

Jury Told JFK Shot From Rear

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 24 (AP)—Medical evidence established positively that President John F. Kennedy was shot twice from behind, a member of the autopsy team testified today at Clay Shaw's trial on a charge of conspiring to assassinate Kennedy.

"There is no doubt in my mind," said Col. Pierre A. Finck, an Army pathologist called by the defense in its attempt to rebut District Attorney Jim Garrison's contention that Kennedy was killed in a cross fire and the fatal bullet struck from the front.

Finck was one of three physicians who performed the autopsy Nov. 22, 1963, the day the President was shot to death in Dallas.

Questioned on Discrepancy

"At the time I signed the autopsy report, I had a firm opinion that both bullets struck in the back—one in the back of the neck and the other in the back of the head," Finck said in response to a question from chief defense counsel F. Irvin Dymond.

The prosecution accepted Finck, born in Switzerland and educated at the University of Geneva, as a qualified pathologist. But on cross-examination, assistant district attorney Alvin Oser questioned the doctor about some discrepancy in rough autopsy drawings and his testimony about the location of the neck wound.

Oser exhibited a huge copy

of the autopsy description sheet, which Finck said was made out by the other two doctors. "I would say the wound I saw on the body was higher than the one I see in the drawings," Finck testified.

Entry Illustrated

He also said that X-rays and photographs of the body were not made available to the autopsy team when they appeared before the Warren Commission, which concluded there was no credible evidence of conspiracy and that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

"I was told it was the wish of the attorney general, then Robert Kennedy," Finck said. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the President's brother, was assassinated last year.

Finck, illustrating where Kennedy was hit by the first shot, meticulously measured on the back of defense attorney William Wegmann.

He placed a dot with a pen at the approximate spot on Wegmann's white shirt.

Entry Wounds

Finck testified that the characteristics of bullet wounds in the back of the neck and head were definitely those of entry wounds.

"I have a firm opinion that the bullet entered in the back of the head and exited on the top of the right side of the head, producing a very large wound," he told the jury.

Finck was questioned by Dymond.

Q. Did you find any evidence to indicate that the President was hit by more than one shot in the head?

A. No.

Q. What is your opinion as to which direction the bullet came from?

A. The bullet definitely struck in the back of the head. Finck said he found only

two bullet wounds.

'Certain Factor'

A bullet entry wound, he testified, is smaller than the exit wound, and this feature was clear in both of Kennedy's back wounds. He added that examination of the head wound showed no beveling or cratering effect outside the skull. But on the inside, the

crater effect was present, he said.

"And this is a certain factor to identify a projectile going through a flat bone, such as skull," Finck testified. The same effect is created, he said, when a bullet passes through wood or glass panes, and policemen routinely use this identifying factor.

"It is an accepted fact," he said.

Finck testified that a surgical incision made in the attempt to save Kennedy's life in Dallas obscured the exit wound of the neck injury. But he said X-rays of the entire body showed no whole bullet, and he concluded the incision was the spot of the exit.



Associated Press
COL. PIERRE A. FINCK
... tells about autopsy