assassination occurred.

to reading Michael Kurtz' CRIME OF THE CENof John F. Kennedy? I would not have thought so prior COLLEGE, MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA TURY."- PROFESSOR WILLIAM I. HAIR, GEORGIA "Is there a need for yet another book on the assassination

overwhelming evidence that more than one assasconsiderable evidence of an assassination conspirsassinations. Professor Kurtz outlines the major vember 22, 1963, and provides a detailed critical sin" conclusion of the Warren Commission. Now, ing a new and more plausible theory of how the theories fail to fit the facts and concludes by offersin fired shots at the President. Professor Kurtz the Committee both ignored and distorted the Harvey Oswald was guilty, the Commission and acy. Operating on the a priori assumption that Lee that both official inquiries failed to evaluate the sifts all the known evidence before concluding areas of controversy about the assassination and mission and the House Select Committee on Asanalysis of the investigations of the Warren Comkey question: "Who killed President Kennedy?" tivity of the professional historian to bear on the tion, Michael Kurtz brings all the skills and objecin the first scholarly treatment of the assassinathem beavily biased for or against the "lone assashas generated countless books, virtually all of The assassination of President John F. Kennedy also shows why the most prevalent conspiracy This book recounts the tragic events of No-

> John Kennedy's murder, Crime of the Century most exhaustive research carried out to date on draws on a variety of primary source materials latest source materials released by the House Se-CIA's declassified assassination files. It utilizes the from the National Archives and the FBI's and dence, and the incisive critique of official investilect Committee's investigation. The depth of reonly to students of the Kennedy assassination in gative bias make this a book of importance not search, the rigorously objective sifting of evisponse to political violence in general. particular, but also to scholars of government re-Thoroughly documented and based on the

Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, MICHAEL L. KURTZ is professor of history at HISTORY and was associate editor for READ-Louisiana. He is co-author of LOUISIANA: A INGS IN LOUISIANA HISTORY.

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CHAPTER 4

such a speculation is valid. west of the window give rise to serious doubts as to whether confusion as to which of the three cartridge cases was found been previously loaded and ejected from another rifle, and the that the fragments could have been planted in the limousine, the strange markings on case 544, indicating that it, too, had

my tentown not have handled them (Oswald left many other prints elsewhere). Since an absolute minimum of two shots were fired tridges could possibly have figured in the assassination, shots most probably four or five, and since only one of the three carcases bore fingerprints of any kind, indicating that Oswald may Oswald's rifle. Commission Exhibits 543 and 545 must, there-fore, have been placed there by someone. None of the three discovered in a location consistent with the ejection pattern of must have been fired from elsewhere. possibly have played a role in the assassination. Both Case 543 of the three cartridge cases, Commission Exhibit 544, could and Case 545 could not have done so, for reasons cited above. This substantiates the fact that only one of the three cases was Thus, there is strong and compelling evidence that only one

which a ind, lates

ate the commission's conclusions in part, the historian cannot and rejected that which refuted it. While there was, indeed tory building. It used evidence that supported this conclusion shots from the sixth-floor southeast window of the Book Deposiplaces in Dealey Plaza as possible sources of the gunfire. accept them as definitive. Other evidence clearly points to other hard physical, ballistics, and eyewitness evidence to substantiit. The commission assumed that Lee Harvey Oswald fired the ren Commission failed properly to evaluate the evidence before From the foregoing examples, it should be clear that the War-

## N THE BACK

The nature of the bullet wounds suffered by President Kennedy and Governor Connally and the location of the car at the time of the shots establish that the bullets were fired from above and behind the Presidential limousine, striking the President and the Governor as

right-rear portion of his head, causing a massive and fatal wound The President was struck a second time by a bullet which entered the the back of his neck and exited through the lower front portion of his  $b_{\mu}t$ neck, causing a wound which would not necessarily have been lethal. (1) President Kennedy was first struck by a bullet which entered at

through his right wrist and entered his left thigh, where it caused a suof his chest, exiting below his right nipple. This bullet then passed right side of his back and traveled downward through the right side perficial wound.1 (2) Governor Connally was struck by a bullet which entered on the

wounds inflicted on President Kennedy and Governor Connally above statements form the Warren Report's synopsis of the building. southeast corner window of the Texas School Book Depository for the assertion that all shots were fired from the sixth-floor They are cited in the Report's conclusions as part of the evidence heated debate than that concerning the medical evidence. The Commission and its conclusions, none has generated more OF ALL THE CONTROVERSY surrounding the Warren

governor's clothing, films of the assassination, trajectory tests conducted by the FBI, and wounds ballistics tests conducted by the president and of the autopsy surgeons, the president's and testimony and medical reports of the Dallas doctors who treated The bases for the commission's medical evidence were the

not have that one agreed that und incie surplients 39 4 55

BAMM. Welky "not in quedic NAMES and ballistics evidence.2 lone-assassin thesis.4 THE SINGLE-BULLET THEORY

"Even the most proficient marksman" could not have fired that frame. The shot could not have been fired before frame to a shot in frame Z225, the shot must have been fired prior to Kennedy must have been struck between frames Z210 and through the leaves of the tree and hit the president. Therefore, the limousine before that frame. As the commission observed Because the Zapruder film showed Kennedy reacting in pain however, because an oak tree blocked Oswald's view of

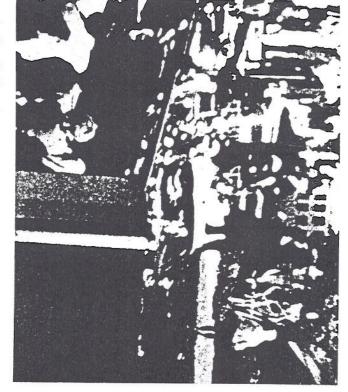
shows no indication of pain or any other sign of being wounded. frame Z225. In that and in the succeeding ten frames, Connally Governor Connally, however, appears to be uninjured in

tion by Arlen Specter, the legal counsel in charge of the medical the commission, and the panel was given misleading informasee, however, much of the medical evidence was never shown to the commission arrived at a reasonable conclusion. As we shall the Army. Considering the testimony and evidence before it,

link in the chain of evidence indicating the number of assassins.<sup>3</sup> struck Governor Connally, for that determination forms a vita ever, is not true. It is, in fact, essential to determine which shot determine just which shot hit Governor Connally." This, how-According to the Warren Commission, "it is not necessary to

single-bullet theory is essential to the Warren Commission's to wound Kennedy and Connally with separate shots, the Because Oswald could not fire his bolt-action rifle fast enough completely through his right wrist, and lodged in his left thigh entered Governor Connally's back, exited from his chest, went from his throat just below the Adam's apple. That same bullet struck President Kennedy in the back of the neck and exited maintains that a bullet from the rifle of Lee Harvey Oswald single-bullet theory. As discussed in Chapter Two, the theory listics evidence that has generated the most controversy is the commission about anything. One aspect of the medical and bal-The critics of the Warren Commission rarely agreed with the

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Zapruder Frame Z189. Kennedy and Connally at the time of the first

see his puticions of Wrong