

(1,000) KENNEDY-CONNALLY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, NOV. 23 (AP)-THE SPLIT SECOND THAT GOV. JOHN B. CONALLY OF TEXAS HEARD A SHOT THE THOUGHT FLASHED THROUGH HIS MIND: THAT'S A RIFLE AND THIS IS AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

BUT HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING. GRAVELY WOUNDED AND WOUNDED AND WONDERIN

BUT HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING. GRAVELY WOUNDED AND AND WONDERING IF HE WERE DYING HE LAY IN HIS WIFE'S ARMS, WHILE PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN THE SEAT BEHIND WAS SHOT TO DEATH. STILL CONSCIOUS, CONNALLY HEARD THE FINAL SHOT HIT KENNEDY --"IT WAS A VERY LOUD NOISE"-- AND HEARD THE CRIES OF MRS. KENNEDY--"THEY HAVE KILLED MY HUSBAND."

CONNALLY, RECOVERED FROM HIS WOUNDS, GAVE SOME OF THE MOST GRAPHIC TESTIMONY AS THE WARREN COMMISSION GATHERED VOLUMES OF EVIDENCE ON WHICH IT BASED ITS REPORT MADE PUBLIC SEPT. 27. SOME OF THESE VOLUMES HAVE NOW BECOME AVAILABLE TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

CONNALLY, IN TESTIMONY GIVEN IN WASHINGTON APRIL 21, RELATED:

"WE HAD JUST MADE THE TURN (INTO THE STEMMONS FREEWAY), WELL, WHEN I HEARD WHAT I THOUGHT WAS A SHOT. I HEARD THIS NOISE WHICH I IMMEDIATELY TOOK TO BE A RIFLE SHOT.

"I INSTINCTIVELY TURNED TO MY RIGHT BECAUSE THE SOUND APPEARED TO COME FROM OVER MY RIGHT SHOULDER, SO I TURNED TO LOOK BACK OVER MY RIGHT SHOULDER, AND I SAW NOTHING UNUSUAL EXCEPT JUST PEOPLE IN THE CROWD, BUT I DID NOT CATCH THE PRESIDENT IN THE CORNER OF MY EYE, AND I WAS INTERESTED, BECAUSE ONCE I HEARD THE SHOT IN MY OWN MIND I IDENTIFIED IT AS A RIFLE SHOT, AND I IMMEDIATELY --THE ONLY THOUGHT THAT CROSSED MY MIND WAS THAT THIS IS AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT...

A196WX

"I WAS TURNING TO LOOK BACK OVER MY LEFT SHOULDER INTO THE BACK SEAT, BUT I NEVER GOT THAT FAR IN MY TURN. .AND THEN I FELT LIKE SOMEONE HAD HIT ME IN THE BACK. . . ."

THE GOVERNOR SAID "A VERY, VERY BRIEF SPAN OF TIME" ELAPSED BETWEEN HIS HEARING THE FIRST SHOT AND FEELING HIMSELF HIT. HE CONTINUED:

"I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT THAT THIS--THAT I HAD BEEN SHOT. I KNEW IT WHEN I JUST LOOKED DOWN AND I WAS COVERED WITH BLOOD, AND THE THOUGHT

IMMEDIATELY PASSED THROUGH MY MIND THAT THERE WERE EITHER TWO OR THREE PEOPLE INVOLVED OR MORE IN THIS OR SOMEONE WAS SHOOTING WITH AN AUTOMATIC RIFLE. . . I IMMEDIATELY ASSUMED, BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF BLOOD, AND, IN FACT, THAT IT HAD OBVIOUSLY PASSED THROUGH MY CHEST, THAT I HAD PROBABLY BEEN FATALLY HIT.

"SO I MERELY DOUBLED UP, AND. . . MRS. CONNOLLY PULLED ME OVER TO HER LAP. . . I RECLINED WITH MY HEAD ON HER LAP, CONSCIOUS ALL THE TIME, AND WITH MY EYES OPEN; AND THEN, OF COURSE, THE THIRD SHOT SOUNDED AND I HEARD THE SHOT VERY CLEARLY, I HEARD IT HIT HIM. . . IT WAS A VERY LOUD NOISE, JUST THAT AUDIBLE, VERY CLEAR.

