

F.B.I. REPORT FAULTS ASSASSINATION STUDY

Bureau's Analysis of a Dallas Tape
of Kennedy Shooting Calls 2d
Gunman Theory 'Invalid'

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 — The Federal Bureau of Investigation said today that its laboratory analysis of acoustical evidence lent no support to the theory that a second gunman had been involved in the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations, in a report released 16 months ago, found a "high probability" that two gunmen had been involved, based on a scientific evaluation of a Dictabelt recording made at the time of the assassination. The recording was said to have picked up radio traffic between the police dispatcher and officers in the field.

The bureau, in its 22-page report today, said that the findings of the committee and its scientific consultants were "invalid."

The consultants, according to the bureau, proved neither that the sounds on the recording had originated in Dealey Plaza in Dallas, the site of the assassination, nor that they even represented the sounds of gunshots, rather than sounds of some other origin.

Second Gunman Theorized

The committee and its consultants had said that in addition to Lee Harvey Oswald, who had shot at President Kennedy from the Texas School Book Depository building, there probably was another gunman.

Mark R. Weiss and Ernest Aschkenasy, computer scientists at Queens College of the City University of New York, told the committee there was a 95 percent probability that the recording contained the sound of a gunshot fired from the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza. Dr. James E. Barger, chief scientist of Bolt Beranek and Newman, a Cambridge, Mass., research firm, expressed a similar view when he testified before the panel in

December 1978.

Professor Weiss said today that he had not seen the F.B.I. report and could not comment on it. He said that he had not known the bureau was doing an analysis and had not been asked to explain his findings. Dr. Barger, according to an aide, had no immediate comment.

Representative Louis Stokes, chairman of the now-defunct assassinations committee, said tonight that he was "very disappointed" with the bureau's report. The Ohio Democrat said that he had hoped that the bureau would do an independent analysis of the Dictabelt recording, rather than just criticizing the consultants' work.

Justice Department Asks Study

Justice Department officials had asked the bureau to study the acoustical evidence in response to a recommendation in the final report of the assassination committee. The bureau said it had taken several months to gather the information for its analysis but gave no other indication why its study had taken so long.

The bureau criticized the method used by the committee consultants to analyze "sound impulse patterns." Using a similar technique, the bureau compared one of the apparent gunshot noises on the recording with the sound of a shot fired in Greensboro, N. C., where Ku Klux Klansmen clashed with members of the Communist Workers Party in November 1979. The bureau said that there was a 95 percent probability that the Greensboro shots represented the same sound impulse pattern as those recorded in Dallas 16 years earlier.

The bureau made clear its reluctance at any further analysis of the Dallas police recording. "The F.B.I. has the necessary expertise, but a full-scale examination of the acoustic evidence, including additional tests, if needed, in Dealey Plaza, would be a tremendous undertaking, especially considering the probable inconclusive results," the report said.