

CRITICS BLASTED

Connally Backs Warren Report

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — Texas Gov. John B. Connally still disagrees with the Warren Commission on one facet of its probe of the Kennedy assassination, but says he sees no reason to reopen the investigation.

The governor struck heavily yesterday at those he called

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"journalistic scavengers such as Mark Lane" whose motives he suspects have "political overtones" in casting doubt on the Warren Commission Report.

Connally said that rather than reopen the case, "we should turn our attention to . . . the self-appointed experts who, with no new evidence, no new facts, nevertheless use distortion, inference, innuendo, in order to cast doubts and create confusion."

Connally told a questioner at a news conference that he had read none of the books criticizing the Warren Report but had read a number of news stories and book reviews about them.

He held steadfastly to his belief that he was hit by a bullet that did not hit President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas.

The Warren Commission said one bullet hit both men.

Connally said he disagreed with the commission on that one point, but he sees no reason for reopening the investigation.

Lane's Position

Lane is a New York lawyer who wrote "Rush to Judgment," a book critical of the Warren Commission. He advances the argument there may have been an assassination plot involving more than one rifleman.

Lane was hired by Marguerite Oswald to represent her before the commission. Her son, Lee Harvey Oswald, was identified by the commission as Kennedy's assassin.



-UPI

GOV. JOHN CONNALLY

Lane said in New York that the governor displayed "an abysmal ignorance to the implications of his own testimony."

"It is to be regretted," Lane said, "that Gov. Connally has sought to terminate the search for the truth — an effort that has begun in this country so recently. It is even more astonishing that he has sought to bring back the days of McCarthyism, by questioning the loyalty and motives of those who will not accept a false governmental edict."

An Issue of Timing

Asked to elaborate on his prepared statement on "political overtones," Connally said: "I am going to leave that statement to stand just as it is for the present. I am not going to elaborate on it at all."

Critics of the theory that one bullet struck both Kennedy and Connally say color movie film taken by bystander Abraham Zapruder disputes the theory.

Connally has studied the film
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CONNALLY

Single-Bullet Theory Still Disputed

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frame by frame for Life magazine. He said in the Life article that the film shows he was hit at least one-half second later than the Warren Commission said he was — too much time for it to have been the same bullet that hit Kennedy's neck.

Connally said the film shows he was hit no more than 1.3 seconds after the earliest instant the Warren Commission said Kennedy could have been hit.

Since the commission's rifle experts testified that the weapon used in the Texas School Book Depository building could not be fired accurately with less than 2.3 seconds between shots, critics say there had to be two shots fired by different snipers before the fatal bullet tore into the back of Kennedy's head.

A bullet entered Connally's right shoulder, exited from his chest, went through his wrist

and entered his left leg just above the knee.

Connally was riding in the jump seat directly in front of Kennedy in the presidential limousine, part of a motorcade through downtown Dallas.

Connally repeated yesterday the testimony he gave before the Warren Commission. He said he heard the first shot, that he did not hear the second one but felt it hit him in the back like a fist, and that he heard the third shot.

He said his wife, riding in the other jump seat to his left, heard all three shots, and that they both agreed the shots they heard all came from "back over our right shoulder," the direction of the book depository.

Some have argued that one shot was fired from the vicinity of a grassy knoll in front and to the right of the presidential limousine.

Connally said he first thought two or three people were in-

volved in the shooting because of the rapidity of the shots.

"This was something that went through my mind," he said. "It is no evidence. It was nothing but a fleeting thought."

"The fact that I thought there were two or three because of the rapidity really has no bearing on the case. Nor should it be considered as evidence of any kind."

Connally said he would not change his mind about the shots, but added that the Warren Commission could disagree.

He praised the members of the commission as "men of unquestioned integrity of long and devoted service to their nation; men whose dedication to the tasks of seeking truth in these circumstances I would never question, and men whose patriotism has been manifested so many times in so many ways over such a long period that it now is somewhat shocking to me that in the backlash of trag-

edy, journalistic scavengers such as Mark Lane attempt to impugn the motives of these members individually, cast doubts upon the commission as a whole and question the credibility of the government itself."

Rather than reopen the investigation Connally said, "we should turn our attention to doing a little research on and evaluation of the credentials of the self-appointed experts who, with no evidence, no new facts, nevertheless use distortion, inference, innuendo, in order to cast doubts and create confusion."

"I suspect that a searching investigation into their own credentials will divulge that their motives have political overtones and that their views have been given prominence out of proportion to their value."

Connally served as Kennedy's secretary of the Navy prior to running successfully for governor.