By RALPH REPPERT
(First of a Two-Part Series)

On a May morning in 1961 the telephone rang in the Towson home of Howard Donahue. It was Bill Fliechti, a hunting buddy, with a strange request. Someone was conducting rifle tests, with hunters and targets shooters of varied backgrounds, in an effort to prove something. Could he take the day off and help out? Mr. Donahue, respecting results of the tests might be used later as evidence in a court case, agreed to participate.

Mr. Donahue is a gunsmith. He owns and operates Donahue's Gun Specialities on Dulaney Valley Road in Towson. He has developed patentable additions and modifications for firearms, principally with Remington and Winchester. He has worked on guns for United States Olympic teams members. He is called into court occasionally to testify as a certified firearms expert.

Half an hour later Bill Fliechti, with his brother, T. Sonnser (Bob) Fliechti, another hunting buddy, stopped by. The three drove to the Maryland Lava Company, near Bel Air. There they picked up John Denton, the Flichiti's brother-in-law, had lunch and headed for the H. F. White Ballistics Laboratory not far away.

This installation has laboratories for incredibly fine testing, plus nearly a hundred acres of partially wooded land with firing ranges. It is the biggest independent ballistics research center in the
country. It conducts performance tests with arms and ammunition for clients ranging from inventors and arms manufacturers to insurance companies and police departments.

Laboratory technicians took the four men to a basement range where the Pitchett brothers and Mr. Donahue fired three sets of three shots each from a 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle. No one had ever fired a Mannlicher, but Mr. Donahue recognized it as a cheaply produced weapon turned out for the Italian army in World War II. He also recognized it as the rifle make and model Lee Harvey Oswald is said to have fired at President Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

Like that rifle, the weapon used was equipped with a four-power scope sight. Kit by kit, Mr. Donahue and his friends were filled in on the test. Many had criticized the Warren Report for its one-assassin theory, claiming it impossible to fire the Mannlicher-Carcano three times in 6.5 seconds the assassin is thought to have had to fire at the President. The Columbia Broadcasting System, in a televised testing program later to be narrated principally by Walter Cronkite, was trying either to prove or disprove the claim.

Like the Oswald rifle, the test weapon was equipped with a makeshift sling.

The three men were told to fire three series of three shots each at a target about 150 feet away, each series as close as possible to five seconds. Mr. Donahue found that the cartridges handed him, although of the same type Oswald had fired, were not in the same condition, but reliable. He also noticed that some of the range's terminal lights weren't working, leaving the target less visible than he would have liked, and the target itself was already well peppered with bullet holes, which would make it impossible to determine its accuracy.

No matter, the three marksmen were told: this phase of the test firing wasn't being made to prove accuracy, but merely to let them familiarize themselves with the Mannlicher-Carcano.

It required familiarization. It is a six-shot rifle which operates with a bolt action similar to that of the .30-caliber 1918 Springfield used by most American draftmen in basic training in both World Wars. But its bolt action is much stiffer, even awkward. After a spent shell is ejected by the drawn back bolt, the bolt must be thrust forward with considerable force by the feel of the hand to insert a new shell into the breech.

The offhand approach to the test firing, Mr. Donahue learned, was deliberate. CBS had given none of its test marksmen any more advance notice than necessary, apparently feeling that if any of them had time to practice with the Mannlicher, the test scores would have been meaningless. The marksmen also learned they were not to be paid for their time and trouble, regardless of what kind of scores they shot, another CBS measure in the interests of impartiality.

After firing, the men left the basement range and moved to a hill, heavily wooded spot on the laboratory grounds. Here they found a partial reconstruction of the Delphi Piazza site in Dallas where President Kennedy had been shot. Workmen had constructed a 60-foot wooden tower. Running past, in a route which had been surveyed and staked out to duplicate Elm street in Dallas, was a miniature railroad track. On it was an electrically powered vehicle which could be made to travel at about 15 miles an hour, the speed of the presidential procession as it moved along Elm street on that fatal day. Mounted on the vehicle was a standard FBI rapid-fire training target, the lifetime silhouette of the president.

"I could see a lot of planning had gone into the CBS test," Mr. Donahue recalls. "CBS and military marksmen had test-fired Oswald's rifle for the Warren Commission's fact finding on the rifle's capabilities. The questions at hand had dealt with how the rifle would perform against a moving target. But the FBI had done its test-firing at stationary targets. It did not explain why."
movement. Along with the other marks- men, he was told he could fire in any posi-
tion he chose, and could rip up any kind of a rifle rest he liked with the scattered car-
toms.

