

supreme court.

JFK panel's report wrong, FBI says

By **BARBARA STRONG**
Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON — Experts misled the House Assassinations Committee into believing two gunmen took part in the killing of President John F. Kennedy, the FBI said Monday.

The experts "did not scientifically prove that a gunshot was fired by a second gunman from the grassy knoll area of Dealey Plaza during the assassination of President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963," the FBI said.

"Therefore, the House Select Committee on Assassinations' finding that 'scientific acoustical evidence establishes a high probability that

two gunmen fired at President John F. Kennedy' is invalid."

The committee's experts based their findings on a Dictabelt recording, thought to have originated from a Dallas motorcycle policeman's radio at the scene.

It was probable four shots were fired at the president's motorcade, the house committee said. Because only three of those could have been fired by Lee Harvey Oswald, a conspiracy was highly probable, the committee said.

"Scientific acoustical evidence (from experts Bolt Beranek and Newman, Inc., Mark R. Weiss and Ernest See **RECORDING** on Page 3A.

Recording fails 3 tests, FBI says

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Aschkenasy) establishes a 95 percent probability that two gunmen fired at President John F. Kennedy," the House Select Committee said in 1979.

The panel later asked the FBI to study the experts' tests, which compared sounds on the Dictabelt recording to recordings made at Dealey Plaza in 1978.

The sounds heard on the Dictabelt did not come necessarily from Dealey Plaza and there was no proof the sounds heard on the recording were gunshots rather than some other sounds or electrical impulses produced internally by the Dallas Police Department radio system, the FBI said.

Because the "quality of the Dallas Police Department dictabelt recording . . . (was) very limited," there is only a remote possibility further scientific research would produce valid results, the FBI said.

"It would take at least two or three years, require 10-12 man-years of work, cost in excess of \$1 million for travel and specialized equipment and require a number of new personnel to . . . replace the experts that would be involved on the project," all without much probability of definitive findings, the FBI said.

The FBI said the National Academy of Sciences, financed by the justice department and administered by the National Science Foundation, also is conducting a study of the acoustical evidence related to the

Kennedy assassination.

Asked if the justice department now would reject the house panel's recommendation for a reopening of the JFK assassination investigation, department spokesman Dean St. Dennis said the NAS study is under way and any interim decision would be "premature."

There were three ways to show whether the Dallas Police recording picked up the sounds in Dealey Plaza during the assassination, the FBI said.

"If it can be shown acoustically that the other information on the recording just before, during, and just after the pertinent time period was exclusively from Dealey Plaza, then there is a very high probability that the four impulsive patterns (thought to be gunshots) also represent sounds produced in Dealey Plaza."

But a carillon bell is heard on the recording about seven seconds after the last gunshot sound.

"No known carillon bells have been located in the vicinity of Dealey Plaza," the FBI said.

The recording also picked up brief voice signals from other transmitters and lacked sounds such as cheering crowds or recognizable voices that would indicate the sounds were produced in Dealey Plaza.

Another way of showing the gun sounds in the recording came from Dealey Plaza would be to show a uniqueness in the echo patterns, the FBI said.

FBI finding doesn't surprise policeman

By SCOTT PARKS

Jim Bowles, a 30-year veteran with the Dallas Police Department, said he was not surprised when told Monday the FBI has discounted the House Assassination Committee's conclusion that two gunmen killed President Kennedy in 1963.

"I'm not surprised one bit," said Bowles, who was the DPD communications supervisor the day of the assassination. "That's the only thing that a complete investigation would have found."

Bowles said the committee made a serious mistake in 1978 when it based its conclusion that the president was shot by more than one person on "acoustical evidence" taken from a DPD recording that purportedly carried the sounds of four gunshots — including one from the infamous grassy knoll.

The committee found the recording was made when motorcycle patrolman H.B. McLain's microphone was stuck the moment gunshots were fired at Dealey Plaza.

McLain was riding his motorcycle in the presidential motorcade Nov. 22, 1963.

Bowles, 51, who now is a captain in the police department's community services division, said he can prove the recording came

not from McLain's motorcycle at Dealey Plaza but from the motorcycle of another officer who was at the Dallas Trade Mart at the time of the shooting.

Bowles said he never was given "the luxury" of presenting his evidence to the house committee.

"I can prove it," he said, "but no one has ever given me a chance. They (the committee) went the other way after I talked with one of their investigators. They, by gosh, were going to have their acoustical evidence."

The committee seized upon the Dictabelt recording — discovered in 1978 — and found acoustical analysts to support its theory that at least two gunmen were involved in the president's slaying, Bowles said. Bowles would not reveal the name of the other officer, from whose microphone he claims the recording was taken.

"He's retired now, and I would back off the whole thing before I would reveal his name," Bowles said. "It could be dangerous to his family."

Bowles said he was interviewed extensively by the FBI when the agency was conducting its own acoustical analysis of the crucial 17-year-old tape recording, and he said the agents believed his story.

"The committee's evidence just wouldn't wash," he said.