

"Strong organized forces have combined to stop the inquiry at any cost."

--Henry Gonzalez, Chairman of the House
Select Committee on Assassinations

CHAPTER ³

THE MAGIC BULLET THEORY AND THE WOUNDS OF KENNEDY AND CONNALLY

The House Assassinations Committee concluded that the President was struck by a bullet that entered in the upper right of the back and exited from the front of the throat.¹ The Committee adjusted this evidence somewhat, but they did it very sneakily. They moved the wound down to the "upper right of the back" from the back of the neck where the Warren Commission seemed to have placed it, disregarding their own medical evidence. This additional traveling wound demonstrates the severe iron the Committee was locked into when all the evidence, including the President's clothing, proved that he was struck six inches down on his back.

But to admit this makes the "magic bullet theory" all the more implausible, for the bullet would then have to have turned upwards, without striking any bone, come out the throat, made some right and left turns, gone up and then down to find Governor John Connally, and then gone downward through his body at a 25 degree angle.²

The Committee's Report went on to say: "The forensic

pathology panel determined that Governor Connally was struck by a bullet from the rear, one that entered just below the right armpit and exited below the right nipple of the chest. It then shattered the radius bone of the Governor's right wrist and caused a superficial wound to the left thigh."³

The question raised by both Connally and others is: Did two bullets do all this to him, rather than one? He was still holding on to his Stetson hat long after the "pristine" or "magic" bullet supposedly shattered his wrist and the bone and tendon in it, and the trajectory through his chest did not seem to prove that the same bullet could have hit him in all three parts of his body, ending up in his thigh.⁴

As we have proved elsewhere in this book, it is highly unlikely that any bullet could travel through two men, smashing numerous bones, and end up in nearly perfect shape: "Based on its examination of the nature and alignment of the Governor's wounds, the panel concluded that they were all caused by a single bullet that came from the rear. It concluded further that, having caused the Governor's wounds, the bullet was dislodged from his left thigh." (See Dr. John Nichols' important article on this subject, which never reached the public.⁵)

"The panel determined that the nature of the wounds of President Kennedy and Governor Connally was consistent with the POSSIBILITY (emphasis added by the authors) that one bullet entered the upper right back of President Kennedy and, after

emerging from the front of the neck, caused all of the Governor's wounds."* This is the "magic bullet" theory.

If the above shot passed through both men and came out in nearly perfect condition, another bullet, supposedly fired from the same gun, would have to have entered the President's head and behaved as though it was a frangible bullet; that is, it broke up or exploded upon entry into the skull. This is extremely unlikely. It is also unlikely for an assassin to use two different types of bullets in succession. Dr. Jenkins wrote, "...there was also obvious...chest damage," meaning Kennedy was shot in the chest, either in the front or back, which is why the surgeons inserted drainage tubes. Later, the government implied that the professors/doctors were liars or incompetents.

△ ~~The autopsists agree~~
Arlen Specter, the author of the "single bullet" theory, along with Gerald Ford--while they were working with the Warren Commission--asked Dr. Humes, the autopsist, whether the magic or pristine bullet could have been the one that ended up in the Governor's thigh. "I think that extremely unlikely. The reports (from Parkland Memorial Hospital in Texas) tell of an entrance wound on the lower mid thigh of the Governor and X-rays taken there are described as showing metallic fragments in the bone, which apparently by this report were not removed and are still present in Governor Connally's thigh, I can't conceive of where they came from this missile."* Dr. Finck and Dr. Boswell, his fellow autopsists, agreed.

Dr. Charles F. Gregory, one of the doctors who treated Governor Connally, said that the bullet "behaved as though it had never struck anything except him."⁹ Dr. George Shires was also there. Specter asked him if the pristine bullet could have gone through both men and come out nearly whole: "I assume that it would be possible. The main thing that would make me think that this was not the case is that he remembers so distinctly hearing a shot and having turned prior to the time he was hit, and in the position he must have been--I think it's obvious that he did turn rather sharply to the right and this would make me think that it was a second shot...."¹⁰

Another of Connally's doctors, Robert Shaw, said then and still says of Connally's wounds: "As far as the wounds of the chest are concerned, I feel that this bullet could have inflicted those wounds. But the examination of the wrist both by X-ray and at the time of surgery showed some fragments of metal that make it difficult to believe that the same missile could have caused these two wounds."¹¹

Governor Connally said, "It is not conceivable to me that I could have been hit by the first bullet, and then I felt the blow from something which was obviously a bullet, which I assumed was a bullet, and I never heard the second shot--didn't hear it. I didn't hear but two shots. I think I heard the first shot and the third shot."¹²

Connally has repeatedly said since then that he was not hit

with the same shot that struck the President.¹³ Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry agreed and stated Connally wasn't hit until frame number 236 of the Zapruder film.¹⁴

