

1-19-78

FBI Differed on Number of Shots

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI and the Warren Commission disagreed on a central element of the assassination of John F. Kennedy — as to how many shots hit the president and Texas Gov. John Connally.

Both concluded it was most likely three shots were fired and agreed Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone gunman in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

The commission concluded one shot went through Kennedy's neck and then wounded the governor. A second shot fatally struck the president in the head. The third missed, the commission said.

However, FBI files released Wednesday contain a handwritten note by then director J. Edgar Hoover regarding the

bullets:

"We don't agree with the commission as it says one shot missed entirely and we contend all 3 shots hit."

The matter has been central to criticisms of the Warren Report because only one almost intact bullet was recovered at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and two fragments of what was probably another in the Presidential limousine. The critics have asked what happened, then, to the third bullet?

The movie made by an onlooker, Abraham Zapruder, indicate Kennedy and Connally were hit almost simultaneously. Critics doubt Oswald could have fired his bolt-action rifle quickly enough to hit both men with separate

shots. They have also raised the question that if Oswald were marksman enough to twice hit his target area why would he have missed a third shot. They have speculated the existence of another assassin, a conjecture discarded by both the commission and the FBI.

The FBI memo that Hoover annotated discusses Connally's story in Life magazine that he thought he and the president were struck by separate shots.

The Warren Commission's findings say "one shot probably missed the car and its occupants. The evidence is inconclusive whether it was the first, second or third shot which missed."