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- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The Washington Daily News, Thursday, Janur

Tom  
**Donnelly**

The Latest on Dallas



I HAVEN'T the strength to keep up with the unceasing flow of books critical of the Warren Report. I said as much to Josiah Thompson, author of one of the latest books critical of the Warren Report. Mr. Thompson's effort is titled "Six Seconds in Dallas", it is published by Bernard Geis Associates, and it is billed as "a micro-study of the Kennedy assassination proving that three gunmen murdered the President." Mr. Thompson did not accuse me of cowardice and bad citizenship. He said mildly that the questions arising from the investigation are numerous, complex, and may understandably prove exhausting for some temperaments.

I complained that every expert analysis of the ballistics and the trajectories and the speed-of-the-film is followed by another expert analysis that is totally contradictory. I said, "CBS claimed that jiggles in the Zapruder film showed the Warren Commission was wrong in the time it allocated for the shots. There was more time than the Commission thought. But then somebody else comes along and says that's all wrong, and they have charts to prove it."

Mr. Thompson said, "CBS said certain jiggles in the Zapruder film correlated with the shots. But there were several other jiggles in the film both before and after the shooting. CBS didn't tell the viewers about these other jiggles. Large publishing and communications organizations have a way of ignoring evidence that doesn't fit their interpretation of events."

*Handwritten notes:*  
Shirley  
Philip  
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Kennedy Assassination

- The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_
- Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_ 21
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
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- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- World Journal Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- People's World \_\_\_\_\_
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IN THE fall of 1963, Life magazine had heard that Mr. Thompson (an assistant professor of philosophy at Haverford College) was writing a book on the assassination, and invited him to sign on as a special consultant. Mr. Thompson was most impressed by blow-ups of the Zapruder assassination film prepared by Life's staff. So much so that when Life refused permission for the use of those pictures in "Six Seconds in Dallas," Mr. Thompson's publishers had an artist make charcoal sketches of the crucial frames. These frames kick all plausibility out of the "single bullet theory," Mr. Thompson says. (Life is suing Mr. Thompson and his publishers for infringing on Life's copyright, or something.)

There are lots of pictures in Mr. Thompson's book. The captions say things like: "Arrow shows unidentified figure in window next to assassin's."

Most of these blow-ups of assassination films leave me baffled. Even with a magnifying glass I can't tell "unidentified person" or "unknown man with rifle" from a part of the window frame, or a smudge on the glass, or a pigeon flying past.

As he was showing me his charcoal sketches Mr. Thompson explained that, according to his reconstruction of the crime, three gunmen fired from three different locations.

I said, "Is it your theory that one of them came up out of a manhole?"

Mr. Thompson said, with some indignation, that the manhole theory was certainly not his but was the exclusive property of District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans. Mr. Thompson said, "Garrison apparently didn't figure out the trajectory of the shots coming from the manhole, because if he had he'd have seen that the bullets would have had to pass thru a couple of secret service men."

I SAID I wasn't about to fuss with trajectories and all that stuff. I said, "Why don't assassination buffs try to answer the really basic questions? Like, why would an innocent bystander rush from the assassination scene to take in a movie?"

Mr. Thompson said, "Ah, but I don't make any flat claim that Oswald was innocent. I say there is a very good chance he was involved in the conspiracy, and there's a 50-50 chance he was one of the gunmen."

I said, "So you don't feel you have to explain why Oswald went to the movies?"

"No," said Mr. Thompson.

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