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Editorial

Number 43 and 44

Nicholas J. Chetta, M.D., 50, Orleans Parish coroner since 1950, died at Mercy Hospital at 10:20 p.m. Saturday, May 25, 1968. The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported: "Details on where he suffered the heart attack were not available on Saturday night." They were not revealed in the following papers either.

In our opinion, this is one of the key murders of the continuing Kennedy assassination conspiracy and coverup.

Dr. Chetta was the coroner who served at the death of David Ferrie. Dr. Chetta was the key witness regarding Perry Russo against Clay Shaw. Shaw's attorneys went into federal court only after Dr. Chetta was dead.

The death of Senator Robert Kennedy was imperative when he became a threat as a Presidential candidate. His murder was also a brazen act which gave notice to the entire nation: "Sure we did it, but what are you going to

do about it?"

There is evidence that two persons, a man and a woman, were with the accused. But authorities have found no trace of either of them. Coroner Dr. Thomas Noguchi told the grand jury the powder burns indicated the murder gun was fired not more than two or three inches from Kennedy's right ear. Witnesses testified that Sirhan was never closer than four or five feet to the Senator.

WATCHMAN WAKETH BUT IN VAIN

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THE WOUNDS CRY OUT CONSPIRACY

Of course the wounds inflicted on persons in Dealey Plaza did not inspire confidence in a lone-assassin killing. The President had been hit in the back at a point which caused Secret Service Agent Glen A. Bennett, who was stationed in the Presidential follow-up car, to say that he saw a shot "hit the President about four inches down from the right shoulder." (5) The President was further wounded in the anterior neck. Much of his head was shattered and great avulsive wounds had resulted when pieces of bone were driven out of his skull. Governor Connally suffered a wound in the back, right chest, right wrist and left femur. A third man, James T. Tague, a bystander, was wounded in Dealey Plaza. (W 116) Such carnage, added to damage to the Presidential limousine apparently resulting from the shooting, underscores the ominous and precipitous nature of the Pentagon's conclusion the very afternoon of the assassination that there was no conspiracy.

Let us for the moment consider the tiny neck

wound in the front of the President and what should have been the natural action of an innocent government to that wound. The Commission made reference to the televised statement of Dr. Malcolm O. Perry with reference to the throat wound:

"Immediately after the assassination, many people reached erroneous conclusions about the source of the shots because of Dr. Perry's observations to the press. . . Dr. Perry stated merely that it was 'possible' that the neck wound was a wound of entrance." (W 90,91)

THE NEW YORK TIMES of November 23, 1963 stated:

". . . Dr. Malcolm Perry . . . gave . . . details. . . Mr. Kennedy was hit by a bullet in the throat. . . This wound had the appearance of a bullet's entry."

Let us give the Commission the benefit of all doubts and assume that it was right and THE NEW YORK TIMES was wrong and misquoted Dr. Perry. Suppose, therefore, that Dr. Perry merely said, as the Commission contended he had, that it was "possible that the neck wound was a wound of entrance." Remember, that at the time Dr. Perry made that statement the federal government had no evidence with which to contravene Dr. Perry's assessment of the neck wound as "possibly" one of entry. The dead President's body was in a casket for or on the Presidential plane in preparation for being flown back to Washington for pomp of an unprecedented military funeral. We know now, and the federal government had every reason to know then, that the Presidential limousine was photographed proceeding away from the Texas Book Depository Building when it was first fired upon.

On the basis of Dr. Perry's statement of a "possible" entry wound in the front of the President, and because at the time of the inception of the firing, and at all times during the firing, the President had not faced the officially-designated assassin who was in the rear of the President. An innocent government would be under obligation to act on this information. Certainly we should have anticipated that the Mexican border would have been shut off by the U. S. authorities. Transportation terminals would have been saturated with police officials in an effort to cut off escape of the assassins who "possibly" were positioned in the front of the

President. We must bear in mind that the government did not have at this time the august and now largely discredited Warren Commission Report to hide behind. The job of the federal authorities flush up against the assassination proper was to explore

every "possibility" of apprehending any "possible" assassins. We are compelled to conclude that it was a guilty government that saw fit too early in the investigation to rely upon the Warren Commission's ultimate conclusions of a single assassin positioned in the rear of the President at a point where it had every reason to suspect that at least one assassin had fired from the front of the President.

Title is quotation used by President Kennedy at conclusion of speech he was to have given at Dallas 22 November 1963.

See "Four Days," page 129.