"The police officers fired first, from vari-
ous positions. Some moved the boxes around to use as rifle rests. Everybody had a lot of trouble stabilizing the rifle. The bolt action was so clumsy that after a man squeezed off a shot, ejected the empty cartridge, and rammed in a new one with that stiff bolt mechanism, his rifle remained nowhere near co-target, and he had to find the target in his scope sight and aim all over again."

Firing was further complicated because time was such an important factor. As the silhouette target moved at 11 miles per hour it passed two stakes. The first represented the first instant and spot in which Oswald would have had a possible shot at the President. The second marked the position of the presidential car when the Zapruder film and other evidence had shown that the last shot was fired.

Test marksmen were not allowed to fire until the vehicle passed the first stake, and shots squeezed off after it passed the second stake were not recorded in the elaborate set up of cameras, timing devices and other measuring instruments.

As the last proceeded rain began to fall, the wind rose and the tower swayed with each gust.

"When it came my turn to fire, I decided on the position Oswald might have cho-
en," Mr. Donahue recalls, "because we were almost the same size. Oswald was 5-9 and weighed 160 pounds. I am an inch shorter and, at the time of the test, 10 pounds heavier."

Mr. Donahue didn’t consider firing from a standing position. Oswald couldn’t have, for only the lower part of the win-
dow from which he is said to have fired had been open. Mr. Donahue felt it would have been nearly impossible, anyhow, for any man in that position to operate a bolt properly for accurate and rapid firing.

The 14 1/4-inch height of the window sill ruled out firing from the prone or sitting position—Oswald wasn’t tall enough—so Mr. Donahue chose his own variation of the kneeling position.

Actually, it was more of a squat, with his left leg bent under him, his right knee bent, his buttock resting on the heel of his right foot. It is a position he had earlier found comfortable and effective in field shooting.

He twirled the rifle sling around his left arm in an arrangement known as the hasty sling.

Due to a stuck bolt, Mr. Donahue got off only one shot in his first series. ("It’s hard for me to believe Oswald was a pro-
fessional hit man, as many people say he was. I can’t imagine a real pro trying to do a job with a weapon as cheap, shoddy and unreliable as that Mannlicher."

Mr. Donahue says he was still working the bolt imperfectly in his second series and he got off only two shots. Both, however, were hits. They were recorded by a motion pic-
ture camera mounted on the carriage of the moving target.

"In my third series of three, I fired the split-second the target passed the first stake. With my right hand I bit the bolt handle to eject. It was stuck again. Realiz-
ing how little time I had, I hit the bolt with all the force possible, ejecting the empty. I felt more than half my time had passed when I slammed the bolt forward to insert the second round, picked up the target in the cross hairs, and fired.

"Even while the rifle was in its slight recuit, I brought up my right hand, hit the bolt to eject, slammed it forward to load, picked up the target, and squeezed off my final shot.

"By the time I ejected the last shell, took off the sling and stood up, the target had been returned and was being exam-
ined. My three shots were hits, within a 3-

The force needed to push a cartridge into a Mauslicher-Careano, the type gun Oswald is said to have used, automatons drove the cartridge as it did this one (attached to a disengaged bolt) as point indicated by Howard Donahue’s thumb. This cartridge came from the same lot as the Oswald cartridge.

Mr. Donahue, holding a Mauslicher-Careano, demonstrates the position he used during a test firing conducted in Maryland in an effort to prove or disprove the Warren Report contention that three shots could be fired from a weapon of this type in 6.5 seconds or less.

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and later began reading different books critical of the report.

He read "Whitewash," written by a former OSS intelligence analyst turned chicken farmer; "Bush in Judgement," by Mark Lane, an attorney and former New York state assemblyman; "Six Seconds in Dallas," by James Thompson, a professor of philosophy; books by newspapermen, law enforcement agents and others.

He found nothing to change his opinion of the Warren Report, but he did conclude that most of the authors criticizing it had little knowledge of ballistics and capabilities of weapons.

