

# Probers Hint 4th JFK Shot

## Tape of Assassination Studied by Probers

*N.Y. Times News Service*

New York — The House Select Committee on Assassinations has found "acoustical evidence" that four shots, one more than was identified by the Warren Commission in its investigation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, may have been fired at the president's motorcade in Dallas, according to congressional sources.

G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel for the Assassinations Committee, told members of the House Administration Committee in a briefing that a fourth shot, if it is confirmed by his committee, would have come too quickly to have been fired by Oswald, congressional sources said. "This raises the suggestion of a second assassin," one source said.

Blakey declined to comment on the report. He reportedly said that the committee wanted to conduct rifle firings at Dealey Plaza from different locations to confirm and further explore the findings.

The committee has asked for additional funds to conduct sophisticated tests of the new evidence.

The sources said that an analysis of the only known tape recording of the attack, inadvertently made when a Dallas police officer left his short wave radio transmitter on, has revealed a sound that appears to be a fourth gunshot in the area of Dealey Plaza in the early afternoon of Nov. 22, 1963.

This new evidence, the sources said, was the cornerstone of the committee's request Monday for additional funds to continue its investigations of the deaths of President Kennedy and

the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The committee, the sources said, wants to test-fire rifles at the Dallas assassination site to confirm its initial findings.

The new evidence was developed by the firm of Bolt, Beranek & Newman of Cambridge, Mass., when it analyzed the recording made by the Dallas Police Department. This firm, experts in acoustics, was one of a group

that worked on the mysterious 18.5-minute gap in President Nixon's White House tapes.

Its findings indicate that there are four sounds of gunshots on the tape and that the fourth gunshot sound came only 1.4 seconds after the third. The Warren Commission, which conducted its investigation in the mid-1960s, reported that it believed there had been three shots. Tests conducted for the commission by the Federal Bureau of Investigation established that it required, at the least, 2.3 seconds to fire the rifle used by Lee Harvey Oswald.

From the moment of President Kennedy's death there has been controversy over whether he was killed by a lone assassin or was the victim of a conspiracy involving more than one marksman. Oswald was arrested and charged with the president's murder and with the death of a Dallas police officer shortly after the shooting. He himself was killed two days later by Jack Ruby in the Dallas police headquarters.

The Warren Commission, headed by Earl Warren, then chief justice of the United States, concluded that Oswald, operating alone, killed Kennedy.

This conformed to time estimates made from a film of the shooting and with statements of witnesses.

According to the congressional sources, though the existence of the policemen's tape may have been known to the commission, the types of acoustical tests now possible were not available in 1964.

The committee began a search for the tape almost one year ago. After locating it, the Cambridge firm conducted its test and earlier this year, the committee received a report that there was a sound that could have been a fourth gunshot. The information has since been a closely guarded secret at the committee.

As the assassinations committee sought additional funds to continue its investigation through the end of the year, it met a skeptical reception by some members of the Administration Committee, whose skepticism increased when the assassination committee was accused of improper investigative techniques.

If the assassination committee determined conclusively that four shots were fired at the presidential motorcade, it would produce the first dispute of the Warren Commission's findings from an official source and perhaps bring other aspects of the report into question.