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## NEWSMAKERS

# JFK autopsy disputed

### Texas doctor: No doubt about frontal wound

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USA TODAY

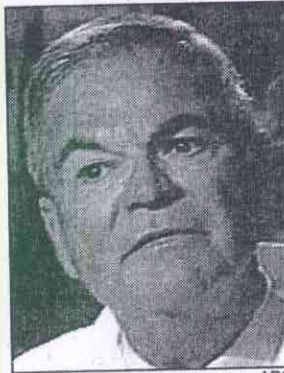
Charles Crenshaw, an attending physician for the dying John F. Kennedy, takes issue with the official story and says there is little medical doubt the president's fatal head wound came from the front.

Concern for his career prompted his silence for almost 29 years, Crenshaw says. He writes about his experience in *JFK: Conspiracy of Silence*, which goes on sale today.

"We placed him (Kennedy) in a coffin. But before we did, I looked at the wound again. I wanted to know and remember this for the rest of my life. And the rest of my life I will always know he was shot from the front," Crenshaw, 59, says on ABC's *20/20*, airing tonight.

Crenshaw was a third-year resident at Parkland Hospital in Dallas when Kennedy was brought there on Nov. 22, 1963. He was part of the emergency room trauma team for both Kennedy and assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Warren Commission concluded Oswald acted alone, firing fatal shots from behind Kennedy and his motorcade.



ABC  
**CRENSHAW:** Wounds clearly showed 2, maybe 3, gunmen

"The evidence is conclusive that President Kennedy was shot from the rear. The autopsy surgeons said that, and it has been confirmed by numerous reviews of the X-rays and photographs," said Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa. — who served as an assistant Warren Commission counsel — Thursday.

But Crenshaw said one bullet entered Kennedy's head just above the right eyebrow. He said a shot to JFK's throat also came from the front, but the hole was tampered with so it resembled an exit wound.

His statement supports the 1989 contention of Robert McClelland, a senior hospital surgeon, that Kennedy was shot from the front and that conflicting autopsy evidence

was "an attempt to cover up."

All notes from the Kennedy autopsy performed at Bethesda naval hospital in suburban Washington have disappeared.

The Warren panel never interviewed Crenshaw, now chief of surgery at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

The issue of additional shooters centers on how many bullets were fired at Kennedy.

The Warren Commission said three: one which missed the car, a second "magic bullet" going through JFK's back, throat and then hitting Texas Gov. John Connally, and a third blasting Kennedy's head.

Conspiracy advocates and some officials maintain at least four bullets were fired:

► Connally has maintained he was not struck by any of the bullets that hit the president — a fact noted by the CIA in an April 1, 1967, memo.

► A Dec. 16, 1963, Defense Department memo notes that one bullet "is not accounted for at all" in the initial reports of the shooting and that evidence suggests the president had an entry in the front of the neck.

Meanwhile, a group has asked a Los Angeles grand jury to reopen the police investigation of Robert Kennedy's 1968 assassination. The group, led by RFK aide Paul Schrade — also wounded in the attack — claims more than one gunman was involved in the slaying of President Kennedy's brother.