

FBI rejects JFK '2d

By FRANK JACKMAN

Washington (News Bureau)—The FBI yesterday disputed the findings of congressional acoustical experts and found "invalid" the conclusion of the House Assassinations Committee that a second gunman probably fired at President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

The bureau concluded that analysis of the evidence by the House committee's 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 . . . 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 bureau based its finding on a

lengthy laboratory review by its technical services division of a Dallas Police Department tape recording from a police motorcycle transmitter in Dealey Plaza that day. From this recording, made on a Dictabelt recorder, acoustical experts employed by the House committee concluded that four, not three, shots were fired at Kennedy.

BASED ON THIS analysis of the tape recording, the House panel reported in 1979 that there was a "95% probability" that a second gunman joined Lee Harvey Oswald in a conspiracy to assassinate the President.

The House committee report was the first official study of the assassination to dispute the conclusion of the Warren Commission in 1964 that Oswald acted alone in the slaying of Kennedy.

The FBI consistently has maintained that it found no evidence of a conspiracy.

gunman' finding

The House committee got two separate reports from acoustics experts. One came from Bolt, Beranek and Newman Inc.; the other from Mark R. Weiss and Ernest Aschkenasy of the Department of Computer Science at Queens College in New York City.

The Bolt, Beranek and Newman report analyzed the recording made on a Dictabelt recorder which had continuously monitored one channel of Dallas Police Department radio traffic before, during and after the assassination.

DURING THE assassination, the radio of a Dallas police motorcycle that may have been in the presidential motorcade was thought to have been stuck in its transmitting position for about five minutes.

Bolt, Beranek and Newman concluded that four gunshots were probably recorded on the tape in the space

of 8.3 seconds. That report said it was probable that three came from the Texas School Book Depository building, which is where the Warren Commission concluded that Oswald fired from, and that the third shot in what it determined was a four-shot sequence probably was fired from behind a fence on the grassy knoll area of Dealey Plaza.

The FBI concluded that because of the poor quality of the Dallas police radio system "it is considered highly unlikely that any valid scientific conclusions would be reached as to the exact nature of the designated impulsive patterns recorded."

The National Academy of Sciences is conducting a separate study of the acoustical evidence from the assassination under financing by the Justice Department and administered by the National Science Foundation. ■