

Med

12/17/63

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A189WX

--U R G E N T--

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WASHINGTON, DEC. 17 (AP)-THE FIRST SHOT FIRED BY JOHN F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSIN ~~STRUCK THE PRESIDENT IN THE BACK AND DID NOT HIT ANY VITAL ORGAN,~~ A RELIABLE SOURCE FAMILIAR WITH AUTOPSY FINDINGS REPORTED TONIGHT.

A190WX

THE SECOND BULLET TO HIT KENNEDY--AFTER ANOTHER STRUCK GOV. JOHN B. CONNALLY OF TEXAS--TORE THROUGH THE LATE PRESIDENT'S SKULL AND PROVED FATAL.

A191WX

IF THIS ACCOUNT OF THE TWO WOUNDS SUFFERED BY KENNEDY IN DALLAS, TEX., ON NOV. 22 IS CORRECT, IT WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE MURDERED CHIEF EXECUTIVE DID, VERY BRIEFLY, HAVE A CHANCE TO SURVIVE AFTER THE FIRST BULLET STRUCK HIM.

MOTION PICTURE FILMS OF THE ASSASSINATION INDICATE THERE WAS A LAG OF FIVE OR SIX SECONDS BETWEEN THE FIRING OF THE FIRST SHOT AND THE THIRD, WHICH STRUCK KENNEDY IN THE HEAD. HAD THE PRESIDENT FALLEN TO THE FLOOR OF HIS LIMOUSINE, OR BEEN PUSHED THERE, BEFORE THE THIRD SHOT WAS FIRED, HE MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED DEATH AND SERIOUS INJURY.

A192WX

THE FINDINGS OF PATHOLOGISTS WHO CONDUCTED A POST MORTEM EXAMINATION OF KENNEDY'S BODY AT THE BETHESDA, MD., NAVAL HOSPITAL HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC. HOWEVER, A SOURCE FAMILIAR WITH THE RESULTS GAVE THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT:

THE FIRST BULLET MADE WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A SMALL, NEAT WOUND IN THE BACK AND PENETRATED TWO OR THREE INCHES.

THE SOURCE SAID THAT THIS BULLET STRUCK NO VITAL ORGANS AND WAS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE INFLICTED A FATAL WOUND.

HE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT MIGHT HAVE RICOCHETED OFF SOME PORTION OF THE LIMOUSINE BEFORE STRIKING THE PRESIDENT BECAUSE IT DID NOT PENETRATE DEEPLY.

THE SECOND BULLET TO STRIKE KENNEDY, THE SOURCE SAID, ENTERED THE BACK OF THE SKULL AND TORE OPEN HIS FOREHEAD.

A193WX

DOCTORS WHO TRIED TO REVIVE KENNEDY AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL INITIALLY REPORTED TWO WOUNDS--ONE IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD AND A SECOND IN THE THROAT.

THESE PHYSICIANS NEVER SAW THE WOUND IN THE BACK, APPARENTLY BECAUSE KENNEDY WAS LYING ON HIS BACK ON AN EMERGENCY ROOM TABLE DURING THE ENTIRE TIME THEY WERE MINISTERING TO HIM.

MANY OBSERVERS WERE PUZZLED FROM THE OUTSET BY THE REPORT OF A THROAT WOUND, SINCE IT WAS WELL ESTABLISHED THAT THE ASSASSIN WAS FIRING FROM ABOVE AND BEHIND THE PRESIDENT.

THE PATHOLOGISTS AT BETHESDA, THE SOURCE SAID, CONCLUDED THAT THE THROAT WOUND WAS CAUSED BY THE EMERGENCE OF A METAL FRAGMENT OR PIECE OF BONE STEMMING FROM THE FATAL SHOT IN THE HEAD.

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