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SAN DIEGO(AP) -- CONTAMINATION OF CASTS TAKEN FROM LEE HARVEY OSWALD PREVENTED TESTS WHICH COULD HAVE HELPED LINK HIM TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, A SAN DIEGO SCIENTIST SAID TODAY.

DR. VINCENT P. GUINN, A CHEMIST FOR GENERAL ATOMIC DIVISION OF GENERAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION, SAID HE SUGGESTED AN ATOMIC TEST AFTER CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE PARAFFINE CASTS WAS DISCREDITED.

GUINN SAID ELEMENTS RELEASED IN THE FIRING OF A RIFLE WERE WOUND ON THE SKIN SIDE OF THE CAST TAKEN FROM OSWALDS'S CHEEK, BUT THE SAME CHEMICALSALSO WERE FOUND ON THE OTHER SIDE.

GUINN SAID THE CASTS PROBABLY WERE CONTAMINATED DURING HANDLING.

THE TEST SUGGESTED BY DR. GUINN, CALLED NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS, WAS CONDUCTED AT THE OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY BUT ALWO WAS INCONCLUSIVE BECAUSE OF THE CONTAMINATION, HE SAID.

IN THE ACTIVATION METHOD, NEUTRONS FROM A REACTOR MAKE ELEMENTS
IN A SUBSTANCE RADIOACTIVE AND THEY ARE THEN MEASURED BY A RADIATION
COUNTING METHOD AND IDENTIFIED.

THE TESTS, IF VALID, WULD HAVE PROVED THAT GSWALD HAD FIRED A RIFLE AND WOULD HAVE PROVIDED A SOLID CLUE LINKING HIM TO THE SLAYING, GUINN SAID.

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