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CBS-Warren Report 430

NEW YORK AP - CBS News said Sunday it has turned up three additional pieces of evidence to strengthen the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

The news department of the Columbia Broadcasting System said its own investigation supports the "basic finding" of the Warren Commission, which conducted the official probe into the Dallas assassination, and "significantly" weakens "a central contention of the critics"--that Oswald would not have had enough time to fire three shots.

CBS aired its findings in an hour-long show moderated by Walter Cronkite Sunday night, the first of a four-part series on its investigation.

The news department said it concluded:

- "That a Mannlicher-Carcano rifle can be fired at least as accurately and rapidly--and probably more--as the commission believed.

- "That the first shot was fired from Dallas' Texas School Book Depository Building sooner than the Warren Commission said.

- "That the amateur film taken by Abraham Zapruder was quite possibly running slower than the commission thought.

- "That the shot that Gov. John Connally of Texas insists he heard missed its mark."

To support its conclusions, the network offered what it said were three additions to material contained in the 25 volumes of testimony obtained by the Warren Commission on the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination.

CBS News' analysis of Zapruder's film "suggests strongly that the first shot was fired at frame 185," the network said.

"The commission said only that the first shot to hit came between frames 210 and 225," CBS said.

Blurs on three of the film frames indicate that "something startled Mr. Zapruder earlier," the broadcast said, "and the evidence is that a rifle shot was what startled him."

That, plus what CBS news said was possibly a "slow camera . . . most likely mean that the rifleman may have had additional time to get off three shots," probably seven to eight seconds instead of the 5.6 seconds indicated by Warren Commission tests, the program said.

CBS News said it made carefully controlled experiments from a 60-foot tower, the same height as the sixth-floor window of the School Book Depository, with a moving target and found that a rifle of the make Oswald used "can be fired more rapidly than the commission believed."

One of its 11 volunteer marksmen made three hits in 5.2 seconds, the broadcast said, while another got one hit from three shots in 4.1 seconds.

The program also concluded it is "reasonable" that the first shot, which Connally insists he heard, "missed its mark. The governor has insisted all along that he was not struck by the first shot, it now appears he was correct."

The CBS News investigation also supported commission findings that Oswald owned a rifle, took one to the book depository, and that Oswald was in the building on the sixth floor when the three shots were fired.

The network said subsequent broadcasts on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights will cover the questions of whether Oswald was part of a conspiracy, and "why do a majority of Americans not believe" the Warren Commission report.

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