

DR. RUSSELL H. MORGAN EXPLAINS FINDINGS

He said release of X-ray films would remove all doubt.

JFK DEATH

Expert Affirms 1-Bullet View

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By JERRY WILLIAMS  
Denver Post Staff Writer

A radiologist who examined the X rays of President Kennedy's fatal head wound said in Denver Friday they prove conclusively that only one bullet—fired from the sixth floor of the School Book Depository building in Dallas—caused his death.

Dr. Russell H. Morgan, dean of the medical school at the Johns Hopkins University, said the films—could they be released by the Kennedy family for publication—would effectively remove all doubt and controversy that the assassination may have been the result of shots fired from more than one direction.

However, because the films haven't been released for publication and because a report on their examination wasn't included in the Warren Commission study, the controversy has continued, Dr. Morgan said.

The medical school dean made his remarks in an interview prior to speaking to some 300 physicians attending the 44th annual midsummer meeting of the Rocky Mountain Radiological Society in the Brown Palace Hotel. The meeting, which began Thursday, continues through Saturday.

Dr. Morgan was the only radiologist on a panel of four persons asked by then Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark in 1968 to review the X rays because of controversy surrounding the Warren Commission report.

But because the panel's report, released in April 1968, largely supported the conclusions of the Warren Report, Morgan said, it failed to receive much circulation. His talk here Friday on the subject was his first to any group outside university organizations. The other members of the panel, all pathologists, have never spoken on the matter.

BULLET'S PATH

He said the X rays, in conjunction with an analysis of the movie shot shot by amateur photographer Abraham Zapruder, show "rather conclusively" that the path of the fatal bullet—because the president's head was bowed and tilted to one side—was consistent with having been fired from the sixth floor of the School Book Depository building.

Further, he said, the X rays show the path of the bullet was strewn with thousands of bone fragments and that no other bullets entered from either the right or left sides of the skull, as some critics of the Warren Report have maintained.

Had other bullets entered the right or left side of the skull,

they would have left paths of bone fragments, and no such paths were indicated. In addition, the entrance of a bullet is small, the exit point much larger, the doctor added, and both the entrance and exit of the fatal bullet are characterized by this fact.

THEORY UNSUPPORTED

Morgan said his study of the X rays and the movie film also disprove the theory that another shot struck Kennedy from an overpass under which the president's car was preparing to pass.

The Zapruder film shows Kennedy's body lurching forward from one shot and then lurching backward, as though from a second.

Morgan said the backward lurch was a reflex action of Kennedy's shattered brain which caused the body's muscles to tense and react in a spasm. It was this sudden straightening of the body which was interpreted as being the result of a second shot, he declared.

The fatal bullet killed Kennedy instantly, Morgan said, and the subsequent emergency action at Parkland Memorial Hospital was in response to purely residual reflex activity.

ASSUMPTION CITED

Morgan speculated that the reason the X rays weren't included in the Warren Commission report was that when doctors first examined Kennedy, they thought the bullet entered lower in Kennedy's head.

Had their assumption been correct, the bullet would have to have been fired from below the level of the presidential limousine, he said.

Morgan said the X rays can now be studied with permission of the Kennedy family, though the photographs of the injury, which he described as "pretty gory," are still closed to examination. He said he feels publication of the X rays has been prohibited because the Kennedy family equates them with the photographs.

SINGLE STUDENT

To date, he said, the X rays have been studied by only one person since being released for study last November and that was by a urologist from Columbia University interested in the phenomenon of assassination.

Should the X rays ever be released for publication, he explained, great care and special techniques would be required before they would show the conclusive evidence because they were produced in a hurry under immensely trying conditions and were overexposed.

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