

## Single-Bullet Theory Challenged By Assassination Panel Witness

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Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, coroner of Allegheny County, Pa., has challenged the activities and findings of the House Assassinations Committee and the panel of nine pathologists who were retained by the committee to determine how President John F. Kennedy died.

Although Wecht agreed with the other panelists that Kennedy was shot from behind on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, he raised a number of questions on the second day of the hearings into Kennedy's death.

Wecht, who is also a lawyer, challenged the so-called "single bullet theory" when he began to address the Assassinations Committee yesterday.

This theory, widely held, is that a single bullet penetrated Kennedy's back, exited through his throat and then struck Texas Gov. John B. Connally. The mystery has always been how this bullet, found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital in Dallas soon after the tragedy, could have done so much damage with almost no change in its appearance.

"NO SINGLE BULLET could have caused all these wounds," Wecht testified. "I believe four shots were most probably fired, and I believe that Kennedy and Connally were struck by three of them. I believe the president was struck twice, once in the back and once in the head.

"I believe Connally was hit by another bullet," he said, adding he believed the fourth bullet may not have been found.

Wecht's central thesis is he does not believe a single bullet could have caused all the damage to the president and Connally.

And he said he was most unhappy with the rest of the panelists because they refused to undertake some experiments.

Wecht said, "I beseeched my colleagues to come up with one bullet that could have done this. Furthermore, the position of the two men in the car is inconsistent with the evidence because the angles are impossible."

**WECHT CONTENDED** Connally could not have kept his grip on his Stetson hat after his wrist had been hit by the bullet.

"The governor was shot through the chest, a lung was collapsed, and there was damage to the radial wrist and the thumb holding the hat. I do not accept the fiction of the single-bullet theory that one and a half seconds after Connally was shot in the chest, wrist and thigh, he was still holding onto his hat."

If the committee has completed tests that disprove Wecht's contention, they may be part of today's testimony, expected to be heavily oriented toward ballistics.

Chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, asked Wecht what the average American should do: "Believe the eight panelists, or believe you?"

Wecht replied, "That's in your hands."