

# Hoover Asserts Warren Critics Ignore and Misinterpret Facts

By Stephen M. Aug

Associated Press

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover rapped critics of the Warren Commission report on the assassination of President Kennedy yesterday, saying they ignored certain facts, misinterpreted others and expressed pure speculation as truth.

In a statement, Hoover said also:

• "Not one shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy with (Lee Harvey) Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy."

"While there is a differ-

ence in the information reported by the FBI and the information contained in the autopsy report concerning the wounds, there is no conflict."

• The FBI never altered the film of the assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder, a bystander.

Hoover made the comments in a statement requested by the Evening Star and made available to other news media.

Hoover devoted most of the statement to explaining differences between FBI reports of the Kennedy autopsy and the official report.

"The FBI reports record oral

statements made by autopsy physicians while the examination was being conducted and before all the facts were known. The autopsy report records the final findings of the examination," Hoover said.

Hoover recalled that when the autopsy was conducted at the Bethesda Naval Hospital on the evening of Nov. 22, 1963—the day Mr. Kennedy was shot—"two FBI agents were present. He said:

"They reported that Dr. James J. Humes, chief autopsy surgeon, located what appeared to be a bullet hole in the back below the shoulder and probed it to the end of the opening with a finger. The examining physicians were unable to explain why they could find no bullet or point of exit."

But Hoover said that, unknown to the agents, the physicians eventually were able to trace the path of the bullet through the body.

## Hoover Says Facts Show Oswald Alone Was Kennedy Killer

Text of Hoover's statement is printed on Page 25.

By FRED P. GRAHAM  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25—J. Edgar Hoover said today that no evidence had been found to indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald had had an accomplice in the assassination of President Kennedy.

"All available evidence and facts point to one conclusion—that Oswald acted alone in his crime," the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said in a statement.

"Not one shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy with Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy," Mr. Hoover said.

### Explains Discrepancies

Commenting for the first time on the controversy over the adequacy of the Warren Commission's report of the assassination, Mr. Hoover said the critics had ignored or misinterpreted the facts.

He also gave the first official explanation of the discrepancies between the two F.B.I. reports on the assassination and the Warren Report. The F.B.I. reports said the bullet that struck Mr. Kennedy below the back of the neck had not passed through the President's body. The Warren Report concluded that the bullet had passed through President Kennedy and had wounded the Texas Governor, John B. Connally Jr.

Mr. Hoover said that statements in the first F.B.I. report, dated Dec. 9, 1963, had been based upon comments made

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that time the doctors believed that the bullet had not gone through the body, but information obtained the next morning disclosed that it had, Mr. Hoover said.

By the time the F.B.I. submitted its supplemental report on Jan. 13, 1964, it knew the commission had been given a copy of the official autopsy report that said the bullet had passed through the President's body, Mr. Hoover said.

Therefore, he explained, the F.B.I. did not mention this in the Jan. 13 report.

Critics of the Warren Report have pointed out that the only reference to Mr. Kennedy's wounds in the Jan. 13 F.B.I. report stated:

"Medical examination of the President's body had revealed that the bullet which entered his back had penetrated to a distance of less than a finger length."

Mr. Hoover explained that this had been followed by a statement that Mr. Kennedy's shirt had an entrance bullet hole in the back and an exit hole in the front. He said this had been intended to point up the fact that the doctors' findings contained in the first report had probably been in error.

Mr. Hoover concluded that "while there is a difference in the information reported by the F.B.I. and the information contained in the autopsy report concerning the wounds, there is no conflict."

Mr. Hoover's statement was directed to The Washington Evening Star, which had asked him to comment on the rash of books and articles that have criticized the Warren Report. The statement was later released to other news media.

Criticism for Critics

In an accompanying letter to The Star, Mr. Hoover said that while the critics had every right to state their views, they "should show more regard for the facts on record."

"They have ignored certain facts, misinterpreted others, and expressed pure speculation as 'truth,'" he said.