Specter asked Dr. Finck: "And could it have been the bullet which inflicted the wound on Governor Connally's right wrist?," referring again to the pristine bullet. The autopsist replied "No; for the reason that there are too many fragments described in that wrist."¹⁵

"A factor that influenced the panel significantly was the ovoid shape of the wound in the Governor's back, indicating that the bullet had begun to tumble or yaw before entering. An ovoid wound is characteristic of one caused by a bullet that has passed through or glanced off an intervening object."¹⁶ If a bullet strikes leaves, it can yaw and cause a slightly ovoid wound, like this one. Secondly, any bullet striking at any angle does not make a perfectly round hole, but an ovoid one. Third, the position of the muscles at the moment of impact may not be relaxed or the position they end up in after the shot, and the shape of the hole is stretched or changed accordingly. Fourth, the Governor's wound wasn't very ovoid, indicating the bullet had not struck anything beforehand. Dr. Shaw told the Warren Commission that the longest diameter of the hole was 6/10 of an inch¹⁷ which is corroborated by the hole in his coat, which measured 25 by .65 inches.

"Based on the evidence available to it, the panel concluded

that a single bullet passing through both President Kennedy and Governor Connally would support a fundamental conclusion that the President was struck by two, and only two, bullets, each fired from behind. Thus, the forensic pathology panel's conclusions were consistent with the so-called single bullet theory advanced by the Warren Commission."¹⁰

Dr. Milton Helpern, who was at one time the Chief Medical Examiner of New York City, said, "The original, pristine weight of this bullet before it was fired was approximately 160-161 grains. The weight of the bullet recovered on the stretcher in Parkland Hospital was reported by the Commission at 158.6. This bullet wasn't distorted in any way. I cannot accept the premise that this bullet thrashed around in all that bony tissue and lost only 1.4 to 2.4 grains of its original weight. I cannot believe either that this bullet is going to emerge miraculously unscathed, without any deformity, and with its lands and grooves intact....You must remember that next to bone, the skin offers greater resistance to a bullet in its course through the body than any other kind of tissue....This single bullet theory asks us to believe that this bullet went through seven layers of skin, tough, elastic, resistant skin. In addition....this bullet passed through other layers of soft tissue; and then shattered bones! I just can't believe that this bullet had the force to do what (the Commission) have demanded of it; and I don't think they have really stopped to think out carefully what they have

asked of this bullet, for the simple reason that they still do not understand the resistant nature of human skin to bullets."¹⁹

The New York Times wrote, "He (Dr. Helpern) knows more about violent death than anyone else in the world." He had conducted more than 10,000 autopsies on people killed with bullets. Where did CE 399--the magic bullet--come from if it hadn't struck both men? Either it came from another sniper's rifle, or it was planted. The man who found it in the hospital insisted it did not come from the stretcher of either President Kennedy or John Connally. The evidence indicates that the bullet was found on the stretcher of a little boy.²⁰ Of course he was ignored. Both Darrell Tomlinson and D.P. Wright, the hospital security director, "declined to identify it as the bullet they each handled on November 22."²¹

"...The time between the observable reactions of the President and of the Governor was too short | to have allowed, according to the Commission's test firings, two shots to have been fired from the same rifle. FBI marksmen who test fired the rifle for the Commission employed the telescopic sight on the rifle, and the minimum firing time between shots was approximately 2.25 to 2.3 seconds. The time, between the observable reactions of the President and the Governor, according to the Commission, was less than two seconds."²² Again, the committee did not consider that there were two

separate snipers behind the limousine. Further, it would have been simply impossible for any marksman in the world to fire two shots in less than two seconds at a moving target at such a distance and hit anything. The conclusions of the official bodies are preposterous in view of the weight of the evidence from all these doctors and witnesses.

Not one single witness to the shooting ever suggested that both men were hit at the same time, and in fact all the witnesses in Dealey Plaza who had anything to say about it said that the victims were hit by separate bullets.

Nearly half the members of the Warren Commission never accepted the single bullet theory, but the conservative Senators Russell and Cooper and Congressman Hale Boggs were overwhelmed by the CIA connected persons on the panel: Allen Dulles, former Director of the CIA, whom Kennedy had fired; Gerald Ford, known as the CIA's man in the House; and John McClellan, Rockefeller's lawyer.²³

"Senator Richard Russell reportedly said that he would not sign a Report which concluded that both men were hit by the same bullet."²⁴ Researchers and authors Gary Shaw and Larry Harris write: "Russell later told Harold Weisberg that he had asked Chairman Earl Warren to include a footnote at the bottom of the page saying, 'Senator Russell dissents,' but that Warren refused, insisting on unanimity. According to author-researcher

Harold Weisberg, Russell was satisfied that there had been a conspiracy, that no one man could have done the known shooting, and that 'we have not been told the truth about Oswald' by Federal agencies. Russell encouraged Weisberg to challenge and disprove the Commission's findings.

