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UPI-78

(KENNEDY)

WASHINGTON--FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER SAID TODAY THAT DESPITE THE CONTINUING CONTROVERSY OVER THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT, ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE INDICATES LEE HARVEY OSWALD ACTED ALONE IN KILLING JOHN F. KENNEDY.

HOOVER SAID CRITICS OF THE COMMISSION CONCLUSION THAT OSWALD WAS UNAIDED IN THE ASSASSINATION HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO AIR THEIR VIEWS. BUT HE SAID "THEY SHOULD SHOW MORE REGARD FOR THE FACTS ON RECORD."

"THEY HAVE IGNORED CERTAIN FACTS, MISINTERPRETED OTHERS, AND EXPRESSED PURE SPECULATION AS TRUTH," HOOVER SAID.

"NOT ONE SHRED OF EVIDENCE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO LINK ANY OTHER PERSON IN A CONSPIRACY WITH OSWALD TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY."

ASKED ABOUT CRITICS' CHARGES THAT THERE WERE DISCREPANCIES IN FBI REPORTS AND THE FINDINGS OF AN AUTOPSY, HOOVER SAID THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE IN THE FORMATION, BUT "THERE IS NO CONFLICT."

"THE FBI REPORTS RECORD ORAL STATEMENTS MADE BY AUTOPSY PHYSICIANS WHILE THE EXAMINATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED AND BEFORE ALL FACTS WERE KNOWN," HOOVER SAID. "THE AUTOPSY REPORT RECORDS THE FINAL FINDINGS OF THE EXAMINATIONS."

HE ALSO DENIED A CHARGE THAT THE FBI HAD ALTERED COLORED FILM OF THE ASSASSINATION TAKEN BY ABRAHAM ZAPRUDER, A BYSTANDER AT THE TIME OF THE NOV. 22, 1963, MURDER IN DALLAS.

"THIS IS TOTALLY FALSE," HOOVER SAID. "THE FBI NEVER HAD THE ORIGINAL ZAPRUDER FILM IN ITS POSSESSION."

HE SAID THE FBI OBTAINED A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL, UN CUT FILM AND REPRODUCED IT FOR THE WARREN COMMISSION. IT SINCE HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ALONG WITH OTHER PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE AND MEDICAL DATA CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION IN ITS INQUIRY.

HOOVER MADE HIS STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO NEWSPAPER QUERIES GROWING OUT OF THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION. THE CONTROVERSY REACHED A NEW HIGH THIS WEEK ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF KENNEDY'S DEATH.

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