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Robert L. Thomas

Film of JFK slaying discredits U.S. study

With presidential assassination attempts in the news, I'd like to review again the killing of President Kennedy, whose assassination undoubtedly planted the seed of imitation in so many troubled minds.



There are some parallels between Lee Harvey Oswald, the slayer (or was he?) of Kennedy, and Sara J. Anna Moore, who tried to assassinate President Ford Monday.

Mrs. Moore was a paid informant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Oswald, it was rumored strongly during the investigation of Kennedy's death, also had been an informant for the FBI.

Oswald, according to Allan Sweatt, chief of Dallas Sheriff's Office criminal division, was paid \$200 a month by the FBI and had informant number S-172.

The Warren Commission ordered the FBI to investigate itself and then accepted the late J. Edgar Hoover's statement without question that Oswald had never worked for the FBI.

Mrs. Moore caused a certain amount of embarrassment to the Secret Service when it was revealed that she had been questioned the day before the assassination attempt and her gun confiscated. She subsequently said she tried to have herself arrested so she could not kill President Ford.

Oswald, too, gave a warning.

Last this week it was disclosed that Oswald sent a threatening letter to the FBI 10 days before Kennedy's assassination.

Inexplicably, the FBI destroyed the letter after the assassination and kept the existence of the letter from the Warren Commission.

The commission has been widely attacked by critics who have said that the investigation was sloppy, that key evidence was ignored or misconstrued, that facts were altered and that the commission (one of whose members was then Rep. Gerald Ford) sought to prove Oswald was the lone assassin to calm the public's fear of a conspiracy.

I held similar feelings about the assassination theory until I saw the uncensored movie of Kennedy's death taken by the late Abraham Zapruder.

The movie, in my opinion, absolutely discredits the commission's findings that Oswald, acting alone and without assistance, killed Kennedy.

The frame showing Kennedy receiving the fatal bullet wound in the head is prima facie evidence that someone other than Oswald fired the shot.

It is impossible that anyone who has any experience with firearms could decide otherwise.

Briefly, movie frame 313 (which for years had been censored from the film on the grounds that it was too brutal and too graphic for public viewing) shows a portion of Kennedy's skull exploding from the impact of the bullet.

But Kennedy's head does not snap forward as it should have if it was struck by a high-powered rifle bullet fired from behind him.

Instead Kennedy's head is thrown backward and to the right, exactly as one would expect had the shot come from the famous "grassy knoll" from which many witnesses claimed a shot was fired.

The film also shows, to my satisfac-

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tion, that former Texas Gov. John Connally was not struck by the same bullet that wounded Kennedy in the neck.

Thanks to the measured speed of the camera it is possible to compute the time between when Kennedy is first hit and when Connally is wounded at a little less than two seconds.

Connally has said repeatedly that he believes he was hit by the second of the three shots and that he clearly heard the report of the shot that first hit the President.

The film backs him up. It shows the President raising his hands as if to clutch his throat while Connally is shown looking around trying to learn where the shot came from.

Tests of the Oswald rifle show that it cannot be fired twice in less than 2.3 seconds (excluding aiming time), so Oswald did not have enough time to shoot each man separately.

Moreover, the film does not show that Kennedy's suit jacket and shirt were bunched around his neck. The commission said a bullet was fired from behind, striking Kennedy in the back of the neck and exiting out his throat at the knot of his necktie.

Yet the bullet holes in the back of Kennedy's shirt and jacket are more than five inches below the collar. The only way these holes could be made

and the bullet enter the back of the President's neck would be if both pieces of clothing were bunched up around his neck.

It is impossible for a bullet fired downward (from the sixth floor of the Texas Schoolbook Depository) to hit the President six inches below his shoulder and then range upward to exit at the neck unless it is deflected by bone. The commission said the bullet that pierced Kennedy's neck did not hit bone.

It has been impossible to double-check the medical evidence because the commission has never released the X-rays of Kennedy's body or the spectrograph analysis of his brain.

The X-rays would show the exact paths of the bullets, and the spectrograph would show the chemical properties of the minute bullet fragments in the flesh, proving or disproving that the bullets came from the same gun.