

SFChronicle JUN 11 1975

'No CIA Link to Kennedy Killing'

Washington

No link has been found to connect the Central Intelligence Agency to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy nor is there believable evidence that he was shot by more than one gunman, the Rockefeller Commission reported yesterday.

The commission discounts theories surrounding the Nov. 22, 1963, murder of President Kennedy in Dallas, Tex.

A detailed analysis of movie film taken at the moment of the shooting and a re-examination of the records of the Kennedy autopsy disprove a contention that the President was shot by a sniper hiding to the right front of the presidential motorcade, the report said.

It also rejected claims that E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis, later to become involved in the Watergate scandal, were placed at the murder scene by photographic evidence.

The Rockefeller commission also said there is no credible evidence showing that the CIA had any connection whatsoever with Lee Harvey Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's sole assassin, or with Jack Ruby, the Dallas nightclub owner who shot and killed Oswald.

Critics of the Warren Commission report have long contended that an analysis of the movie film of the murder casts doubt on the conclusion that Kennedy



LEE HARVEY OSWALD
No connection to CIA

was shot by Oswald firing above and to the rear of the presidential car from a window on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository.

"It was claimed that the movement of the President's head and body backward and to the left is consistent only with a shot having come from the right front of the presidential car "that is, from the direction of the grassy knoll," the commission report noted.

The report said that a freshly assembled panel of medical and scientific experts is unanimous in its finding that Kennedy was struck by only two bullets, both of which were fired from the rear "and that there is no medical evidence to support a contention that the President was struck by

any bullet coming from any other direction."

"They were also unanimous in finding that the violent backward and leftward motion of the President's upper body following the head shot was not caused by the impact of a bullet coming from the front or right front," the report said.

It said three doctors on the panel reported "that such a motion would be caused by a violent straightening and stiffening of the entire body as a result of a seizure-like neuromuscular reaction to major damage inflicted to nerve centers in the brain."

One panel member, Dr. Alfred G. Oliver, director of the Department of Biophysics at Edgewood Arsenal, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., said that the violent motions of the President's body "could not possibly have been caused by the impact of the bullet."

"He attributed the popular misconception on this subject to the dramatic effects employed in television and motion picture productions," he report said.

The panel said that Dr. John K. Latimer of New York City, experimenting with test animals, said medical evidence is conclusive that the President was not hit from the front or right front.

Latimer used a Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5 millimeter rifle of the same model found by the Warren Commission to belong to Oswald and ammunition from the same

manufacturer and lot number found to have been used by Oswald.

"The results, he said, confirmed both the head injuries shown in the autopsy photographs and X-rays.

According to the commission, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, coroner of Allegheny County, Pa., and a long-time critic of the Warren Commission investigation, apparently has changed his mind.

"Dr. Wecht testified that the available evidence all points to the President being struck only by two bullets coming from his rear, and that no support can be found for theories which postulate gunmen to the front or right front of the presidential car," the report said.

On another subject, the report said there is no credible basis in fact for the various claims that the movie film shows one or more assassins in the area of the grassy knoll to the front of the Kennedy car.

It said a study by the photographic laboratory of the FBI of the film and of the entire library of photographs taken of the assassination site bears out that conclusion.

A similar FBI photo analysis showed there is little or no similarity between former CIA agent Hunt and Sturgis and the two "derelicts" photographed near the assassination scene in Dallas by police. Among other things, there is a height difference of about seven inches between the two men in the Dallas pictures while there is only a two-inch height difference between Hunt and Sturgis, the report said.

The Rockefeller Commission was charged with determining the extent of illegal covert activities by the CIA inside the United States. The commission expanded its inquiry to include allegations of CIA involvement in the Kennedy assassination that were raised by comedian Dick Gregory and his associates.

Associated Press