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Article Is Disputed

J. Lee Rankin, who served as counsel for the Warren Commission, said yesterday that "there was no credible evidence" to support a theory that more than three shots had been fired during the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Rankin rebutted the view put forward in a magazine article by Vincent J. Salandria, a Philadelphia lawyer and consultant to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Mr. Salandria, writing in the January issue of Liberation, an antiwar monthly, disputed the idea that a single bullet had hit both President Kennedy and Governor John B. Connally Jr. of Texas. To do this, he contended, the bullet would have had to change direction in mid-air.

"Once we conclude that a separate shot hit Governor Connally," Mr. Salandria wrote, "we are confronted with an extra bullet, which puts the commission theory of just three bullets from one gun into the limbo of historical myth."

Replying to a reporter's questions on Mr. Salandria's article, Mr. Rankin said "there was an alignment" between President Kennedy and Governor Connally, which made it possible for one bullet to hit both men.

The contention that the bullet would have had to change direction to hit both men was "not very reasonable" in light of the evidence presented by the commission, Mr. Rankin said.

Even if the same bullet had not hit both men, he added, the President could have been hit by two bullets and the Governor by one, without requiring the firing of more than three shots.

SFChronicle

How Many Shots? H 4-44

New Dispute on Kennedy Slaying

New York

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Associated Press