"Senator John Cooper said, 'I, too, objected to such a conclusion; there was no evidence to show both men were hit by the same bullet.' Representative Hale Boggs said, 'I had strong doubts about it (the single-bullet theory),' adding that he felt the question was never resolved."²⁵

In an internal FBI memorandum from Cartha D. DeLoach to Clyde Tolson, J. Edgar Hoover's assistant and living mate, DeLoach writes: "the President (Lyndon Johnson) felt that CIA had something to do with this plot."²⁶

Plot!

Two separate wounds

It is crucial to understand that no autopsists saw the throat wound in the President, since it was slit open for a tracheotomy, but that the doctors in Dallas all stated that the throat wound prior to the tracheotomy was an entry wound, that is, it was very small;²⁷ they repeated this to co-author Livingstone in 1979. This evidence, overlooked by the official bodies, indicates that the President was shot from in front, in the throat; taken together with massive testimony on the back wound going nowhere, i.e. not transiting the body and being too

far down on the back, this shows that these were two separate gunshot wounds, which could not be responsible for Governor Connally's wounds.

Doctor McClelland, who assisted in the tracheotomy, said: "I was standing at the end of the stretcher on which the President was lying, immediately at his head, for purposes of holding a tracheotom, or a retractory in the neckline." He described the neck wound as less than 0.25 inches in diameter, far too small to be an exit wound.²⁸

Doctor Perry, who actually performed the tracheotomy, said that it was "a very small injury, with clearcut, although somewhat irregular margins of less than a quarter inch with minimal tissue damage surrounding it on the skin." Dr. Perry insisted that it was an entry wound, as did Dr. McClelland.²⁹

Nurse Henschcliffe, when asked by Arlen Specter "And what did that appear to you to be?," answered "an entrance bullet hole." Specter asked "Could it have been an exit bullet hole?" She answered "I have never seen an exit bullet hole...that looked like that."³⁰

Every witness has consistently identified the throat wound as an entrance wound.³¹

The Assassinations Committee has admitted that there was a gunman on the Grassy Knoll. Why are they sticking with the single bullet theory? The answer is that there were *two* gunmen *behind* the President, not just one, but they can't admit it

because that would indicate an official cover-up, fabricated evidence, and a much larger conspiracy. The only recourse was to use more phoney drawings, doubletalk, and ten dollar magic code words like "scientific," "medical," and "neutron activation analysis" to delude us:

"In addition to the conclusions reached by the committee's forensic pathology panel, the single bullet theory was substantiated by the findings of a neutron activation analysis performed for the committee. The bullet alleged to have caused the injuries to the Governor and the President was found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital...Neutron activation analysis, however, established that it was highly likely that the injuries to the Governor's wrist were caused by the bullet found on the stretcher in Parkland Hospital."²² Not very likely. The main problem with this test was that Dr. Guinn stated afterwards that none of the fragments he tested weighed the same as any listed as evidence by the Warren Commission. That is, along with the many missing fragments, it would appear that his evidence had been tampered with before he got it. Certainly, many bullets could have come from the same lot of lead.

"Further, the committee's wound ballistics expert concluded that the bullet found on the stretcher--Warren Commission exhibit 399 (CE 399)--is of a type that could have caused the wounds to President Kennedy and Governor Connally without showing any more deformity than it does."²³ (It could have, but

it didn't.) "In determining whether the deformity of CE 399 was consistent with its having passed through both the President and Governor, the committee considered the fact that it is a relatively long, stable, fully jacketed bullet, typical of ammunition often used by the military. Such ammunition tends to pass through body tissue more easily than soft nose hunting bullets. Committee consultants with knowledge in forensic pathology and wound ballistics concluded that it would not have been unusual for such a fully jacketed bullet to have passed through the President and the Governor and to have been only minimally deformed."²⁴ All this is speculation against the weight of the evidence that these were three separate shots, rather than one. How come the bullet that hit President Kennedy in the head fragmented into many pieces? It was clearly not a military jacketed bullet.

If two or more men ambushed the President, they had carefully planned what they were going to do. It is unlikely that any such conspiracy would not have involved more men, as the Committee indicated, and certainly more men involved would have carefully planned any ambush. An ambush is not well planned if only two snipers are involved, but a proper crossfire would certainly involve at least three or four snipers.²⁵ This had all the earmarks of a carefully planned military style ambush. Unravelling the cover-up indicates its origin.

It would be unusual for a bullet to pass through a

President (or a goat, for that matter) and be only minimally deformed, and another bullet to enter the President from the same gun a moment later and explode into fragments in his head, as happened in this case.

"The committee also considered photographic evidence in its analysis of the shots....The panel concluded there is clear photographic evidence that two shots, spaced approximately 6 seconds apart, struck the occupants of the limousine....The panel found that the alignment of the President and the Governor during this period was consistent with the single bullet hypothesis."³⁶ Again, as with the Warren Commission's Report, there is no evidence to support this hypothesis. There was no way to line up the wounds and get the results quoted here.