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Kennedy Assassination Bjt 430

By BOB MONROE Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK AP - A new critic of the Warren report claims that three gunmen in three different locations fired a total of four shots in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Josiah Thompson, a philosophy professor turned investigator, disputes the Warren Commission finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone killer of the President.

Writing in the Dec. 2 issue of the Saturday Evening Post, Thompson says he based his conclusion on detailed analyses of the pictures of the assassination and testimony of certain witnesses.

In a statement, William A. Emerson Jr., the magazine's editor, said, "With painstaking care and formidable logic Thompson demolishes the Warren report by building a case for three assassins."

In an editorial accompanying the Thompson article, the Post said: "We declare once again that we believe the Kennedy mystery has not been solved, that the case is not closed."

Thompson, 32, who teaches at Haverford College, is a graduate of Yale University and Navy veteran. The article was extracted from his book "Six Seconds in Dallas" to be published Nov. 27 by Bernard Geis Associates.

Thompson said his "new evidence does not prove that the assassination was a conspiracy. Nor does it prove Oswald's innocence. It shows that the question of Oswald's guilt must remain four years after the event still unanswered."

In his "reconstruction," Thompson argues Kennedy was hit by the first and third shots fired at the presidential motorcade. He believes they probably came from the Texas School Book Depository but were not necessarily fired by Oswald.

Thompson claims the second shot came from a building to the rear of the motorcade - most probably the Dallas County Records building - and was the bullet that wounded Gov. John Connally.

Commenting on the Thompson thesis Wednesday, Gov. Connally disputed the fourth shot theory. "I still contend there were three shots fired. I don't believe there was more than one assassin," he said.

Almost immediately after the third shot hit Kennedy in the head, Thompson claims a fourth shot also struck the President's head. He believes this shot was fired from behind a fence to the right and in front of the motorcade.

"Three assassins fired four shots from three different locations," Thompson writes. The commission found: "There is not credible evidence that the shots were fired from the triple underpass, ahead of the motorcade, or from any other location."

The commission also concluded that the nearly whole bullet, two bullet fragments and three cartridge cases recovered in the depository came from Oswald's rifle "to the exclusion of all others."

Thompson does not account in his article for the failure of investigators to discover bullets originating from a gun other than Oswald's.

In part, Thompson based his conclusions on a study of an amateur movie filmed during the assassination by Abraham Zapruder, a spectator. The film was also central to the Warren commission findings.

Thompson draws his theory of three assassins from interpretation of the facts of timing of the frames of the Zapruder film, but he does not speculate on who the gunmen were.

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