Too many, Mr. Donahue felt, had accepted caricatures, broad and generalized descriptive terms, and based their arguments on them. He remained using the term "2-second accuracy" mentioned in connection with Lee Harvey Oswald. "Out of the two or three or however many shots he is supposed to have gotten off, the Warren Report indicates there were three" missed the presidential limousine.

"Another fallacy, widely accepted once it was reported, was that the Mauser-Carcano requires a minimum of 2.3 seconds for bolt action between shots. In my best series of three in the CBS test, I got off my last two shots in less than two seconds.

"Proper technique is the answer. Robert Frazier, of the FBI, had claimed the 2.9-second limitations of the Mauser-Carcano were after firing the weapon Oswald had used.

"Later, in a magazine article, I saw a picture of Mr. Frazier presumably posing to show how he had fired the rifle, and he was being very wrong about it. He had a beer for a rifle rest and was not using a sling. These two factors alone would rule him out as a competent rapid-firing and accurate marksman.

"But the most glaring error was the way Mr. Frazier was shown manipulating the bolt. As I mentioned, the Mauser-Carcano bolt is a stiff, awkward affair. Moving it back and forth to eject an empty shell and reload requires effort, so much so that with the palm of his hand the marksman must hit the bolt forcibly, in both the forward and backward strokes. There isn't enough time between shots for the most competent marksman to close his hand, so he leaves it open.

"I examined the picture with disbelief. Frazier was grasping the bolt with his thumb and fingers, as you would hold the handle of a 10-gauge.

"Later Mr. Donahue read in Thomas G. Buchanan's book "Who Killed Kennedy": "It is doubtful if a single man exists who could have fired the weapon with the skill required [in the time required]. But if the feat is possible, it is, in the opinion of the experts, a superlative performance which requires one of the world's best marksmen...."

Although he would have enjoyed being labeled "one of the world's best marksmen," Mr. Donahue wrote off that incorrect phase of Mr. Buchanan's explanation, and others like it, as hogwash. The irritation whetted his curiosity further, and he began accumulating more assassination records.

Another irritation was the widely circulated description of the 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge, which hit both President Kennedy and Governor Connally, as a low-to-medium-powered military cartridge which could not possibly have penetrated two men.

"The fact is," Mr. Donahue says, "that the cartridge is extremely powerful. Its caliber is .264. Its long, heavy, 164-grain bullet leaves the rifle muzzle at 2.224 feet per second. It was designed for deep penetration. In fact, Kovensky Bell, an African big-game hunter, has used a 6.5mm Mannlicher—ammo ballistics similar to that of Oswald's rifle—to kill scores of elephants with single head shots. And still there are so-called experts who claim the cartridge fired by Oswald hadn't the power to penetrate two living men."

In his nine-year study Mr. Donahue has sought not to discredit the Warren Report, but to support it. He still believes the report to have been put together honestly on the basis of the information given to the commission. He believes, however, that its members did not have evidence which would have changed the report.

Mr. Donahue believes today that no premeditated murder was committed in Dealey Plaza in Dallas on November 22, 1963. He believes that, but for a freakish, once-in-a-million turn of events, John F. Kennedy might be alive today, with Lee Harvey Oswald serving a prison sentence for his attempted murder.

And he believes he knows how President Kennedy was killed.
Kennedy Assassination: A Different View

Gun Expert Reasons Oswald Didn’t Fire Fatal Shot

Howard Donahue, of Towson, Says
Guarded Spectrographic Tapes
Could Prove His Theory Is Correct

When Mr. Donahue had read the news stories of the assassination, he had noted ballistic inconsistencies, but attributed them to either careless reporting or well-meaning but incorrect statements by spokesmen who weren’t familiar with firearms. After he saw that many inconsistencies were included in widely accepted reports, he began scrutinizing them.

In his re-study, even the basic ballistics reported and accepted looked wrong.

"To oversimplify an example of ballistics performance," Mr. Donahue explains, "fasten a tin can to a fence post and shoot a hole through it with a .22 rifle. Run a straw through the holes in the can and (with the can in its original position) the straw will define the line of fire.

"A bullet fired from a window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, the one which the Warren Report accepts as the fatal bullet, should have entered the rear, right, upper side of the President’s head, and exited at the left, rear part of the skull. But, according to the evidence given to the Warren Commission, the bullet entered the right, rear part of the skull, somehow made a right turn after it penetrated, and blew out a right, front section of the skull, an area almost large as a souce.

