

Probe is urged in JFK death

Activist claims evidence was overlooked and altered

By CHARLES KELLY

President Kennedy has been dead for more than 11 years, but the questions about his assassination have refused to die.

Rusty Rhodes, executive director of the Committee to Investigate Political Assassinations — a citizens' group formed in 1968 — probed those questions Tuesday in a lecture at the Arizona Room of Arizona State University's Memorial Union.

He said his intent was to stir support for a move in the U.S. House to open a new investigation into Kennedy's death, as well as probes into the assassinations of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

The Warren Commission made the original investigation of President Kennedy's death, but, according to Rhodes, that panel overlooked evidence, failed to investigate certain angles of the case, and altered some evidence.

The commission's finding that a lone assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, shot Kennedy from behind while on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository in Dallas is easily disproved, Rhodes said.

He showed the "Zapruder film" shot by an amateur photographer, which clearly shows the president's body being flung backwards and to the left by the fatal bullet, an action that could have occurred only if the bullet came from the president's right front.

Rhodes made these other contentions:

—Several witnesses saw a puff of smoke from a rifle barrel extending over a fence on a grassy knoll to Kennedy's right front.

—Expert marksmen were not able to duplicate Oswald's apparent feat of having fired three accurate shots within

5.6 seconds from a reportedly inaccurate rifle with a wobbly scope sight.

—Three men that photos show being led away from the grassy knoll by a police officer in uniform but lacking the shoulder insignia of the Dallas Police Department apparently were never questioned.

—The first bullet to strike Kennedy would have had to zigzagged along an impossible path and stopped briefly in the air in order to wound both Kennedy and Texas Gov. John Connally in the way the commission contends it did.

—Oswald, though reportedly a Marxist who had sold military secrets to the Soviets, received unusually helpful treatment from the U.S. government and consorted with agents of the Central Intelligence Agency and a CIA provocateur before the assassination.

—Police tests showed Oswald had not fired a rifle the day of the assassination.

—Photos purportedly showing Oswald holding the rifle with which he supposedly killed Kennedy apparently were taken of someone else, then altered by placing a photo of Oswald's face where the face of the actual subject of the photo should have been.

—CIA reports indicate that CIA agents in 1963 had a man under surveillance in Mexico City who was using the name Lee Harvey Oswald. This man, however, was 12 years older than Oswald and did not resemble Oswald.

"If we've got two men using the name of Lee Harvey Oswald with different descriptions, then we have at least the roots of what could be a conspiracy," Rhodes said.

Rhodes said that Kennedy had incurred the wrath of the U.S. military establishment and the CIA. Kennedy had ordered raids by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Secret Service men on CIA camps where anti-Castro forces were being illegally trained, Rhodes said, and the raids netted men later identified with the Watergate scandal, including Watergate burglar Bernard Barker.