

# JFK probe is 'pompous

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David R. Wrone, history professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, said Friday that the new evidence reportedly showing that four bullets, not three, were fired at President Kennedy 15 years ago is just more "plous, pompous political pap" from the House Select Committee on Assassination, which has been carrying on investigations for the past two years.

The evidence shows that the third bullet was fired from the grassy knoll area as well as three others which were fired from the Texas School

Book Depository and contradicts the lone assassin conclusion of the Warren Commission.

But Wrone claims this new evidence is shoddy and leaves the door open for critics to easily dismiss it in the future, and he says that is the real reason the House Select Committee supports it. Wrone insists the House Select Committee is not really after new evidence and that by supporting what he considers to be faulty evidence, the committee will be able to discount it more easily later.

The evidence came from a "refinement of the earlier analysis" of a tape recording, made during the assassina-

tion, of the sound coming from a motorcycle police officer's radio.

"Members of the House Select Committee have said on the 'Today' show and in numerous interviews that their mission is to reverse public opinion which, for the most part, does not believe the Warren Commission theory that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in assassinating President Kennedy," said Wrone.

"Polls have shown that 80 percent of the American public does not believe the Warren Commission's report, and the house committee members have said they hope to change the minds of that 80 percent," he added.

"This is why I think the committee

## political pap'

eventually hopes to turn that evidence around to support their own fraudulent theory that Oswald acted alone and that only three shots were fired."

Wrone said the house committee is a fraud and that it has been "worse than the Warren Commission both in its approach and what it has come up with.

"The logical way to investigate is to go with the facts and then support theories," said Wrone. "What the house committee (and the Warren Commission) have done is to state the theory and then try to fit facts to it."

Wrone attacked the new acoustical evidence on several grounds, the first being the question of what he called "chain of possession." Wrone ex-

plained that no one knows specifically who possessed the tape between 1963 and 1978. For this reason, no one knows who had access to it and may have tampered with it or whether it is unscratched.

Moreover, even if the sound was a shot, Wrone still thinks the absolute possibility of the sound being that of a fourth bullet is "murky." There is still a great chance that it could be the backfiring of a car or something else, according to Wrone.

In addition to supporting this new shoddy evidence, there are other flagrant technical errors in investigation the house committee has allowed, according to Wrone:

- There were 100 people in the area who heard shots from the grassy knoll. However, the only two people the committee called to testify regarding those shots were Marina Oswald, who at the time was 40 miles away at home, and a citizen who told how he opened his umbrella but said nothing about hearing any shots.

- In addition to President Kennedy and Governor Connally being hit, another man — a private citizen, James

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T. Tague — also was wounded. Tague, who now runs a car dealership in Dallas, never was called to testify either by the Warren Commission or the house committee.

Wrone, who edited the first volume of "The Freedom of Information Act and Political Assassinations" which includes the legal proceedings of one of the suits Harold Weisberg brought against the General Services Administration regarding the Warren Commission's report, also criticized the Warren Commission for supporting FBI information that Oswald killed Kennedy even though its seven members themselves couldn't agree that it was true.

He said the the truth regarding the Kennedy assassination is important because the public's right to know is at stake and added that the Warren Commission and the house committee have obstructed the truth.

"They don't care that there was a dead Irishman in Texas," said Wrone. "And so, they don't care about democracy. When facts are treated the way they have been, ultimately, the forces of an invisible government — the CIA, FBI and the military — come out blessed, strengthened. But the ability of the U.S. as a nation to meet similar problems in the future is severely impaired."