

Life Says Photos Dispute Bullet Theory

Life magazine printed pictures of the Kennedy assassination today and said they cast doubt on the conclusion of the Warren Commission that a single bullet killed President John F. Kennedy and wounded Texas Gov. John Connally.

The magazine said the picture and Connally's interpretation of it neither proves nor disproves that Lee Harvey Oswald had a co-conspirator in killing Kennedy, but does show "that reasonable—and disturbing—doubt remains." It called for a new investigation of the assassination, which took place three years ago tomorrow.

The picture, frame 230, is a part of a sequence of motion pictures taken by a Dallas resident, Abraham Zapruder. It shows Kennedy having been struck by a bullet and Connally sitting in front of him with his hand slightly raised holding his hat.

Hit in Three Places

The Warren commission decided that Connally, who had been sitting on the jump seat in front of Kennedy, was hit by a bullet that went through Kennedy's neck. The bullet hit Connally in three places, the commission determined. Another hit Kennedy in the back of the head, killing him. The commission said a third bullet also was probably fired, but it could find no trace of it although an expended cartridge case was found.

Connally has maintained that he was struck by a separate bullet.

The rifle used by Oswald needed 2.3 seconds between each shot, according to the commission's calculations.

Using the Zapruder film, the commission said that Kennedy

"was not hit until at least frame 210 and that he was probably hit by frame 225." Zapruder's 8mm. movie camera ran at 18.3 frames a second, or a little more than one-twentieth of a second—0.55 seconds—for each frame.

The half-second interval between shots that would have allowed Kennedy to have been hit at frame 225 and Connally to have been hit when he says he was—frame 234—would have required firing from more than one gun.

Had Kennedy been hit at frame 210, this would still have allowed only 1.3 seconds until frame 234, a second less than the minimum time required to open and close the bolt of Oswald's rifle to fire it.

Even More Convinced

Life said Connally was even more convinced of his testimony before the commission that he and Kennedy were hit by different bullets after viewing blow-ups of the Zapruder film.

Connally testified that he heard the first shot that hit Kennedy and was turning to look at the President when he felt a second shot hit him. After reviewing the Zapruder film recently, he told Life:

"They talk about the 'one-bullet or two-bullet theory,' but as far as I'm concerned, there is no 'theory.' There is my absolute knowledge . . . that one bullet caused the President's first wound, and that an entirely separate shot struck me. It's a certainty. I'll never change my mind."

Upholds Theory

The leading proponent of the single-bullet theory was Arlen Specter, an assistant counsel of

the commission who is district attorney of Philadelphia.

Life quoted Specter as upholding the theory and saying he believed frame 230 showed Connally "wincing, indicating a probability he's been hit," with his wrist apparently coming up from his lap in frame 229 as though it was wounded.

Specter, in a copyrighted interview published by the magazine U.S. News & World Report Oct. 10, said the single bullet theory had no bearing on whether the conclusion that Oswald was the assassin and acted alone.

Discusses Time Sequence

Discussing the time necessary for three shots to have been fired, Specter said:

"The rifle could be fired as rapidly as 2.3 seconds between shots. But bear this in mind: When you fire three times, the first shot is not taken into account in the timing sequence. This point is missed repeatedly by the would-be critics of the commission's report.

"For example, aim is taken: Bang!—at least 2.3 seconds must pass while the bolt is worked and aim is taken again; bang!—2.3 seconds again for bolt action and aim; bang! So that three shots can be fired within a 4.6 second range of time."

Discussing the Zapruder film, Specter said it "does not lend to such precision as to pin down exactly in which frame of the film it was that Gov. Connally was struck.

"The film is two-dimensional, and it was viewed by many of us on hundreds of occasions, but you simply cannot be so precise as to tell exactly where it was

that Gov. Connally was struck. . . . The events of the assassination just cannot be reduced to mathematical certainty by use of a stop watch and the Zapruder film, notwithstanding all our efforts to recreate it with minute precision. . . ."

