

# Witness On JFK Emerges

## One-Bullet Theory Also Is Questioned

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Washington — A transcript of a secret meeting of the House Select Committee on Assassinations reveals details of a "new witness" in the killing of President John F. Kennedy.

The transcript also mentioned that the committee is investigating a lead that there may be too many bullet fragments for Lee Harvey Oswald to have assassinated Kennedy by himself.

The transcript inadvertently was made public earlier this week.

In it, Robert Tannenbaum, the committee's deputy chief counsel, says:

"We have located a witness whose identity was unknown for the last 13 years. She is a female who was taking photographs (the day the assassination occurred in Dallas in 1963) . . . She has stated to our people who were out in Dallas that approximately two days after the assassination two men came to her. One identified himself as an FBI person, the other as a CIA person, and asked for her film. She gave those two men her film, and she has never seen that film since.

"Her film, of course, could be crucial, in that she was taking photographs of the President's car at the time the shots were fired. . . ."

The Assassinations Committee is investigating the deaths of Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Tannenbaum told the committee of the female witness in an executive session on March 17.

The transcript inadvertently was released along with a March 16 transcript which the Assassinations Committee had authorized to be released. The March 16 transcript confirmed former committee chief counsel Richard A. Sprague's defense to allegations made against him by former committee chairman Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex). Sprague resigned Wednesday.

Regarding the new witness, Tannenbaum told the committee:

"She has indicated to us that approximately two-weeks prior to the assassination, while she was working in another club, not Jack Ruby's club, but another club, she went to Jack

*Please Turn to Page 4*

*Continued From First Page*

Ruby's club and there she was introduced by Ruby to one 'Lee Harvey Oswald' of the CIA . . . and the next she saw Oswald was when he was arrested (for Kennedy's killing.)"

Ruby owned a Dallas nightclub and shot Oswald to death in a Dallas police station after Oswald was arrested.

The question of whether Ruby and Oswald knew each other or were connected in some way never has been clearly answered. Ruby died in prison some years ago.

Tannenbaum did not name the female witness, but said "she is married to an evangelist now and she is willing to come forward." She did not come forward previously, Tannenbaum said, because she felt "it would be in her best interests not to say anything.

Tannenbaum also told the committee that the former head nurse at Parkland Hospital in Dallas says "four to five pieces of (bullet) fragments" were removed from former Texas Gov. John Connally, who was wounded at the same time Kennedy was assassinated.

If this is the case, Tannenbaum

said, it is possible that the Warren Commission's "single bullet theory" may be wrong. The Warren Commission concluded that one bullet — the only bullet recovered in the shooting — struck both Kennedy and Connally.

But the single bullet recovered was in nearly perfect condition — as Tannenbaum put it: "virtually unscratched."

Tannenbaum told the committee if the fragments spoken of by the Parkland Hospital nurse can be recovered, investigators will be able to determine from tests whether one or two bullets struck Kennedy and Connally.

If the two men were struck by separate bullets, investigators contend, then two assassins — not one — were firing.

The transcripts also reveals how the Assassinations Committee planned to convince the House to reconstitute it.

The committee was reconstituted and given a permanent charter to conduct the Kennedy and King probes by

One committee member, Rep. Robert Edgar (D-Pa), played a major role in planning a "choreography" to win House support.

Edgar talked about methods for the committee to present a budget and an outline of its investigative work that would generate favorable publicity after the protracted feud between Gonzalez and Sprague had created a "circus" atmosphere.

Edgar told the committee:

"I think part of our problem as a committee has been the choreography of, you know, how we are received publicly . . ."

Edgar suggested that the committee set up a series of meetings first to attempt to win support of House leaders, then to present a budget publicly and finally to send around a "Dear Colleague" letter to all the members of the House requesting their support.

The committee followed that plan.

The panel won a new lease on life but no additional funds when the House voted to continue the probe, however. Now the 12-member committee must win House approval of an adequate budget to conduct a "definitive" probe of both murders.

The bulk of the money — \$1,991,200 — would be used for an expanded staff of 115 to identify "all the people who were present at Dealy Plaza," the site of the Kennedy assassination.

Rep. John Dent (D-Pa), chairman of the House Administration subcommittee on accounts, which reviews budget requests from all House committees, told a reporter that he intends to question members of the Assassinations Committee in secret hearings and "make them justify every dollar" of the budget request.

a 230 to 181 vote of the House on Wednesday.

But on March 17, the date of the committee's executive session, an affirmative House vote was far from certain.