

New Theory Told on Kennedy Death

BALTIMORE (AP)—A Maryland gunsmith who has spent years studying the assassination of President John F. Kennedy believes that a Secret Service agent accidentally fired the fatal bullet, panicking after hearing Lee Harvey Oswald's first shot.

"Since 1969 I have been unable to turn up evidence which shakes any part of my conclusion," gunsmith Howard Donahue said in an interview with the Baltimore Sunday Sun.

A spokesman for the Secret Service declined to comment Monday on the Donahue interview, but said, "We concur in the findings of the Warren Commission."

Donahue accepts the evidence that Oswald was trying to kill the President in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. But he says Oswald's first bullet missed the presidential car, hitting the pavement and breaking up in a spray of metal fragments.

"Oswald's second shot was the so-called miracle bullet which pierced the President's back and throat and passed through (former Texas Gov. John) Connally," Donahue said.

To explain the fatal shot, which blew Kennedy's skull apart, Donahue cites the testimony of S. M. Holland, an elderly man who saw the assassination from an overpass. Holland said he saw a Secret Service man stand up in the presidential car with a machine gun and stumble.

Donahue said he thought the man who stood was in the follow-up car.

Donahue argued that the two bullets which struck the President were not identical bullets fired from the same high-powered Italian rifle, as accepted by the Warren Commission.

The first round passed through Kennedy and Connally, shattering bones but retaining its original shape. The second bullet, which did not pass cleanly through, blew Kennedy's skull apart.

Donahue said the second one performed like a soft or hollow-nosed bullet. He said it would be ideal for a bodyguard who might have to fire at someone in a crowd and did not want to hit whoever stood be-

hind his target. It would also immobilize a suspect instantly.

Donahue said there is one bit of evidence that is crucial to his theory: FBI spectrographic tests of bullet fragments from Kennedy's head. The tests could show whether one or more than one type of bullet hit the President.

The tests have been hidden away in a secret location, Donahue said.