Mr. Hoover branded as "totally false" allegations that the F.B.I. had altered the film of the assassination taken by an amateur

(UPI)—Following is the text of the statement by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, on recent challenges of the findings of the Warren Commission on the Kennedy assassination.

The Warren Commission and its findings concerning the assassination of President Kennedy currently are being severely criticized. The conclusions of the commission, especially its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination, have been openly challenged.

In support of their speculations, some of the critics allege, among other things, that there is a "conflict" between portions of two F.B.I. reports and the official autopsy report regarding the wounds found in the President's body.

While there is a difference in the information reported by the F.B.I. and the information contained in the autopsy report concerning the wounds, there is no conflict. The F.B.I. reports record oral statements made by autopsy physicians while the examination was being conducted and before all facts were known. The autopsy report records the final findings of the examination.

Two Agents at Autopsy

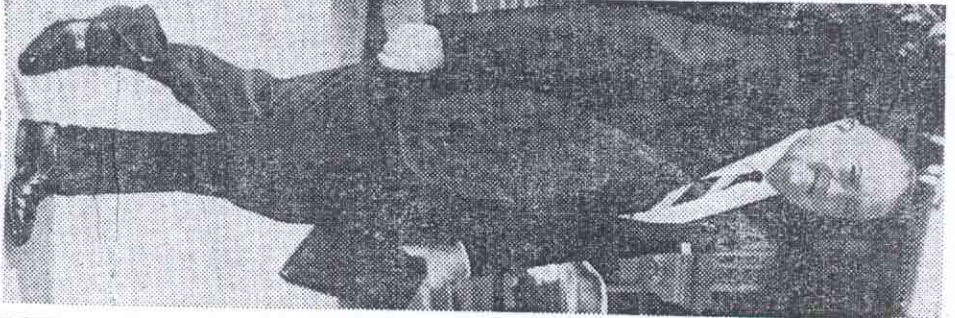
Briefly, this is what happened. The autopsy was conducted at Bethesda Naval Hospital on the evening of Nov. 22, 1963. Two F.B.I. agents were present. They reported that Dr.

Warren Commission's findings and a French journalist presenting the case of the critics.

Overall, the show induced a compelling impression of doubt that Oswald had acted alone.

The show faded out at the end on a studio mock-up of the scene of the assassination in Dallas as an announcer speculated about whether the truth would ever be known.

The scale model appeared repeatedly during the program as investigators set the scene and returned to it as points of controversy were injected verbally and then demonstrated. Spot footage was introduced



J. Edgar Hoover

United Press International James J. Humes, chief autopsy surgeon, located what appeared to be a bullet hole in the back below the shoulder and it listed those connected near or far with the event who have met deaths under "suspicious" conditions.

Despite assertions from persons supporting the report's conclusions, the program clearly left the door open to speculation about a possible conspiracy.

Hundreds Visit Oswald Grave

FORT WORTH, Tex., Nov. 25 (AP) — A note attached to a large bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums on the grave of Lee Harvey Oswald said "... he has left all the world confused." Hundreds of visitors yesterday filed by the grave in Fort

Worth and probed it to the end of the opening with a finger. The examining physicians were unable to explain why they could find no bullet or point of exit.

Unknown to the agents, the physicians eventually were able to trace the path of the bullet through the body. On the morning of Nov. 23, 1963, Dr. Humes contacted doctors who treated the President at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Tex., the previous day and confirmed his assumption that a tracheotomy had been performed using a bullet hole in the front of the neck as the point of incision.

The information reported by the agents present during the autopsy was summarized on page 18 of the F.B.I. report dated Dec. 9, 1963.

Hole Found in Clothing

Meanwhile, the clothing worn by the President when he was shot was examined in the F.B.I. laboratory. This examination revealed a small hole in the back of his coat and shirt and a slit characteristic of an exit hole for a projectile in the front of the shirt one inch below the collar button. A nick on the left side of the tie knot, possibly caused by the same projectile which passed through the shirt, also was noted.

