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DR. JOSIAH THOMPSON
'Three gunmen'

Book Says 3 Gunmen Killed JFK

NEW YORK (UPI) — A new study of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy claims three gunmen were involved and that all hit their mark.

The major conclusions in a book by Dr. Josiah Thompson of Haverford College, Haverford, Pa., were made public in advance of publication in the Saturday Evening Post next week.

The Post claims Thompson has "demolished" the findings of the Warren Commission. It demanded editorially that the government reopen investigation of the 1963 Dallas tragedy.

The Post contends that details arrayed by Thompson after two years of research "cry out for the truth to be told and for the murderers to be punished." The magazine charges that Americans, as a nation, "have struggled to avoid the unavoidable ques-

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tion of what actually happened and why" long enough.

The Thompson book, "Six Seconds in Dallas", is based on scientific analysis of an amateur movie made by a bystander, interviews with eyewitnesses in Dallas and original research among documents and photos in the national archives in Washington.

The author concludes that Lee Harvey Oswald may not have fired a single shot in the crossfire that he alleges killed Kennedy and wounded Gov. John B. Connally of Texas. He argues that four bullets were fired and separate bullets wounded Kennedy and Connally, contrary to the Warren Commission's findings of three bullets, one of which wounded both men and one of which missed.

"With few exceptions, all the evidence discussed in this study was available to the Warren Commission," wrote the 32-year-old philosophy professor. "But the commission, in its haste, its uncritical evaluation of the facts and its predisposition to prove Lee Harvey Oswald the lone assassin, overlooked much of it."

Thompson, a Phi Beta Kappa scholar, became engrossed in the assassination mystery while studying for his doctorate at Yale University. He became an adviser to Life Magazine during its investigation of the slaying and was one of the few persons to have free access to the Life-owned original copy of the colored movie made by Abraham Zapruder, crucial evidence in the case.

Thompson claims the FBI analysis of the film for the Warren Commission was made from an inferior copy of a copy of the original negative. In comparing Life's copy with the FBI copy in the national archives, Thompson reports "the new details that I saw brought home to me the full impact of the commission's oversight."

By techniques of superimposing sequential movie frames and analyzing them by means of a dissecting microscope, Thompson discovered that Kennedy and Connally gave every physical evidence of being hit by separate bullets, as Connally himself has insisted.

The techniques, said Thompson, also enabled him to detect physical reactions indicating Kennedy was hit in the head by two almost simultaneous shots from opposite directions.

The author does not speculate on who was doing the shooting or their motives. He does relate testimony from eyewitnesses, some of whom he says were never questioned by Warren Commission investigators. He feels the testimony points to more than three conspirators, including drivers of getaway cars and lookouts.

Thompson believes Oswald may well have been on the first floor of the Texas School Book Depository building, as Oswald himself and two witnesses claimed, when someone else was shooting from a sixth floor window. He alleges that two shots were fired from the depository, one from a nearby building and a fourth from behind a stockade on a grassy knoll at the side of Dealey Plaza.

(Another amateur motion picture of the assassination, made by Orville Nix, was taken opposite Zapruder's position. It showed what appeared on enlargement to be a man with a rifle leaning on the roof of a station wagon behind the fence on the knoll and pointing toward the cavalcade.)

(A months-long independent study of the film by the Itek Corporation of Lexington, Mass., one of the nation's top photographic laboratories, showed, however, that the "man with the rifle" was simply a blending of shadows of three branches. The study said it would have been impossible for a gunman to have hit Kennedy from the station wagon shown in the picture.)

Thompson believes the first bullet, which came from a

Mannlicher-Carcagno rifle owned by Oswald, was a sub-standard cartridge which made only a shallow wound in the President's upper back.

The near-perfect condition of this bullet, in spite of the Warren Commission's contention that it passed through two bodies and several bones, has been a chief source of controversy in the assassination. Thompson argues that the wound in Kennedy's throat, identified as the exit wound made this bullet, actually was made by a skull bone fragment driven downward by a latter bullet.

Thompson quotes expert opinion that the time lapse between the shots that hit Kennedy and Connally was too brief to assign both bullets to the Carcagno.

"Commission counsel (Norman) Redlich did not speak idly when he remarked that if the men were hit by separate bullets, it would mean there were two assassins," Thompson commented. "Although the details remain unclear, the essential outline of the assassination is now apparent — the 'one assassin' finding of the Warren Commission is patently wrong; there were four shots from three guns in six seconds."