"IMMEDIATELY I COULD SEE ON MY CLOTHES, MY CLOTHING, I COULD SEE ON THE INTERIOR OF THE CAR WHICH, AS I RECALL, WAS A PALE BLUE, BRAIN TISSUE, WHICH I IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED, AND I RECALL VERY WELL, ON MY TROUSERS THERE WAS ONE CHUNK OF BRAIN TISSUE AS BIG AS ALMOST MY THUMB, THUMBNAIL, AND AGAIN I DID NOT SEE THE PRESIDENT AT ANY TIME EITHER AFTER THE FIRST, SECOND OR THIRD SHOTS, BUT I ASSUMED ALWAYS THAT IT WAS HE WHO WAS HIT AND NO ONE ELSE.

A197WX

"I IMMEDIATELY, WHEN I WAS HIT, I SAID, 'OH NO, NO, NO,' AND THEN I SAID, 'MY GOD, THEY ARE GOING TO KILL US ALL.'

"NELLIE (MRS. CONNALLY). . . WHEN SHE PULLED ME OVER INTO HER LAP . . . SAID, 'DON'T WORRY. BE QUIET. YOU ARE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.'"

CONNALLY SAID HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AS THE CAR PULLED OUT OF THE CAVALCADE AND RACED FOR THE HOSPITAL, WHERE HE RECOVERED HIS SENSES.

ASKED WHETHER THE PRESIDENT OR MRS. KENNEDY HAD SAID ANYTHING, CONNALLY SAID KENNEDY "NEVER UTTERED A SOUND AT ALL THAT I HEARD." HE SAID:

"I WOULD SAY IT WAS AFTER THE THIRD SHOT WHEN SHE SAID, 'THEY HAVE KILLED MY HUSBAND,' . . . SHE SAID, I HEARD HER SAY ONE TIME, 'I HAVE GOT HIS BRAINS IN MY HAND.'"

MRS. CONNALLY RECALLED THAT MRS. KENNEDY REPEATED THIS EXCLAMATION SEVERAL TIMES.

PICTURES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CAR TAKEN MOMENTS AFTER THE SHOOTING SHOW MRS. KENNEDY ON HER HANDS AND KNEES REACHING TOWARD THE BACK OF THE CAR. SHE TOLD THE COMMISSION SHE HAS NO RECOLLECTION OF HAVING DONE SO.

IN HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMISSION, SECRET SERVICE AGENT CLINTON J. HILL, WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO PROTECT MRS. KENNEDY, GAVE THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONY:

"MRS. KENNEDY HAD JUMPED UP FROM THE SEAT AND WAS, IT APPEARED TO

ME, REACHING FOR SOMETHING COMING OFF THE RIGHT REAR TAIL OF THE CAR, WHEN SHE NOTICED THAT I WAS TRYING TO CLIMB ON THE CAR. (HILL HAD BEEN IN THE CAR BEHIND KENNEDY'S).

A198WX

"SHE TURNED TOWARD ME AND I GRABBED HER AND PUT HER BACK IN THE BACK SEAT, CRAWLED UP ON TOP OF THE BACK SEAT AND LAY THERE."

HE HAS QUESTIONED ABOUT THIS.

"YOU SAY THAT IT APPEARED SHE WAS REACHING AS IF SOMETHING WAS COMING OVER TO THE REAR PORTION OF THE CAR?"

"YES SIR."

"WAS THERE ANYTHING BACK THERE THAT YOU OBSERVED, THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN REACHING FOR?"

"I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING COME OFF THE BACK, TOO, BUT I CANNOT SAY THERE WAS. I DO KNOW THAT THE NEXT DAY WE FOUND THE PORTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD."

"WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT PORTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD?"

"IT WAS FOUND IN THE STREET. IT WAS TURNED IN, I BELIEVE, BY A MEDICAL STUDENT, OR SOMEONE IN DALLAS."

THE COMMISSION REPORT SAID THAT DURING THE AUTOPSY PERFORMED ON KENNEDY AT THE NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER IN BETHESDA, MD., FEDERAL AGENTS BROUGHT THE SURGEONS THREE PIECES OF BONE RECOVERED FROM THE STREET OR THE PRESIDENTIAL AUTOMOBILE. THESE ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT THREE FOURTHS OF THE MISSING PORTION OF THE SKULL.

CONNALLY, WHEN HE APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMISSION, VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE OFF HIS SHIRT AND LET THE MEMBERS OBSERVE HIS WOUNDS. HE SAID HE FEELS SURE HE WAS NOT STRUCK BY THE FIRST SHOT, BUT BY THE SECOND, WHICH HE SAID HE NEVER HEARD--"I WAS IN EITHER A STATE OF SHOCK OR THE IMPACT WAS SUCH THAT THE SOUND DIDN'T EVEN REGISTER ON ME."

SR/PE1244PES

EA199WX

YARBOROUGH-WARREN COMMISSION - ; (!)523. -