

Assassination Probers Gather Here

By John Hanrahan

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Preliminary use of psychological stress evaluation techniques indicates that President John F. Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy and that accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was "completely innocent," a former CIA agent told a conclave of assassination researchers here yesterday.

George O'Toole, the former agent, who uses a device similar to the lie detector to evaluate stress, said his preliminary studies of tape recorded interviews with 40 key figures in the assassination probe indicate to him that many of those interviewed showed great stress, which he said could mean they were not telling the truth.

O'Toole said he could not identify at this time persons involved in the alleged conspiracy. But he said he believed he could "soon offer" persuasive evidence about it.

O'Toole was one of several speakers at the two-day conference that opened yesterday at Georgetown University who assailed the Warren Commission's report's official version that Oswald was the lone assassin of President Kennedy.

The conference, scheduled to coincide with the 10th anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, was sponsored by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, a private, Washington-based group that has investigated

several of the political assassinations of the last decade.

More than 300 persons attended the initial session yesterday, held in Gaston Hall.

Although the conference yesterday heard speakers contend that the assassinations of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and American Nazi leader George Lincoln Rockwell are still unsolved, the emphasis was on President Kennedy's assassination.

O'Toole, in his presentation, said that newly developed techniques such as psychological stress evaluation should be applied in a new investigation of President Kennedy's assassination. The device O'Toole uses, which he said is 94 per cent accurate in the hands of an expert, operates in a fashion analogous to a lie detector, but evaluates tape-recorded statements.

Using a slide projector to show the graphs based on application of the stress device to interviews held by CBS Television News in 1967, O'Toole said he detected varying degrees of stress in some of the answers of former Chief Justice Earl Warren, who headed the assassination commission; James E. Humes, chief autopsy surgeon for the late President's autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital; Howard Brennan, the man who told the Warren Commission he had seen Oswald shooting at Mr. Ken-

nedy from the window of the Texas School Book Depository building, and several Dallas officials who were involved in the initial investigation of the shooting. He emphasized that the appearance of stress does not necessarily indicate that the person whose voice is being studied is not telling the truth.

O'Toole said Brennan showed great stress when asked on the CBS broadcast whether he was sure Oswald was the man he saw. Warren, he said, showed stress in answering that there was "no evidence of any kind that there was a conspiracy."

O'Toole said he would complete his studies, which have been going on for a year, in 1974 and at that time will turn over his findings to the Justice Department and members of Congress. In emphasizing that the appearance of stress does not necessarily indicate a lie, he said some persons show stress even when answering truthfully, while others show stress because they have doubts about their answers, he said.

One of the themes sounded in the conference yesterday was the frustration of students of the killing over their inability to obtain materials relating to the assassination from the National Archives.

Dr. Cyril Wecht, professor of law and forensic medicine at Duquesne University

and coroner for the city of Pittsburg, told the conference of his privileged viewing of one of the assassination bullets in the closed files of the National Archives in August, 1972. The bullet, which the Warren Commission says passed through Mr. Kennedy's neck and also wounded then-Texas Gov. John Connally, "could not have done what it is said to have done," Wecht said.

Both the alleged angle of the shot, plus the small "loss of substance" by the bullet in passing through two bodies, destroy the so-called "single-bullet" theory of the Warren Commission and its conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin, Wecht said.

In an action unconnected with the conference yesterday, a group of about 20 Youth International Party (YIP) organizers calling themselves The Committee to Open the Archives led sparsely attended rallies at the Capitol and National Archives, accusing the government of covering up evidence in the death of President Kennedy and calling for increased access to Kennedy files in the archives for researchers.

"No More Cover Ups, Dump Ford," said a large placard carried by demonstrators in reference to vice presidential nominee Gerald Ford's public adherence to the lone-assassin theory as a member of the Warren Commission in the 1960s.