Cites Commission Tests

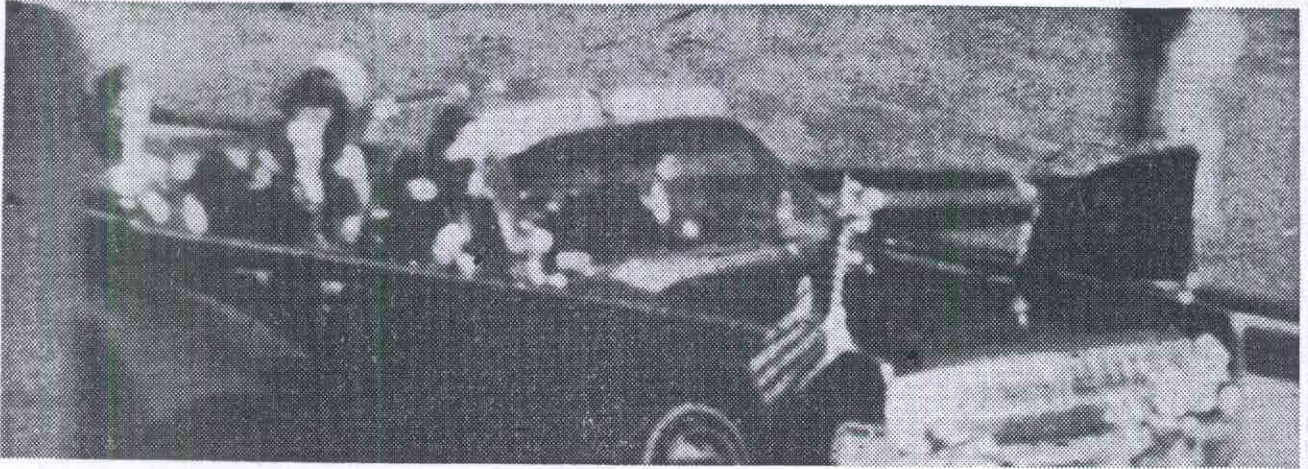
Specter said that an exhaustive series of tests with animals and cadavers showed that "it was entirely possible for a bullet to have gone through the President's neck, lost little velocity, then to have gone through the governor's chest grazing a rib, but again not striking anything in a smashing fashion.

"It would have come out wobbling, as indicated by the large wound on the front of the governor, and then it would have tumbled through the governor's wrist."

He said a "whole host of features were analyzed by the orthopedic surgeon" to indicate that the bullet that struck Connally was not a "clean bullet, but was one that had passed through another object.

He said Connally, his doctors and ballistic experts were all agreed that Connally's wounds came from one bullet and "no other bullet was found anywhere in the car which would have accounted for the bullet which inflicted the governor's wounds."

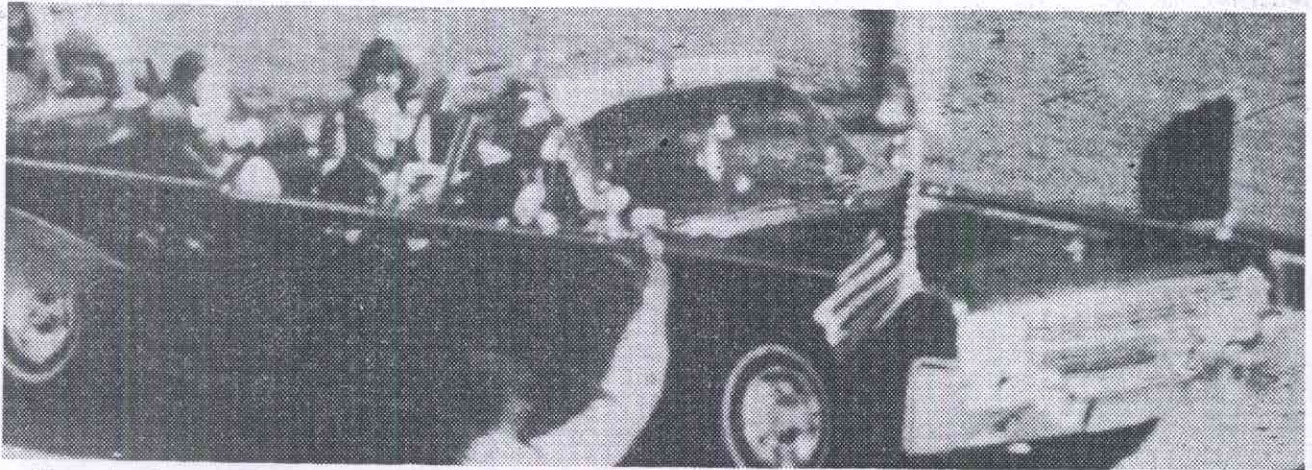
Connally's leg, Specter said, "was substantially lower than the top of the doors (of the car); that if a bullet had hit his leg, it would have been a curious twist of physics for it to have ended up outside of the car completely" and been lost.