"I realize bullets can take strange courses after they enter a body. Forensic medical investigations report many of them. But to accept this ballistic hit of evidence, we must accept it blindly as a highly unusual, completely unexplained fact.

Other evidence Mr. Donahue found hard to accept was a statement Roy Kellerman, a Secret Service agent, made after the assassination. Mr. Kellerman, who had been riding in the right front seat of the presidential limousine, testified that as the firing began, he had heard the President exclaim: "My God, I am hit!"
The agent was positive in this assertion.

"The Zapruder film," Mr. Donahue says, "indicates the President’s first violent reaction to having been hit was from the bullet which entered his back, passed through his throat, nicked his necktie and went through Governor Connally’s upper body and wrist and lodged in his thigh.

"That high-velocity bullet moved faster than the speed of sound. It would have been impossible for anybody in the presidential car to have heard the shot before the bullet hit." Mr. Donahue says.

"With his larynx shattered by the bullet, how could the President have exclaimed anything?"

Inconsistencies in the comparative behavior of the two bullets that hit the President also bothered Mr. Donahue.

The bullet that entered the President’s back tore through his throat passed through Governor Connally’s right side, near the armpit, shattering a portion of his right fifth rib. It came out of the Governor’s right chest, just below the nipple, fractured a bone as it passed through his wrist, and moved on to lodge in his thigh.

"This performance," Mr. Donahue says, "was normal for this particular type of bullet. It is a long, heavy, metal-jacketed, high-velocity bullet designed to penetrate and pass through cleanly, no matter what part of a body it strikes. How well that bullet performed as it was designed to can be seen by the fact that after passing through the President, then twice shattering bone, breaking Governor Connally’s rib and wrist, it remained intact. It still held its clean shape, remaining close enough to its original form that it has often been referred to in official reports as the pristine bullet.

"Now let’s compare the ‘twin bullet’ which seconds later inflicted the President’s fatal head wound. It is accepted by the Warren Report that this was fired by Oswald, and was an identical piece of ammunition fired from the same rifle.

"But how drastically different can two pieces of supposedly identical ammunition perform? This second one did not come close to passing cleanly through. Upon penetration, it blew the President’s skull apart in an explosion of fragments, leaving a huge exit portal. It performed as a bullet encased in a rigid metal jacket would have performed, but more as a fragile, soft or hollow-nosed missile, with a thin metal jacket (if any at all) traveling at a high velocity which might measure at around 3,000 feet per second. Among other metal fragments, 36 to 68 distinctive particles of the disintegrated bullet are said to have been visible on head X-rays taken after the President’s death.

"Had this type of bullet entered the President’s back, it would have killed him instantly."

Mr. Donahue studied pictures of shell jacket and other bullet fragments removed from the President’s skull during an autopsy performed at the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Md., under the direction of Chief, James J. Humes. He (Mr. Donahue) was convinced that these fragments were from two different types of ammunition.

He wrote to the National Archives and Records Service of the United States General Services Administration, asking for more information.

"...The two bullet fragments to which you refer are Commission Exhibit 443," answered Miss Jane Smith, director of the National Archives Division. "We shall be pleased to show you this exhibit in the National Archives."

But in the following paragraph Miss Smith wrote.
Legend

Dashes indicate path of bullets, according to Warren Report.

Dots show bullets paths, according to Donahue theory.

Drawing of Dealy Plaza in Dallas, with the Texas School Book Depository, upper left, and the overpass, foreground, where S. M. Holliday said he was standing.
“Enclosed is a copy of our regulations concerning access to security classified documents. We are not aware of any researchers who have been given access to classified documents in the records of the Commission by the agencies that prepared the documents, through the procedures listed in these regulations,” (italics added.)

Mr. Donahue, repeating, trying to learn if there were some reason he shouldn’t be given permission to look at the evidence, had never heard from the agency.

He wrote to the Secret Service, asking for the names of the agents riding in the car behind the President. He asked if they were still agents and, if so, in what capacity; what weapons they had, their caliber, and if any changes had been made in the agency’s weapons since the assassination.

