

Weisberg wants bullet fragments removed from Connally's body

By NANCY LUSE
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One of the country's leading authorities on President Kennedy's assassination urged Wednesday that bullet fragments remaining in John Connally's body be recovered before he is buried.

Mr. Connally, who was riding in the car with Mr. Kennedy when the president was shot in Dallas nearly 30 years ago, died Tuesday of pulmonary fibrosis.

"The important thing to me is to avoid another national tragedy" of letting important evidence on the assassination disappear, said Harold Weisberg, 80, of Old Receiver Road, Frederick.

Mr. Weisberg has written six books on the JFK killing and frequently is a source used by the national media on the subject. Much of the material he has gathered came only after battles with the FBI and other agencies as he pushed for documents through the Freedom of Information Act.

Removing the fragments "is not going to hurt him now and it would only be a slight cost," Mr. Weisberg said. "It is important to the nation's integrity and history."

From the countless reports and documents, plus interviews he has conducted through the years, Mr.

Weisberg said he is sure bullet fragments would be found in Mr. Connally's chest and also his thigh.

"All the reports disagree," he said, but the "official fiction is that the president was shot (once) in the back of the neck. . . . It exited the front of his neck and hit Connally under the right armpit. . . . The bullet came out his right wrist, shattering it, and supposedly entered his left thigh."

"This is fiction," said the man who scoffs at the official "single bullet" explanation for both the president's and Mr. Connally's wounds. Mr. Weisberg has said he believes "beyond question" the assassination was a conspiracy.

He said the recovered fragments should be weighed and measured and an analysis made, comparing them with the bullet which was recovered in the Dallas hospital after the assassination.

That bullet was one-fourth inch in diameter, Mr. Weisberg said, and all that was missing from it was material which weighed about the same as a postage stamp.

"I want to bring some pressure to bear" on those who are in a position to remove the fragments, he said. "It's in the national interest."

Mr. Weisberg also is concerned that if the evidence is buried "it will spawn more ugly rumors" about the assassination "which wouldn't be unjustified."