

Frank Words on Kennedy Slaying

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Washington

The only White House Press aide who witnessed the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas said last night that the Warren Commission was correct in assigning sole responsibility for the crime on Lee Harvey Oswald.

But the aide, Malcolm M. Kilduff, said the commission erred in reporting that a single bullet passed through Mr. Kennedy's neck and then wounded Texas Governor John Connally.

Kilduff also confirmed that there was friction between Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson factions on the funeral plane flying back to Washington.

'EMBARRASSING'

"I think there are things that happened, especially on the plane coming back, that could be embarrassing to both the Kennedys and the Johnsons," Kilduff said. He refused to describe the events he referred to.

The former assistant White House press officer added that a direct result of intense emotional feeling at the time "some of the old 1960 wounds were reopened, rehashed, thought about."

But Kilduff said President Johnson "continued to

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show" aboard the plane, after taking over the presidency, concern for Jacqueline Kennedy and members of the Kennedy family.

"There was no grossness on his part, as has been implied by others in the recent past," Kilduff said.

In a taped television-radio interview with Westinghouse Broadcasting Co. on the eve of the third anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy, Kilduff dismissed as "pure garbage" the rash of speculation that questions the Warren Commission's basic conclusion that Oswald alone killed Mr. Kennedy.

Kilduff, who rode in the fourth car behind the Kennedys' in Dallas, declared:

"I have absolutely no doubt . . . that Lee Harvey Oswald committed the act on his own and that there was no conspiracy involved . . ."

However, Kilduff said he does disagree with the Commission's finding that the first bullet that struck Mr. Kennedy and passed through his neck was the one that wounded Governor Connally. A second shot in the head killed Mr. Kennedy.

"In my mind," Kilduff said, "there were three shots fired. I have verified that with other people who were riding in the same car. I have verified it with Secret Service agents."

Noting that the bullet that wounded Connally passed through the governor's shoulder, ribs, wrist and thigh, Kilduff went on:

"The Warren Commission report shows a bullet, a perfect bullet. I have talked to ballistic experts, who say that it would not be possible for a bullet to travel through that much mass and come out in such a perfect condition."

Kilduff said he had talked to Connally, who agrees he was hit by a separate bullet, that the governor said he heard the first shot and was turning to look back when he was hit. Connally was sitting in the jump seat in Mr. Kennedy's car.

"As a matter of fact," Kilduff said, "I have on the highest authority, information that parts of that bullet are still in Governor Connally's leg. So, therefore it would not be possible, as the Warren Commission states, that the bullet came out as clean as it did."

The same view by Connally that he was hit by a separate bullet is reported in this week's issue of Life magazine.

Life, calling for a new investigation, said there is "reasonable doubt" that Oswald acted alone.