He received a copy of a letter the Chief of Secret Service had written in answering similar questions (from the President’s Commission on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy) four years earlier. The President’s follow-up car had been driven by Samuel Kinney, and also had been occupied by Emory Roberts, Clinton Hill, William McIntyre, John Heady, Paul Landis, Glen Bennett and George Hickey, all Secret Service special agents. Also in the car were Dave Powers and Kenneth O’Donnell, assistants to President Kennedy, who were not armed.

In answer to a subsequent letter to the agency seeking to repeat the questions, Mr. Donahue was informed that the Secret Service did not disclose the types of weapons it used, other than its issue of .38-caliber revolver, which was the first weapon fired by the Secret Service at the time of the assassination.

“Tutor, a dog, a cat, a bird, a fish,” Mr. Donahue recalls, “I had a natural curiosity about the different kinds of firearms and ammunition known to have been in and around Dealey Plaza on the day of the assassination. The difference between the legal and the illegal ammunition known to have been there was the difference between black and white.”

“The type of penetrating military bullet fired by Oswald, for example, although a good choice for a sniper, would never be carried by bodyguard or anybody else who might have to fire at somebody in a crowd. That type of bullet could pass through three or four people and possibly kill the fifth.

“Furthermore, even a crowd a bodyguard’s weapons could sensibly be loaded only with fragmenting, self-destructive bullets. A high-velocity automatic or semi-automatic .22, such as the M-16, would be an ideal weapon. Loaded with hollow-point or thin-jacketed bullets, soft-nosed munitions like the Hornady super-explosive would satisfy two most important requirements—they would immobilize an enemy instantly by creating shock and a massive wound, and they would disintegrate in whatever they hit, moving far enough to harm anybody else.”

Mr. Donahue’s continuing study of the President’s head wound turned up a surprising consistency. The Warren Report had accepted the idea that the bullet that inflicted the fatal wound had entered the right, rear area of the skull at a point somewhat below the outermost protuberance, at about the same level, for example, as the upper part of the ear. Apparently, he says, the accepted diagram of the wound was drawn freehand during or after autopsy proceedings.

The gunman had accepted this disregarded evidence, too, until he read a report prepared by a panel of four pathologists who met in 1968, at the request of Ramsey Clark, the Attorney General, “to examine various photographs, X-rays, films, documents and other evidence pertaining to the death of President Kennedy, and to evaluate their significance in relation to the medical conclusions recorded in the Warren Report on the body of President Kennedy.”

The report which had been signed by Commander (now Admiral) llumma and his associates at the autopsy.

The team of investigating physicians included two from Baltimore: Dr. Russell S. Fish, professor of forensic pathology at the University of Maryland and chief medical examiner for the state of Maryland, and Dr. Russell E. Morgan, professor of radiology at the School of Medicine and professor of radiological science at the School of Hygiene and Public Health at the Johns Hopkins University. The other two were Dr. William H. Carnes, professor of pathology at the University of Utah, a member of that state’s Medical Exam iner’s Commission, and Dr. Alan R. Morton, professor of pathology at Case Western Reserve University and former professor of forensic medicine at Harvard.

None of these physicians had any connection with prior investigations of the assassination.

“I was puzzled to read in their report,” Mr. Donahue says, “that the four doctors found the point of entry to be approximately 100mm above the external orbital protuberance. That would put it about 100mm away from the point of entry accepted by the Warren Report. I smiled a forgiving smile and concluded that obviously the report of the 1968 Panel doctors had contained a typographical error, obviously meaning a distance of 10mm. That would be less than half an inch, and would be an understandable and admissible error, even in the medical report turned in by the original autopsy team.

“But later I learned that the report meant exactly what it stated. The difference in point-of-entry locations indicated by the two autopsy teams actually measured about 100mm. I was astonished. A discrepancy of 10mm I could understand. Less than half an inch. But a difference of 100mm? That’s about 4 inches! A new diagram of the head wound, executed with careful measurements from pictures and X-rays, put the bullet’s point of entry at the top of the skull.”

Mr. Donahue ran into another startling discovery when he obtained two plaster casts of a human skull and marked on one the path of the bullet the Commission had accepted, on the other the path indicated by the 1968 Panel’s new medical report drawings.

“The path of the bullet, indicated in the second autopsy report,” Mr. Donahue says, “was from left to right. It was from left to right. It was from left to right. It was from left to right! Beyond my comprehension how anybody could deduce from that drawing that the bullet had moved from right rear to left front.

