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Author Maintains FBI Omitted JFK Lab Test

By George Lardner Jr.

Washington Post Staff Writer

A long-time critic of the Warren Commission said yesterday he has uncovered evidence that the FBI failed to conduct laboratory tests that could have upset the commission's findings about President Kennedy's assassination in November, 1963.

Harold Weisberg, author of a series of books on the assassination and its aftermath entitled "Whitewash," said that a freedom-of-information lawsuit he filed has produced documentation of some omissions.

U.S. District Court Judge John H. Pratt, Weisberg said, has ordered the FBI and the Atomic Energy Commission to answer a series of interrogatories on the omissions.

The main tests at issue involve neutron activation analyses that, Weisberg contends, should have been conducted on both the bullet fragments and the clothing worn by Kennedy and then — Gov. John B. Connally of Texas when the President was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Neutron activation tests are designed to show whether a bullet, fragments of a bullet or clothing that it stuck have a common origin.

The dispute centers on what critics call the "magic bullet." According to the Warren Commission, it was fired by Lee Harvey Oswald from the Texas School Book Depository, hit Kennedy from behind, pierced his necktie, wounded Connally, and was found almost intact on a stretcher at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

Weisberg said FBI Director Clarence M. Kelly indicated in an April 10 letter produced by

the lawsuit that neutron activation tests were not conducted on the clothing of the two victims nor on all of the bullet fragments and residue found in the presidential limousine.

Weisberg said some neutron activation tests were conducted by the AEC at Oak Ridge, Tenn., at the FBI's request. He said Kelly's listing of these tests shows no analyses of Kennedy's or Connally's clothing.

"That had to be done if they were going to say that Kennedy and Connally were hit by the same bullet," Weisberg said. He added that data from the tests, which he is seeking to have analyzed, were not supplied to the Warren Commission.

Kennedy and Connally were wounded almost simultaneously before a shot killed the President. If they were not wounded by a single bullet, critics say, that would explode the Warren Commission's finding that Oswald acted alone.