These findings clearly indicated the examining physician's early observation that the bullet penetrated only a short distance into the President's back probably was in error.

Since this observation had been included in the F.B.I. report of Dec. 9, 1963, another

reference was made to it in the report of Jan. 13, 1964, in conjunction with the laboratory findings to point up this probability.

The F.B.I. and the Warren Commission each received a copy of the official autopsy report on Dec. 23, 1963, from Secret Service following a specific request for this document. Since the F.B.I. knew of the official autopsy, its contents were not repeated in an F.B.I. report.

Film Charge Denied

Recently the charge has been made that the F.B.I. altered the film of the assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder. This is totally false. The F.B.I. never had the original Zapruder film in its possession—it was purchased by a national magazine. The F.B.I. obtained a copy of the original uncut film and reproduced this for the commission, which since has turned it over to national archives.

At the direction of President Johnson, the F.B.I. conducted a prompt, intensive, objective and thorough investigation of the assassination. The results of this investigation were accurately reported to the Warren Commission.

Not one shred of evidence has been developed to link any other person in a conspiracy with Oswald to the assassination. President Kennedy. All available evidence and facts point to one conclusion—that Oswald acted alone in his crime.

False" allegations that the F.B.I. had altered the film of the assassination taken by an amateur photographer, Abraham Zapruder.

"The F.B.I. never had the original Zapruder film in its possession — it was purchased by a national magazine," he said, referring to Life magazine. "The F.B.I. obtained a copy of the original uncut film and reproduced this for the commission, which since has turned it over to national archives," he added.

The discrepancy between the Warren Report's description of Mr. Kennedy's body wound and the two F.B.I. reports has fanned the controversy over the adequacy of the Warren Commission's investigation.

In his book "Inquest," Edward Jay Epstein pointed out that the F.B.I. had repeated in its Jan. 13 report that the bullet had not passed through the President's body without stating that this view might be in error and without mentioning the contrary view expressed in the official autopsy.

Mr. Epstein said a person might find it "inconceivable that the F.B.I. would make a repeated error of this magnitude and import in its final report to the President."

### Sees Truth vs. Politics

After analyzing the evidence, he concluded that "all the evidence" indicated that the F.B.I. version was true and that the Warren Commission's statement was an expression of "political truth."

Critics say that the commission's conclusion that the same bullet struck President Kennedy and Governor Connally was crucial to its explanation of the crime. The commission, has denied that it is necessary.

The Zapruder film showed that the two men were struck almost simultaneously. Since Oswald's bolt-action rifle could not fire two rounds in less than 2.3 seconds, the commission concluded that the same round had hit both men, and that Governor Connally had had a delayed reaction to his wound.

Mr. Epstein and other critics have insisted that, if the first bullet had lodged in Mr. Kennedy's back and had later fallen out, as the doctors first assume then Mr. Kennedy and Governor Connally must have been hit by two riflemen firing almost simultaneously.

and then demonstrated.

Spot footage was introduced to provide the scale for viewers. Library footage and still pictures were shown to fix the event, its actors and their implements. Sketches and diagrams were used for additional clarity.

The assassination sequence was used with slow-motion cartoons to give viewers the time element, against which were opposed views and explanations tending to demonstrate that Oswald could not have fired three shots so accurately in so short a time. Spot interviews brought in suggestions that four shots may have been fired, two in close succession.

The program was the lead subject of the television network's weekly news "magazine," entitled "Panorama."

Through innuendo and suggestion, the program cast doubt on Jack Ruby's role in the event,

tell all the world confused.

Hundreds of visitors yesterday filed by the grave in Fort Worth's Rosehill Cemetery on the third anniversary of the day that Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President Kennedy, was shot to death by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub operator.

The neatly typewritten note on the flowers read "Lee Harvey Oswald. Did he assassinate the President? Was he truthfully accused? Guilty, yes? Or was he innocent? He has left all the world confused."

In a three-hour period more than 600 persons visited the grave.