

JFK Tape Flawed, Dallas Police Say

AP, UPI, Los Angeles Times

Dallas, Tex. — Dallas police have strongly challenged a crucial piece of evidence used by the House Assassinations Committee in concluding last week that a conspiracy probably existed in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The committee based much of its conclusion on a sophisticated analysis of the evidence — a recording of sounds picked up by a defective microphone on a Dallas policeman's motorcycle at the time of the assassination.

The analysis, performed by a panel of acoustics experts, indicated a 95% probability that a total of four shots, from two sites, were fired at the Kennedy motorcade during the assassination 15 years ago in Dallas.

However, Dallas police charged Thursday that the analysis was flawed because the defective microphone was not at Dealy Plaza, where Kennedy was shot, and because the recording actually was made 2 minutes after the assassination.

The Police Department said the motorcycle from which the sounds were recorded was 2.2 miles away at the Dallas Trade Mart, about midway between Dealy Plaza and Parkland Hospital, where Kennedy was rushed after the fatal shots were fired.

The Police Department's reasons for doubting the experts are that:

No gunshots are audible on the recording. Nor were any screams, which witnesses reported hearing from the crowd that practically sur-

rounded the motorcycle that the experts concluded was the source of the recording.

The experts contend that the gunshot and crowd sounds can be isolated and amplified to audible levels only with sophisticated "enhancement" techniques.

Siren sounds on the recordings get louder then softer, indicating that the motorcade carrying the mortally wounded president probably approached then passed the motorcycle that was the source of the recording.

The Assassinations Committee experts had concluded that the motorcycle was part of the motorcade.

The police, noting their undocumented claim that the recording was made 2 minutes after the shots were fired and that the recording seemed to have few engine noises, contend that the motorcycle was parked at the time.

The sounds were recorded on the Police Department's Channel 1, not Channel 2, which all motorcade units were supposed to have been using.

Policeman H.B. McLain, who was riding the motorcycle that the experts said was the source, also recalls hearing a police directive that was issued only on Channel 2 shortly after Kennedy was shot.

So his motorcycle, according to the police, could not have been transmitting on the other channel at the time.

However, he might have had the radio switched to Channel 1 during the shooting, then switched it to Channel 2 to see what was hap-



H.B. McLain

pening after sirens began sounding.

When the switches were made, and how many times the radio was switched, is crucial because a photograph made at Parkland Hospital confirms that McLain's radio was set on Channel 1, which was the channel from which the recording was made, while it was parked there.

An analysis of conversations on the recording, according to Dallas Police Capt. J.C. Bowles, reveals radio conversations from city and county police cars parked nearby. Only at the Trade Mart, Bowles said, were city and county cars stationed together.

The recording included an earlier message by a police dispatcher that "a motorcycle officer up on Stemmons" had a defective radio that was transmitting constantly. Stemmons is the freeway taken by the motorcade after the shooting.

The police doubts were revealed in an interview Thursday with CBS News.