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TEX OUT (310)

AUSTIN, TEX., FEB. 3 (AP)—TEXAS GOV. JOHN CONNALLY, ALTHOUGH SERIOUSLY WOUNDED BY THE SECOND SHOT, WAS STILL CONSCIOUS AND SAW THE THIRD AND FATAL SHOT STRIKE PRESIDENT KENNEDY, HE TOLD NEWSMEN TODAY.

"I SAW THE EFFECTS OF THE THIRD SHOT--THE SHOT TO THE HEAD-- AND I ASSUMED THEN THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR HIM," CONNALLY SAID OF THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION IN DALLAS NOV. 22.

CONNALLY SAID WHEN HE HEARD THE FIRST SHOT, HE HAD BUT ONE THOUGHT: "THIS IS AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT."

CONNALLY'S THOUGHTS DURING THAT BRIEF PERIOD WHEN A SNIPER'S BULLETS CUT DOWN KENNEDY AND TORE THROUGH THE GOVERNOR'S CHEST AS THE TWO OFFICIALS RODE IN A MOTORCADE WERE REVEALED AT THE ANNUAL ASSOCIATED PRESS TEXAS MANAGING EDITORS MEETING.

"FRANKLY, I THOUGHT I HAD BEEN KILLED TOO," SAID CONNALLY, HIS ARM STILL IN A SLING FROM THE WOUNDS HE RECEIVED.

"I HEARD THE FIRST SHOT, BUT NOT THE SECOND WHICH STRUCK ME.

"THERE WAS NO PAIN WHATEVER, IT FELT LIKE A SHORT JAB TO THE BACK. I LUNGED FORWARD, THERE WAS BLOOD EVERYWHERE AND NELLIE (MRS) CONNALLY COVERED ME."

CONNALLY SAID HIS TURNING TO CHECK ON THE PRESIDENT AFTER THE FIRST SHOT UNDOUBTEDLY SAVED HIS LIFE.

"I LOOKED BACK OVER MY RIGHT SHOULDER AND COULDN'T SEE THE PRESIDENT, SO I TURNED TO LOOK OVER MY LEFT SHOULDER.

"I NEVER COMPLETED THAT SECOND TURN WHEN I GOT HIT. HAD I NOT TURNED, I HAVE NO DOUBTS THE BULLET WOULD HAVE ENTERED MY SPINE AND HEART."

CONNALLY'S STATEMENTS WERE MADE IN AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION OF WHEN HE FIRST FELT THE IMPACT OF THE ASSASSINATION.

"IMMEDIATELY," THE GOVERNOR ANSWERED, THEN DESCRIBED HIS THOUGHTS.

THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWED CONNALLY'S ADDRESS TO THE EDITORS, HIS FIRST PUBLIC SPEECH SINCE HE WAS WOUNDED.

ALTHOUGH KENNEDY WAS SHOT TWICE, A RECENT MEDICAL REPORT IN THE TEXAS STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE REPORTED THE MASSIVE HEAD AND BRAIN INJURY CAUSED BY THE SECOND BULLET TO STRIKE HIM KEPT DOCTORS FROM FINDING A FAINT HEARD BACK TO LIFE.

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