

Coroner claims opinions distorted on Kennedy death

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Dr. Cyril Wecht, claiming his views of President Kennedy's murder were distorted by the Rockefeller Commission, wants the commission to release a transcript of his statements.

"If that transcript shows in any way I have withdrawn or revised my thoughts of the Warren Report, I'll eat the transcript on the steps of the White House," said Wecht, a forensic pathologist and Allegheny County coroner.

The CIA report sought to put to rest all of the theories surrounding the circumstances of Kennedy's death, including claims that more than one gunman was involved and Kennedy was struck by bullets from two directions. The report said it found no such evidence.

Wecht denies the commission report that he "testified that the available evidence all



Dr. CYRIL WECHT

points to the President being struck by two bullets coming from the rear, and that no support can be found for theories which postulate gunmen to the front or right

front of the presidential car."

Wecht said that was a "flagrant" misrepresentation of what he told commission attorney Robert Olsen in a five-hour May 7 interview.

He said he still maintains that at least two gunmen were involved in the plot and that Lee Harvey Oswald alone could not have inflicted all the wounds sustained by Kennedy and former Texas Gov. John Connally.

"Believe me, I hammered this point and made it perfectly clear," Wecht said. "It is utterly reprehensible and despicable but also a great compliment that they would consider my testimony that much of a threat."

Wecht said he first became suspicious of the Rockefeller Commission's objectivity when David Belin was appointed executive director. Belin was chief legal counsel for the Warren Commission.

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