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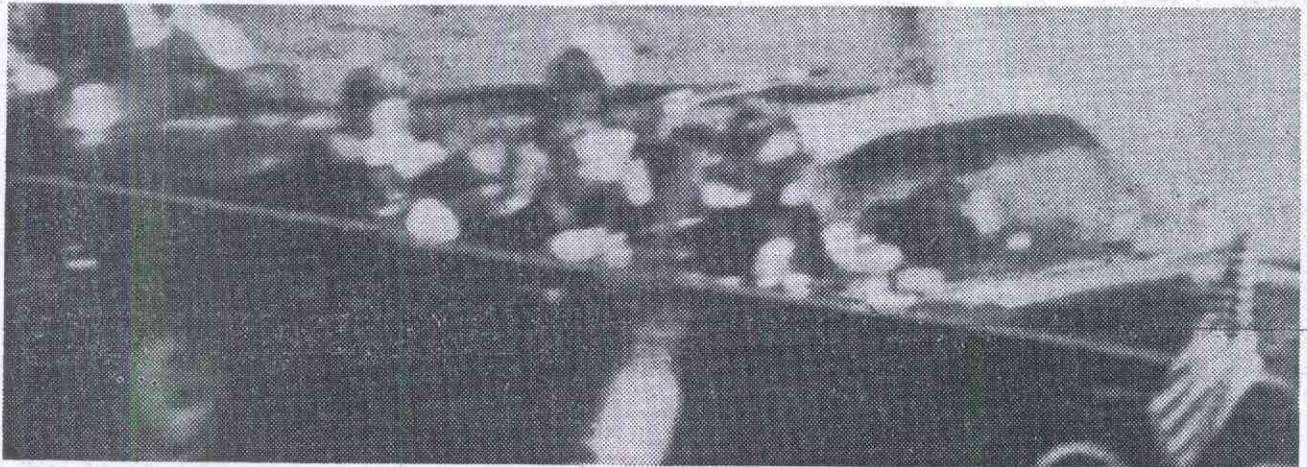
This is frame 225 of a movie film taken by Abraham Zapruder of President Kennedy's assassination and now owned by Life Magazine. Life says it shows that Kennedy's face is distorted and his right hand is rising toward

his neck. Gov. John Connally, seated in front of Kennedy, appears unperturbed, Life says. The Warren Commission said President Kennedy probably was hit by the time of frame 225.



Here is frame 230, taken .27 seconds after frame 225. Life says it shows a calm Connally still gripping the brim of his hat with his right hand, which was supposedly injured a second

before. A staff member of the Warren Commission says the picture shows Connally wincing. Connally says he was unharmed at this point.



This is frame 234, the point at which Connally says he was struck. It is at least nine frames and a half second later than the Warren Com-

mission said he had been hit, according to Life. Connally concedes he might have been hit a frame or two earlier, but no more.