

DA's Theory Disputed



Physician
diagrams
 JFK wound

DR. JOHN K. LATTIMER, first private physician given access to autopsy and X-ray pictures of President John F. Kennedy's body, draws a line indicating path of bullet which entered the back of Kennedy's neck and exited from the throat. Second line was path of bullet as drawn by artist for the Warren Commission, which Dr. Lattimer said was done "by hearsay" and was therefore much too parallel to the ground. (AP Wirephoto.)

Kennedy, and other critics of the Warren Report, contend that a shot was fired from in front of the motorcade by a second assassin hiding on a grassy knoll facing the presidential car.

Dr. Lattimer said the photos of the wound in the back of the neck show "what appears to be a circular bruise which is typical of wounds of entry."

In addition, he said, the X-rays prove that the front and back bullet holes were made by the same bullet, which passed through the President's body and left two tiny flakes of metal and hair in the tissues along the path between the two holes.

IN ANNOUNCING his findings, Dr. Lattimer said the X-rays "eliminate any doubt" about the validity of the Warren Commission conclusion that Oswald fired the shots from the Texas Book Depository.

Dr. Lattimer was allowed access to 65 X-rays, color transparencies and black-and-white negatives taken during the autopsy, which have been the focus of controversy because the Kennedy family had previously guarded them so

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closely that only certain representatives of the government were allowed to see them.

Garrison went into federal court to gain access to the autopsy records for the Shaw trial and a federal judge ordered them produced. When the Justice Department announced it would appeal that decision, the DA rested his case without introducing them.

UNOFFICIALLY, it has been explained that the photos were suppressed to spare the Kennedy family anguish, because the second bullet that hit the President blasted away most of the right side of his brain. Dr. Lattimer described photos of the wound as "horrible," adding that the pictures should never be made public.

One item of clothing which was furnished to Dr. Lattimer was the back brace which Kennedy was wearing at the time of the assassination.

This was a knotted, elastic "Ace" bandage designed to relieve pain from a wartime back injury.

Kennedy wore the bandage tightly wrapped in a figure-eight, through his crotch and around his lower back to help immobilize the lower spine.

Doctor Rejects DA's JFK Idea

By KERMIT TARLETON

A New York surgeon, the first private physician to study the John F. Kennedy autopsy X-rays, has rejected Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's theory that JFK was shot from the front, contending the angle of the bullets that hit the President show they came from above and behind.

Dr. John K. Lattimer of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, claimed the initial bullet that passed through Kennedy's body took a distinctly more downward angle than the drawings released by the Warren Report indicate.

"If anyone were to have shot him from the front, they would have had to be squatting on the floor of the car in front of him," Dr. Lattimer said.

THE WARREN Commission artist portrayed the path of the bullet into the back of Kennedy's neck and out the base of his throat as if it were traveling almost parallel to the ground, but the autopsy pictures show the front bullet hole is considerably lower than the one in the back.

Dr. Lattimer concluded that if the Warren Commission and its staff had been allowed access to the pictures and X-rays, which have been sealed in the National Archives, they could have made a stronger case for the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald fired all the shots at the President in Dallas' Dealey Plaza Nov. 22, 1963.

Garrison, in the trial of Clay L. Shaw on charges of conspiring to kill

Lattimer contended that although the first bullet would not have killed the president and even though he was slumped over, the second struck him five seconds later while "he was still sitting upright and was highly visible."

Dr. Lattimer said the back brace could have helped keep Kennedy upright after he was hit by the first, so that he was exposed for the second.

DURING THE Shaw trial the prosecution produced several witnesses who testified that Kennedy was knocked backwards by the final shot, which Garrison claimed came from the front.

The DA's office also attempted to use a movie taken of the assassination to prove its theory on a front shot, but one FBI photo expert said the direction the blood and brain matter flew proved the shots came from behind.

Still more dispute has centered around the bullet that wounded Secretary of the Treasury John B. Connally, who was then governor of Texas, riding in the front seat of the presidential car.

Dr. Lattimer said tests he conducted with weapons similar to the Oswald rifle penetrated 47 inches of pine wood, which reinforced the Warren Commis-

sion contention that the bullet that passed through Kennedy hit Connally.

The autopsy records, which Dr. Lattimer was allowed to examine, have been housed in the National Archives. Records show that only twice has the government asked to see these items. The first was when the physicians who performed the autopsy authenticated the pictures, and the second came in connection with Garrison's suit for release of the documents.

UNDER TERMS of a contract with the Kennedy family, only "recognized experts in the field of pathology or related areas of science or technology" may see the items and these restrictions will remain in effect as long as any of the late president's immediate family lives.

Burke Marshall, deputy dean of the Yale Law School, decides which experts may see the material and so far only Dr. Lattimer has been authorized.

Marshall said he is considering the requests of two other pathologists, including Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, a critic of the Warren Report, who has argued for release of these documents to clear up what he contends are discrepancies in the commission's findings.