“This left me with the puzzling conclusion that, considering the President’s position in the car, and the position of his head at the time he received the fatal wound, the shot that killed him could not possibly have come from the Texas School Book Depository, which was located behind and to the right.

“The President’s head position at that time is an ironic thing. Had his chronic back trouble not necessitated his wearing a brace, which held his body in an inflexible position, he might have slumped after that first shot passed through him and into Governor Connally. Had he slumped in a natural manner, the fatal bullet probably would have inflicted only a shallow wound, or ‘wound, in his neck. One-half inch would have made the difference between a hit and a miss.

“Some time else Mr. Donahue hadn’t noticed earlier turned up in the 1968 Panel report. The movies had been played forward, the outer table of the skull close to the lower edge of the point of entry hole, a large metallic fragment which on the ante-mortem film (I) In 2mm to the right of the midline. This fragment as seen in the latter film is round and measures 6mm in diameter.

“I looked into that aspect of the report,” Mr. Donahue says. “Why it amounts to, with no disrespect intended for the doctors’ medical terminology, is that the metal fragment broke the skin but not the bone, imbedding itself in, but not piercing, the skull.”

Mr. Donahue was also vaguely aware of some irritating inconsistencies which he couldn’t immediately identify. Finally he recalled an eyewitness’s account of the assassination, that of Ralph Varborough, the Texas senator who had been riding with Vice President Johnson two cars behind the President’s limousine. Speaking later of the tragedy and of the terrible minutes which followed, in which the procession sped to the emergency entrance of Parkland Memorial Hospital, Mr. Varborough said again and again “I smelled the gunpowder... it clung to the car nearly all the way to the hospital.”

The smell of gunpowder. Some 90 yards from Oswald’s position on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, even farther away from the muck discussed grassy knoll and the bridge atop the triple underpass, from which some assassination theorists believe at least part of the gunfire originating, Senator Varborough had smelled gunpowder.

Seth Kantor, a Scripps-Howard newspaperman riding in the press but further

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Photograph skulls were drilled and painted by Howard Donahue. The one on right shows the flight of the bullet as described in the original autopsy. Shown on the left is Mr. Donahue’s reconstruction of the path of the bullet, as redefined by four investigating physicians. It indicates the bullet moved from the left rear to the right front, which Mr. Donahue feels would rule out a shot from the book depository.
Kennedy Assassination
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back in the procession, also had smelled gunpowder.

Mr. Donahue returned to his growing li-
brary of assassination books and articles and
read the testimony of S. M. Holland, an el-
derly man who wears eyeglasses, who had
witnessed the assassination from the
bridge. Mr. Holland had drawn consid-
erable attention by claiming to have seen
the man who had shot President John F.
Kennedy. The Secret Service had not been
able to locate the man, and Mr. Holland
was the first person to claim to have seen
him.

In "The Scavengers and Critics of the
Warren Report," a book written by Rich-
ard Warren Lewis based on an investiga-
tion by Lawrence Schiller, the investiga-
tor destroyed some of the credibility of Mr. Holland's remarks. After describing the
puff of smoke he claimed to have seen,
Mr. Holland said he had also seen a Secret
Service man stand up in the presidential
car. The Zappler film discounted this,
showing only two Secret Service men in
the presidential car—William Greer, who
was driving and had both hands on the
wheel, and Roy Kellerman, who remained
seated.

However, Mr. Holland had asserted:
"I accept the evidence that Lee Harvey
Oswald was trying to kill the President.
Don't ask me why. Who knows what goes
on in the mind of a man like that?"

"I think Oswald's first shot missed the
presidential car, hit the pavement, and
broke up, spraying fragments of metal. It
is a matter of record that five metal frag-
ments were picked up later in the car.
There is pictorial evidence of their hitting
the windshield and also denting a piece of
chrome work near the rearview mirror.

"Such a fragment, hitting the President
in the back of the head, was that 6.5mm
piece of metal the 1964 Faded doctors
found lodged between skin and bone. It
would sting, as a shot from a .22 gun
would sting, and after having been hit by
it the President could have made the ex-
clamation Roy Kellerman said he made,
"My God, I am hit!"

"Oswald's second shot was the so-
called miracle bullet which pierced the
President's back and thrust and passed
through Governor Connally. Unfortunately
the bullet did, it mild have gone wild,
the oboe (the fatal one) fired accidentally
ear- The Secret Service men in the back
seat, William Greer, who was driving and had both hands on the
wheel, and Roy Kellerman, who remained
seated.

