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Warren Commission

'2nd Shot Killed The President'

Washington

Medical and ballistics evidence presented to the Warren Commission indicates that the first bullet that hit President Kennedy in Dallas last November 22 might not have been fatal.

A Commission spokesman, giving what he called the best speculation on the assassination, said yesterday that one bullet hit the President in the back slightly above the right collarbone and went right on through the lower neck, emerging in front. It may have gone on to hit Texas Governor John B. Connally.

Medical testimony to the Commission is that Mr. Kennedy would have had a good chance of recovering from this wound. But a second shot, in the President's head, was fatal.

The Commission's evidence indicates that there was a third shot that went wild and never hit any portion of the car in which President Kennedy was travelling.

The evidence was also reported by television station KRLD in Dallas. The station said its information came from a highly placed source close to the Warren Commission following last Sunday's reconstruction of the shooting by Commission investigators in Dallas.

The station also said that if the first shot had been a fraction lower, the force of the bullet probably would have knocked the President onto the floor of the car, thus removing him from the trajectory of the second — and presumably fatal — shot.

The third bullet was said to have followed a much flatter trajectory than the first two, because the motorcade was moving down a sloping street. Station KRLD said the Commission report on the assassination would show that the third bullet struck a manhole cover, then ricocheted off a curb and was never found.

New York Times

WRC

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Assassination Report: Only 2 Bullets Struck

Dallas

A Dallas television station said yesterday that the Warren Commission report will show that the late President Kennedy and Governor John Connally of Texas were hit by only two of the three bullets fired at them last November 22.

Station KRLD-TV said a re-enactment of the assassination by Secret Servicemen and FBI agents last Sunday showed that one bullet — the last one fired — went wild. The station quoted a "highly placed source close to the Warren Commission."

The re-enactment "proved that previous thinking that the President was hit by the first bullet, the Governor by the second and the President by the third was not correct," KRLD-TV said.

FIRST SHOT

The station said the first shot struck both the President and Connally, who now has recovered from his wounds. The second shot fatally wounded the President and the third bullet went harmlessly into the gutter and was never found, it said.

The first bullet struck both men, the station emphasized. It entered the body of the late President just above the right collarbone

and exited from the neck just to the right of his tie knot, then entered Connally's body just above the fifth rib and finally embedded itself in his leg.

The bullet passing through Connally shattered his right wrist before it hit his leg.

"The distance from the sixth-floor window of the

Texas Schoolbook Depository to the spot of the first contact of the bullet with the President's body was 168 feet. ... with the Governor 171 feet," KRLD-TV quoted the report.

FATAL SHOT

"The second, and fatal shot, struck the President in the back of the head 207 feet from the point of firing.

"It has been learned that the Warren Commission report will show there was an interval of about 4½ seconds between the first and second shots and about 2½ seconds between the second and third shots.

"Experts say that a crack marksman could have gotten off all three shots in the time it took the presidential assassin to fire the first two.

"Speculation now is that the third bullet first hit a manhole cover, then ricocheted off the curb on Main street, a few feet beyond Elm street where the killing of the President took place."

United Press