

More Support for Warren Findings on JFK

Photo Experts Back Single-Bullet Theory

Washington — (AP) — Photography experts have determined that President John F. Kennedy and Governor John B. Connally were seated in such a way that a single bullet could have wounded both of them at the time Kennedy was assassinated, congressional sources said.

That conclusion supports the Warren Commission's so-called "single-bullet theory," widely disputed by conspiracy theorists who believe both men were shot by separate bullets and that two assassins were involved. The commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone gunman.

Two photo analysts were to report to the House Select Committee on Assassinations today that Kennedy and Connally were aligned in the presidential limousine in Dallas in a way that a single bullet could have passed through Kennedy's neck and then struck Connally in the back, said the sources, who requested anonymity.

This testimony, like virtually all the medical and ballistics findings presented last week, adds another layer of support for the commission's long-disputed conclusions.

By contrast, an acoustics expert testified yesterday that the commission could have been wrong when it concluded that no more than three shots were fired at Kennedy's limousine.

Dr. James E. Barger said his tests

showed there was a 50-50 chance there were four shots. If there were four, he said, one of them came from the grassy knoll said by conspiracy theorists to be the site of a second gunman.

Barger is the chief scientist for Bolt, Beranek and Newman, an acoustical consulting firm in Cambridge, Mass. The firm analyzed the 18½-minute gap in the Watergate tape and concluded that it was definitely erased.

The House committee hired the analysts to study a tape made during the assassination when a motorcycle police officer accidentally left his radio transmitter open for about 3½ minutes.

The tests involved sophisticated techniques to diminish the motorcycle noise and enhance other sounds on the tape. The graphs developed on the police tape then were compared with graphs charting sound patterns recorded in Dallas in a reconstruction of

the gunfire last month.

Barger testified that the police tape showed four disturbances which appeared similar to the pattern created by gunfire on the test tapes. Further analysis showed that if there were four shots, the first two probably came from the book depository, the third from the grassy knoll and the fourth from the depository, Barger said.

Connally, then governor of Texas and now a Houston lawyer, was riding in a limousine in front of Kennedy at the time of the slaying in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

One source said the analysts also would confirm the Warren Commission's judgment that the gunshots probably came from the Texas School Book Depository where a rifle traced to Oswald was found.

Pressed for an unequivocal answer to the question of the fourth shot,

Barger stated he is 95 percent certain that his tests show two shots, 60 percent to 70 percent certain of three shots, and only 50 percent certain of a fourth shot.

Referring to the points of correlation indicating four shots, Barger acknowledged, "Each is about equally likely to be a false alarm."

In other words, he said, "The possibility... is about 50-50" that there were four shots.

Barger's six hours of testimony left committee members befuddled by the terms of higher mathematics and exasperated that the results were no more conclusive than 50-50.

Scowling at the uncertainty, Rep. Harold Sawyer (R-Mich) complained, "All I can say is I'd hate to civilly sue anybody, let alone prosecute anybody, on this kind of evidence."