role in the way the assassination investigation was handled.

Mr. Weisberg said that since his last book, "no one has objected to or disputed" its contents and is confident his next book also will stand the test of time.

He said that as he does his work, he keeps thinking of stories from his past - "The Purloined Letter," the short story by Edgar Allen Poe, in

which a criminal case is solved by evidence left out in the open; "Through the Looking-Glass," Lewis Carroll's children's story of the absurdities Alice finds on the other side of a mirror; and the books of George Orwell, who wove themes of government dirty deals through his books.

Mr. Weisberg said that last week the government again failed to redeem itself by letting John Connally be buried with bullet fragments still remaining in his chest and thigh. Mr. Connally was riding with Kennedy when the president was killed. The Warren Report concluded the same bullet passed through the president and into Mr. Connally.

"From my point of view, the fragments need to be in government possession," Mr. Weisberg said, but as far as proving a conspiracy, "it's already proven overwhelmingly."

Retrieving the fragments "would at least give people a slim chance of getting faith back into the government. It requires government to be honest," he said.

Through it all - the research and the lawsuits, some lasting 10 years in order for him to get the documents he requested - Mr. Weisberg said that what would make him happy is this: "For the government to admit they lied and that it would never be repeated again," he said.

The title of his new book is "Never Again."