

# Death of a President—I'm Hit

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WASHINGTON — A chilling closeup of the action in President Kennedy's limousine is a stark part of the Warren Commission findings.

"There was a report like a firecracker pop," Special Agent Roy Kellerman of the Secret Service told the Commission.

As Kellerman, sitting in the right front seat of the limousine turned his head, he said he heard the President say:

"My God, I am hit."

Now, Mrs. Kennedy:

#### TRAGIC PICTURE

"Soon after the motorcade turned onto Elm Street, she heard a sound similar to a motorcade Governor Connally which caused her to look to her right.

"On turning she saw a quizzical look on her husband's face as he raised his left hand to his throat. Mrs. Kennedy then heard a second shot and saw the President's skull torn open under the impact of the bullet. As she cradled her mortally wounded husband, Mrs. Kennedy cried, 'oh, my God, they have shot my husband. I love you, Jack.'"

According to the testimony he gave the commission, Kellerman also heard Mrs. Kennedy cry out:

"What are they doing to you?"

Gov. and Mrs. Connally were sitting in the jump seats ahead of the Kennedys.

The commission report on their testimony:

"Mrs. Connally heard a second shot fired and pulled her husband down into her lap. Observing his blood-covered chest as he was pulled into his wife's lap, Governor Connally believed himself mortally wounded. He cried out, 'Oh, no, no, no. My God, they are going to kill us all.'

#### 'BE STILL'

"At first Mrs. Connally thought that her husband had been killed, but then she noticed an almost imperceptible movement and knew he was still alive. She said, 'It's all right. Be still.' The Governor was lying with his head on his wife's lap when he heard a shot hit the President."

Special Agent Clinton J. Hill, who had been riding on the left front runningboard of the Secret Service car following the presidential limousine, told the commission he "saw President Kennedy grab at himself and lurch forward and to the left."

Hill jumped onto the left rear of the President's car.

"Mrs. Kennedy had jumped up from the seat and was, it appeared to me, reaching for something coming off the right rear bumper of the car, the right rear tail, when she noticed that I was trying to climb on the car," Hill told the Commission. "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."

The former First Lady told the Commission that she had no recollection of climbing out of her seat and crawling diagonally across the flat trunk of the 1961 Lincoln convertible as it began to speed away from the scene.

Mrs. Kennedy "would probably have fallen off the rear end of the car and been killed if Hill had not pushed her back into the presidential automobile," JFK's aide David Powers told the Commission.

And then the dying President was again cradled in her arms.

Special Agent William R. Green drove the limousine at speeds up to 80 m.p.h. to Parkland Hospital.

"For a moment (at the hospital), Mrs. Kennedy refused to release the President, whom she held in her lap, but then Kellerman, Greer and (Special Agent Winston) Lawson lifted the President onto a stretcher and pushed it into Trauma Room 1."