



Written by [Staff](#) on November 7, 2023

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What They Said

Preacher Defends Himself and Like-minded Conservatives

“I know — and you know — that no true conservative in the United States would stoop to taking the law into his own hands, I know — and you know — that any man who would assassinate the President of the United States, in these days when we still have ‘due process of law,’ would not be a conservative or a patriot, but an anarchist. I hold them in the same company that I hold the Communists or any man who would go beyond the law to achieve an end.”

*In a statement released from his Tulsa, Oklahoma, residence, Oklahoma-based preacher and conservative activist Reverend **Billy James Hargis** spoke out within days of the crime to defend fellow conservatives from numerous suggestions that right-wing Americans — such as himself — should be considered as possible perpetrators of the assassination of President Kennedy.*

JFK: The Second Plot Suggested Oil Barons Were Behind the Assassination

“The oil industry in Texas had enjoyed huge tax concessions since 1926 when Congress had provided an incentive to increase much needed prospecting. The oil depletion benefits were somehow left in place to become a permanent means by which immense fortunes were amassed by those in the industry and, well aware of the anomaly, John Kennedy had declared an intention to review the oil industry revenues. There is nothing in the world which would have inflamed the oil barons more than the President interfering with the oil depletion allowance.”

*The suggestion posed in a 1992 book by author **Matthew Smith** amounted to unproven speculation. His claim spiked the interest of some readers, but was generally considered unworthy of consideration.*

Doctor Always Insisted the Fatal Bullet Entered the President’s Skull From the Front, Not the Back

“He was not dead when [his body] arrived at Parkland Memorial Hospital and our main objective was to clear the airway which we did and to stop the hemorrhaging. However, before the hemorrhaging could be stopped, the President died. The wound in the left front of his head indicated that the fatal bullet definitely entered from the front. One of the bases for diagnosing the frontal entry was the fact that tissue and brain particle material was found on the motorcycle officer who was to the rear of the presidential car.”

*Doctor **David Stewart** was in the Parkland Memorial Hospital’s emergency room when the president’s body was brought there less than an hour after he had been shot. Stewart saw firsthand that the fatal wound was caused by a bullet that entered the president’s head from the front, not from the back, which is where any bullet fired from the Texas School Book Depository building would have entered his skull. He later settled in Tennessee, where he established a successful medical practice. Stewart regularly accepted invitations to speak to Rotary Clubs and similar groups about what he observed on that fateful day. The above quote attributed to him was taken from the Lebanon Democrat newspaper dated March 30, 1967, which headlined his talk “JFK Shot From Front, Speaker Tells Rotary.”*



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— *Compiled by John F. McManus*



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