

# Ford maintains belief in 1-gun JFK theory

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Former President Gerald Ford said in Dallas Wednesday that despite recent evidence to the contrary, he still fully supports the findings of the Warren Commission, including the single-gun theory in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Questioned at a press reception as to why the commission did not listen to the police radio tape of the shots fired (which a recent acoustical study suggests came from two sources), Ford said, "That's a detail, in all honesty, I do not recall."

Ford served on the Warren Commission and, of its seven members, logged the greatest number of hours at executive meetings and hearings.

"I ASSURE YOU every bit of evidence that the committee had was fully examined. . . . I don't recall that particular piece of evidence," Ford said. He contended that with 26 volumes of evidence and testimony, "I think we went into it fairly carefully."

Ford said he still fully supports the commission's conclusions that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin and that no conspiracy was involved, either domestic or foreign.

"I have seen no evidence developed by the House (Assassinations) Committee that would undercut the validity or credibility of those conclusions," Ford said. "I strongly believe in the single-gun theory and very strongly dis-

prove of any variation from that theory."

THE NEWS REPORTED Aug. 10 that the Assassinations Committee has a report from acoustics experts that two guns fired at least four shots when Kennedy was assassinated.

The report was based on analysis of a tape recording made from a short-wave radio transmitter, which was left on by a police officer during the firing of the shots, and has resulted in plans by the committee to re-create the shooting Tuesday in Dealey Plaza.

Ford was in Dallas at the invitation of CertainTeed Corp., manufacturers of shelter materials and energy-conserving products, to address an annual management conference that includes a dinner with local business leaders and an address by a national figure.

BEFORE THE DINNER at the City Club, Ford met with the reporters at the Fairmont Hotel, where most of the questions centered on his own political future.

Ford noted that national polls are showing he would run a "good contest" in a rematch with President Carter but that Sen. Edward Kennedy would be a "formidable challenger within the Democratic Party and, if nominated, would be a strong candidate. But far be it from me to tell the Democrats who they ought to nominate."

Ford said he has talked with his wife, Betty, about the possibility of running again and that "she would fully



Dallas News staff photo.

Gerald Ford . . . doesn't believe there was assassination conspiracy.

support any decision I made." However, he declined to follow the line of questioning further when asked about a rematch with Ronald Reagan for the GOP nomination.

"THESE DISCUSSIONS might imply I have decided to be a candidate," Ford said. "The truth is I haven't."

The former president, who is spending most of his time now on the speaking circuit, was as critical as ever of the Carter administration — particularly on the issues of inflation and international affairs.

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