

KENNEDY *Star* *11/22/63*

One hundred and one years after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the evidence in that case is being disputed and written about.

Following the uproar last week, during which demands for a new investigation and denunciations of "journalistic scavengers" were heard, it is likely that the assassination of John F. Kennedy will still be a matter of controversy a century from now.

President Kennedy was shot to death in Dallas, Tex., three years ago last Tuesday, Nov. 22, 1963. The suspected killer, Lee Harvey Oswald, was himself shot to death in a corridor of the Dallas County jail, while being escorted by police officers and as "live" television cameras were focused on him.

Controversy and confusion over the twin shootings has flared continually since that time and even the findings of blue-ribbon commission, appointed by President Johnson and headed by Earl War-

ren, Chief Justice of the United States, has failed to damp it down. As a matter of fact, the Warren Commission report has fed the controversy because, not unnaturally, it did not find all the answers it sought or was it able to state some of its findings with absolute certainty. A stream of books and articles, here and abroad, has ensued, most of them challenging the Commission in one major detail or another. But none has produced any new evidence.

Single Bullet?

The main point of contention involves the Commission's findings that the first of three bullets fired by Oswald struck both Kennedy, who was riding in the back seat, and Gov. John Connally of Texas, who was in front. Connally had told the Commission—and he repeated this to reporters on Thursday—that "I am convinced, beyond any doubt, that I was not struck by the first bullet".

If Connally were correct—he admitted that neither his memory nor his judgement were infallible—and the same shot did not strike both men, there would be a question as to whether a lone assassin, with Oswald's gun, could have gotten two shots off in the same elapsed time as indicated in a home movie film of the ill-fated presidential car.

But the Commission said in its report it had "persuasive evidence" for its single bullet theory. Some of that evidence was discussed by one of the autopsy doctors on Thursday. Dr. J. Thornton Boswell, a Navy commander in 1963, told the New York Times that the autopsy surgeons have "absolutely no doubt in our minds now" that a single bullet hit Kennedy and Connally.

This view was backed up indirectly by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, in a statement to The Star on Friday. He said laboratory examination of Kennedy's clothing showed a "small hole in the back of his coat and shirt and a slit characteristic of an exit hole for a projectile in the front of the shirt one inch below the collar button. A nick on the left side of the tie knot, possibly

caused by the same projectile which passed through the shirt, also was noted."

It was this bullet the Commission concluded then went into Connally.

Life Magazine started the week's uproar last Sunday by calling for a new congressional investigation of the assassination because of "reasonable — and disturbing — doubt" that Oswald acted alone. It challenged the single bullet theory. (Life's sister publication, Time, on the other hand, said no useful purpose would be served by such an inquiry unless hard new evidence were produced to challenge the Warren commission findings).

On Friday, the New York Times came close, but stopped short of asking for a new inquiry. It said there is enough doubt and confusion to warrant a new statement by the Warren Commission. The Chief Justice has remained silent, but other Commission members have taken the position that unless new evidence is presented there would appear to be no point in going over the same ground.

Denounces Critics

Two prominent persons echoed the call for a new investigation—Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., a White House assistant to Kennedy, and Senator Russell Long, who was quoted as saying "I always suspected there was someone else besides Oswald involved in killing Kennedy."

But Connally himself asserted he had no reason to argue with the Commission's finding that Oswald was the lone killer and he denounced those "journalistic scavengers" who have impugned the motives of its individual members.

Malcolm Kilduff, a White House assistant press secretary who rode in one of the cars in the Kennedy motorcade in Dallas on the fateful day, agreed with Connally that the first bullet that hit the President did not hit the governor, but he also supported the Commission's finding that Oswald acted alone. Kilduff denounced the 34 books and articles which have criticized the Commission as "pure garbage," written for "personal gain."