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that the fatal shot came from a position behind and to the left of the President.

"Several witnesses standing within the Texas School Book Depository at the time of the assassination have said they heard only two shots. Policemen later found three spent cartridge cases on the sixth floor of the building, but one of them was so badly bent it couldn't have been inserted into a rifle breach, as in the condition in which it was found."

Mr. Donahue believes the true cause of the President's death was within a few minutes, and that an important decision was made to withhold the fact that our country's Chief Executive had been killed accidentally by one of his own bodyguards.

"Perhaps it wasn't so much a deliberate decision to cover up, but merely a assumed, heartbroken acceptance to continue a cover-up that had already set in."

"Many incidents that transpired in the wake of the assassination fall neatly into place to support my conclusions."

A glaring inconsistency is the way in which the President's body was removed, firmly, quickly and illegally, from Dallas, and flown across the country to a military hospital where all phases of the pathological examination were conducted under strict government supervision.

"By Texas law, an autopsy of the deceased should have been made in Dallas. Two Dallas officials told members of the President's staff the body could not be removed from the city until an autopsy was performed. Over their protests, the President's body was moved into an ambulance and taken to the airport. There, concerned that local officials might try to keep the place from leaving, one Secret Service man asked the pilot to take off immediately. (He was told the take-off would be delayed until Vice President Johnson was sworn in.)"

"A statement attributed to Chief Justice Earl Warren has plagued me since the early days of the assassination investigations. I heard it in a radio newscast. Others interested in the assassination have told me they, too, heard it, and some of them tell me they saw the remark repeated in the newspapers, although they can't remember where."

"I cannot quote the remark verbatim, but I remember the substance of it. After being briefed on various aspects of the assassination, Justice Warren was quoted as having said, as closely as I can recall his phrasing: The initial (or did he use the word cursory?) findings of this case are so earth-shaking that it will be decades before the American people can be told. The item was not repeated in subsequent newscasts."

Mr. Donahue ran across an intriguing post-assassination item in "LBJ: The Way He Was," a book written about the late Vice President and President by Frank Cormier, of the Associated Press, a longtime White House correspondent.

In the book, Mr. Cormier recounts a visit LBJ had made to Texas shortly after he had become President, a trip which included a Christmas Eve visit with his old friend A. W. Moursund, a Johnson City House, sporadic, affection for some agents, but gun goes off. They're worse than trigger-happy Texas sheriffs."

But reports such as these, and reports of destroyed notes, destroyed pathology examination pictures of President Kennedy's wounds, and pictures, X-rays and other bits of evidence still kept from public view in the National Archives, would have to be classified, Mr. Donahue feels, as vague bits of evidence which could be used to support many different assassination theories."

"Since 1969," he says, "I have been unable to turn up evidence that shakes any part of my conclusion."

But one such possible piece of evidence does exist. In the pathological examination of the first autopsy performed on President Kennedy, metal particles—fragments of cove and/or jackets of bullets—were removed from his brain. A best seller was also cut out of the "miracle bullet" which had passed through both Kennedy and Connally. All these particles were later subjected by the FBI to spectrographic analysis, a high-precision procedure in which the chemical makeup of an unknown element or compound of elements can be determined. The results of such analyses come out on spectrographic tapes, and on such tapes the colored, finely lined pattern of each element or compound analyzed is as distinctive as a fingerprint.

"The spectrographic tapes are guarded, hidden from public view, and even the whereabouts kept secret. As far as I have been able to learn, the man or men who made these spectrographic tests were not asked to contribute their knowledge of them to the Warren Report. Congress can find no record of such testimony, in the Warren Report or elsewhere."

"If an investigator could view those tapes, he could determine in an instant an important part of the story which really unfolded at Dealey Plaza in Dallas in 1963."

"If all the bullet fragments removed were analyzed, and if the spectrographic tapes of all match up perfectly, then the evidence becomes overwhelming that Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle was the only weapon involved in the assassination."

"But if any one of these tapes differs from the others, then a second type of bullet, fired by somebody else, from a different position and with a different type of firearm, was without a doubt one of the bullets which killed President Kennedy."

"I think the American people have a right to know whatever story the tapes have to tell."