

An Unexplained Photo Emerges in JFK Probe

Washington

Three teams of investigators yesterday painstakingly presented evidence aimed at demolishing conspiracy theories about the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

But one of the teams conceded it failed to reach agreement on a photo of what appears to be a man with a rifle atop the grassy knoll at the scene of the assassination.

The panels of photographic, anthropological and handwriting experts lectured the House Assassinations Committee in the final week of a month-long series of public hearings on the 15-year-old assassination.

Bob Hunt, associate professor of optical sciences at the University of Arizona, said his team of photo experts rejected a picture said to show the shots came from the knoll opposite the Texas School Book Depository.

Using four-by-three-foot color enlargements from Abraham Zapruder's amateur motion picture of the assassination, Hunt said what appears to be a man with a rifle was actually a trick of sunlight.

He similarly analyzed a section of the film showing what appears to be a man's head and the barrel of a rifle pointing through shrubs toward the presidential limousine.

He said experts who plotted the precise location of Zapruder and the motorcade concluded the head was of a man standing on the sidewalk and the rifle barrel was probably the limb of a shrub.

But Hunt's team failed to agree on the interpretation of a blurred picture from another amateur film showing what appears to be a man standing behind a parapet on the grassy knoll with something, perhaps a rifle, in his hands.

He said analysis indicate the

Day Declared To Honor King

Sacramento

Governor Brown signed legislation yesterday declaring January 15 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Originally, the bill by Assemblyman Willie L. Brown Jr. (Dem.-S.F.), would have made January 15, King's birthday, a holiday for state employees. After passage of Proposition 13, Brown changed the measure so that it would not cost California taxpayers any money.

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existence of a man but the experts were divided over whether the object he held could be identified as a rifle. He said there was no sign of gunsmoke or muzzle flash in the photo.

Sergeant Cecil Kirk, director of the mobile crime laboratory of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department, said his panel of experts studied a series of photos taken of Lee Harvey Oswald from his time as a Marine until his slaying.

Kirk said his team unanimously rejected theories by assassination buffs that some of the photos were faked, concluding the pictures "were all of the one and same man — Lee Harvey Oswald."

Another team of investigators composed of handwriting experts concluded that all but one of 43 writing samples purportedly written by Oswald "were written by one and the same individual." The panel made no firm determination about the one exception.

The conclusions were described to the committee by Joseph P. McNally, a New York City

handwriting expert.

The samples, covering a period from 1956 in 1963, included such items as Oswald's draft registration form, signatures on fingerprint cards and his diary.

McNally said the exception was a letter dated Nov. 8, 1963, and addressed to Texas oil baron H. L. Hunt. It bore the Oswald signature.

The letter asked for "information concerning my position" and suggested "we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else."

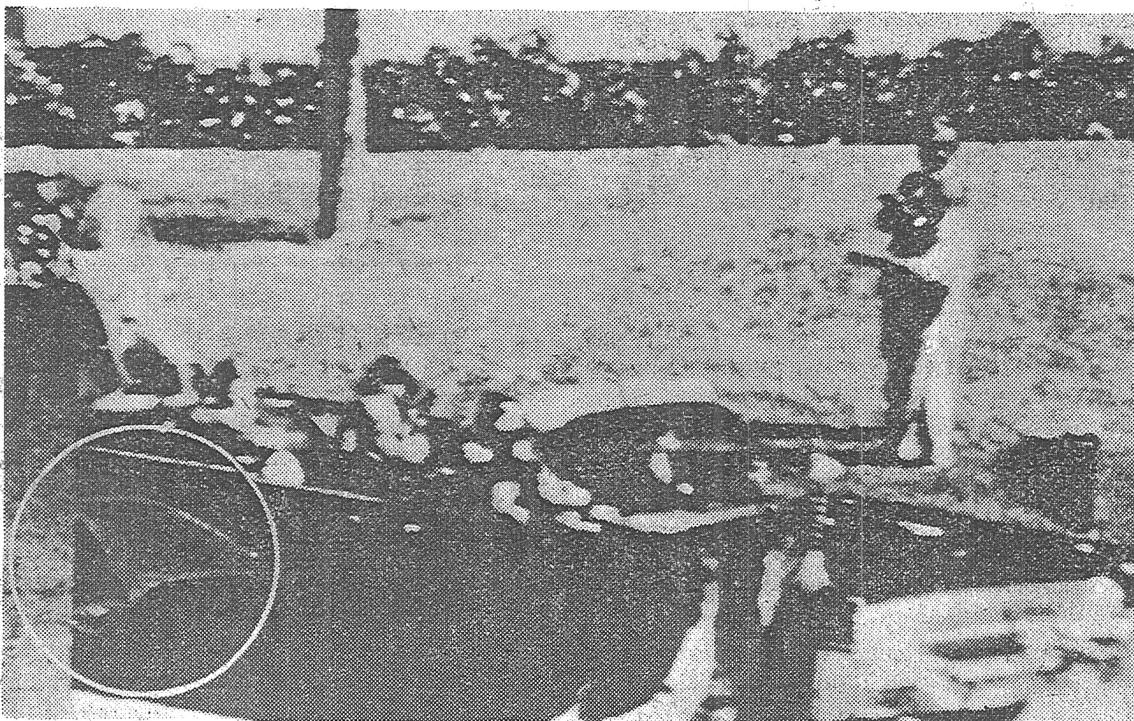
Conspiracy theorists say the letter points to a plot against Kennedy.

McNally said that the letter could have been forged, but that the panel was unable to say for certain because of the fuzziness of the photocopy. The original has never been found. The copy was mailed anonymously to the author of a book on the Kennedy case in 1975.

The text of the letter closely resembles Oswald's writing, McNally said, but "Harvey" is misspelled in the signature. The signatures on the other samples contained no misspellings of the name, he said.

The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald acted alone in assassinating Kennedy. But there are conspiracy theories based on speculation that an Oswald imposter visited the Cuba consulate in Mexico City to apply for a visa a few weeks before Kennedy was slain.

The analysts determined that



Circled area showed 'Umbrella Man' with umbrella unfurled

Mystery Man Talks

Washington

The House Assassinations Committee yesterday apparently solved the mystery of the Dallas "Umbrella Man," a well-dressed person who briefly opened a black umbrella as President Kennedy's motorcade passed Dealy Plaza just before he was shot.

An assortment of theories about the man ranged from speculation that he opened the umbrella in order to signal an assassin to guesses that he used the umbrella to conceal a weapon Nov. 22, 1963.

A witness identifying himself as the "umbrel-

la man" finally stepped forward after the committee distributed a picture showing the mystery man sitting curbside after the gunfire.

Insurance man Louie Steven Witt testified that he had visited the plaza to show his opposition to what he described as the World War II appeasement policies of the President's father, the late Ambassador Joseph Kennedy.

Witt said that he chose a raised umbrella for his protest because it symbolized British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's pre-war appeasement gestures to Hitler.

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Oswald's signature matched the signatures on visa applications submitted at the Cuban consulate.

The panel's conclusions sup-

port the commission's judgment that Oswald visited the consulate in late September, 1963 but failed to get permission to travel to Cuba.

The commission said Oswald then returned to Dallas and killed Kennedy there Nov. 22, 1963.

U.P. & A.P.