

Ford supports Warren findings

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Former President Gerald R. Ford says in his opinion the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is "still valid," and that he has seen no evidence developed by the House Select Committee on Assassinations to "undercut" that conclusion.

Here Wednesday for a speech before a management group, Ford also said he still believed in the "single-gun theory," — that the shots which struck Kennedy and former Gov. John Connally on Nov. 22, 1963, in downtown Dallas were fired from one weapon.

The special congressional committee currently is working on an "acoustical" analysis of a tape recording of the shots that may indicate more than one weapon was involved in the assassination. So far, the analysis is inconclusive.

Ford was a member of the seven-man Warren Commission established by President Lyndon Johnson in an effort to lay to rest all questions arising from the assassination. But rumors of a "conspiracy" in which more than one person was involved have persisted for the past 15 years.

Dallas police have agreed to aid the committee in a re-enactment of the assassination to determine whether four shots — not three — were fired at the presidential motorcade as it traveled west on Elm Street in Dallas.

The re-enactment is set for 5:30 a.m. Sunday.

"I still fully support the Warren Commission conclusions," Ford said at a news conference at the Fairmont Hotel.

"The basic conclusion was that Lee Harvey Oswald committed the assassination, and, No. 2, that the commission found no evidence of a conspiracy, foreign or domestic. Those conclusions are still valid, in my opinion, and I have seen no evidence developed by the House committee that would undercut the validity or credibility of those decisions," Ford said.

But Ford said he did not recall hearing a tape of the shots fired at Kennedy, Connally and their wives as they traveled in an open-topped limousine.

"That detail, in all honesty, I do not recall," he said.

"I assure you that every bit of evidence that the committee had was either fully examined by the seven members of the commission, of which I was one, or by our top staff people."