

SURGEON DEPICTS KENNEDY'S WOUND

Tells C.B.S. Pictures Refute Critics of Warren Report

The chief surgeon at the autopsy on President Kennedy says that X-rays prove an assassin's bullet that hit the President "in the base of the neck did not strike any bony structures."

He says this refutes challenges to the Warren Report suggesting a lower location for the wound.

Capt. James J. Humes, senior pathologist at the Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., was able to examine the X-rays and photographs of the President's body for the first time after the Kennedy family turned them over to the National Archives last Oct. 31.

His first public comment since the autopsy came in a Columbia Broadcasting System interview, telecast Monday night, was the second of a series of four telecasts on the report of the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren that investigated the killing of the President.

C.B.S. also reported it had conducted tests on whether a single bullet could, in fact, have passed through the President's neck and gone on to wound Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas in the chest, wrist and thigh. The Warren Report held there was "very persuasive evidence" for such a single shot.

New Tests Different

The new tests were by Dr. Alfred G. Olivier, chief of the wound ballistics branch at the Army's Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland, who had conducted a different type of tests for the Warren inquiry. In the commission tests, bullets were fired separately through a simulated neck, chest and wrist, while in the new tests a single shot through the entire series of simulated objects was attempted.

The telecast displayed a film taken at 22,000 frames a second. Dr. Olivier said this showed a bullet "perfectly stable" as it passed through a gelatin simulated neck. As it went "from this dense medium into the air, which is less dense," he said, it started to tip downward to tear into the simulated body of the Governor.

There, he said, it lost con-

siderable velocity but still entered the simulated wrist. With a little more velocity, Dr. Olivier held it could have penetrated the simulated thigh, although in the tests it did not.

In his interview, Dr. Humes paralleled statements by another autopsy surgeon, Dr. J. Thornton Boswell, who said last Nov. 24 that he had made a "diagram error" marking the location of the wound too far down in the President's back.

The diagram has been used by critics of the Warren Report to suggest a low wound that would have had to be the point of exit, rather than entry, for a bullet entering the President's throat in front. But Dr. Boswell said that he had written measurements on the diagram that located the wound accurately—higher up.

Captain Humes said the diagram was a prepared outline "routinely used to mark in general where certain marks or scars or wounds may be in conducting a post-mortem examination." He said it was "never meant to be accurate or precisely to scale."

If the wound had been as low

as the diagram mark, Captain Humes said, "this missile would have to have penetrated the shoulder blade of the President, which it did not." Instead, he said, "the missile was above the shoulder blade, and struck no bony structures whatever."

"The X-rays show that it did not," he said.

C.B.S. said its news staff was "persuaded that a single bullet wounded both President Kennedy and Governor Connally," and agreed with the Warren Report that Lee Harvey Oswald, firing from behind the Presidential car, "was the sole assassin."

Meanwhile, Dr. Milton Helpern, New York City's chief medical examination, said in a separate interview that he believed the President and Governor were more likely to have been hit by separate bullets.

Dr. Helpern based his opinion on the Governor's reactions shown in a movie film of the assassination, the Governor's recollection of hearing what may have been a first shot to hit the President, and the virtually intact nature of a bullet held to have come from the Governor's stretcher.