

Two ballistics experts *F Post 9/9/78* dispute JFK conspiracy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two ballistics experts, disputing a principal assassination conspiracy theory, testified Friday there is nothing magic about a single bullet hitting both John F. Kennedy and John Connally.

Critics of the Warren Commission have said they believe it is virtually impossible that both the president and Connally, then the governor of Texas, were struck by the same bullet on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas. They contend the commission concluded erroneously that Lee Harvey Oswald was Kennedy's lone assassin.

The testimony came before the House assassinations committee, which is seeking to show that what has been dubbed the "magic bullet" actually did strike Kennedy and then Connally.

Committee sources indicated ballistics experts have neutron activation test results proving that the bullet found on Connally's stretcher is the same one that smashed his wrist.

The sources said other witnesses will show later that the trajectory of the bullet in question was through Kennedy's neck and into Connally's body.

At the committee's direction, scientists subjected the recovered bullet and the wrist fragments to neutron activation analyses, in which solid objects

are bombarded with a stream of neutrons, forcing the objects to emit a variety of rays.

The rays can be measured to determine the amounts of certain elements present in the test objects. If the amounts present in two different objects match, that is considered proof that the objects also match.

The technique has been described as a way of "fingerprinting" objects because no two contain the same elements in precisely the same quantities.

Warren Commission critics, including one of the committee's own medical experts, Dr. Cyril Wecht, contend it would have been inconceivable that a single bullet did that much damage.

The finding that one bullet hit both men was crucial to the commission's conclusion that Oswald's assassination of Kennedy was a solo performance involving the firing of three shots from behind the presidential motorcade.

The commission concluded that one shot missed, one hit both Kennedy and Connally and the last exploded Kennedy's skull.

Dr. Charles Petty, supporting the conclusion of eight committee medical experts, said the single-bullet theory is not only credible but is not even surprising.