

A268DN

(230)

HOUSTON, TEX., SEPT. 27 (AP)-SOME SORT OF PROJECTILE--POSSIBLY A BULLET--KNOCKED A HOLE IN A GLASS PANE ON THE ROTUNDA OF THE MUSIC HALL TODAY WHERE THE JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL EXHIBIT WAS ON DISPLAY.

THERE WAS A NEAT, ROUND HOLE IN THE GLASS, BUT NO SLUG WAS FOUND INSIDE NOR A CARTRIDGE OUTSIDE.

A BURNS DETECTIVE AGENCY EMPLOYEE WAS ON DUTY INSIDE THE LOCKED ROTUNDA ABOUT 3 A.M. WHEN IT HAPPENED, CAPT. GEORGE ATKINS OF THE AGENCY SAID.

THE BURNS MAN HEARD NO SHOT, ATKINS SAID, BUT HEARD THE GLASS BREAK. THE GUARD WAS AT THE OTHER END OF THE ROTUNDA AT THE TIME.

"I'M NOT REAL SURE IT WAS A BULLET," ATKINS SAID. "IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PELLET GUN OR A ROCK."

A REPORTER SAID THE GLASS APPEARED TOO THICK TO HAVE BEEN PUNCTURED NEATLY BY A ROCK.

THE HOLE WAS SEVERAL INCHES ABOVE AN EXHIBIT CASE CONTAINING NOTES THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY MADE ON A PREPARED COPY OF A SPEECH HE MADE TO A NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST IN FEBRUARY, 1961. THE CASE WAS PLACED NEARLY AGAINST THE GLASS ROTUNDA WALL.

BURNS MEN DID NOT NOTIFY HOUSTON POLICE IMMEDIATELY, BUT THE DETECTIVE AGENCY MAN ON DUTY NOTIFIED HIS DISPATCHER.

NEITHER THEY NOR HOUSTON POLICE WHO WENT BY LATER IN THE AFTERNOON TO HELP WITH THE CROWD COULD FIND ANY EVIDENCE OF DAMAGE TO EXHIBITS OR OF

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OR OF AN ENTRANCE HOLE.

THE HUGE CROWDS WHICH SAW THE TRAVELING EXHIBIT OF KENNEDY MEMENTOES EQUALLED OR SURPASSED THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS TWO DAYS. THE EXHIBIT OPENED FRIDAY AND CLOSED TONIGHT.

MI S BARBARA SOULIOTIS OF SEN. TED KENNEDY'S STAFF WHO IS TRAVELING WITH THE EXHIBIT, ESTIMATED AS MANY AS 25,000 PERSONS SAW IT TODAY, AND A TOTAL OF 50,000 SAW IT DURING THE THREE DAYS.

JS/CD1048PCS NM