

Experts back Warren report on bullet

By Vicki Tatz
NEWS WORLD WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — After an independent analysis of John F. Kennedy's autopsy, a group of specialists concurred with the Warren Commission's conclusion that the shots that killed the former president were fired from the rear.

The majority of the group of forensic pathologists also agree that the bullet that passed through Kennedy's back and came out his neck also wounded former Texas governor John Connally, a spokesman for the group told the House Assassinations Committee yesterday.

Despite skepticism that the bullet could have shown so few deformities after passing through both Kennedy and Connally, Dr. Michael Baden, chief medical examiner of New York City said, "All we can say is that one bullet could have done it. They [the wounds] line up." The bullet that hit the governor struck something before it reached him, he added. And it was not "pristine," as it has been described, but was "significantly flattened."

"If the shoe fits, it fits," Baden said

of what has been called the "single-bullet theory," in contrast to those who believe that separate bullets wounded Kennedy and Connally.

Lone dissenter

Dr. Cyril Wecht, another member of the panel, was the lone dissenter to the group's findings. "No [one] bullet could have caused all these wounds," Wecht told the committee. A number of factors, including his conception of the bullet's path, make it "absolutely impossible" for one bullet to have wounded both men, he said.

In reviewing the evidence, the clothes that Kennedy was wearing on Nov. 22, 1963, were exhibited publicly for the first time yesterday, heavily bloodstained and torn away in front as a result of the doctors' efforts to save his life. A small hole in the back of the jacket indicated where the first bullet entered.

A succession of diagrams and enlarged photographs further illustrated the path of the two bullets that struck Kennedy, the second one, high on the back of the head, shattering his skull.

"To a reasonable degree of medical certainty," there is no evidence for a



UPI
WASHINGTON: The suit coat President John F. Kennedy wore when he was shot in Dallas was displayed before the House Assassinations committee yesterday by Dr. Michael Baden, a physician on the committee staff. The coat was cut away from the president by doctors in Parkland hospital in Dallas.

that killed JFK

bullet striking the president from the front, Baden said.

He explained Connally's insistence that he was not hit by the first bullet by saying that persons can be injured without knowing it.

The pathologist who performed the original autopsy on Kennedy eliminated one source of controversy yesterday by agreeing that the bullet entered Kennedy's head at a higher point than his original report had indicated.

A House committee yesterday approved \$790,000 in additional funds for the investigation into the deaths of Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by a slim margin of 9-8.

If that vote is not upheld by the full House, the assassinations panel would have to close down its investigation on Sept. 15. A number of congressmen oppose the additional funds, charging that the inquiry has turned up little new evidence and are a waste of taxpayers' money.