

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan
FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Wick

DATE: June 26, 1967

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

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DeLoach _____
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SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY NOVEMBER 23, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

REVIEW OF

The Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) is carrying a one hour, nation-wide television program for four successive nights concerning the assassination. Walter Cronkite is the chief CBS narrator. The first program was carried Sunday evening, June 25, 1967, and dealt with the subject "Did Lee Harvey Oswald shoot President Kennedy?" The programs for the other three nights are as follows:

- Monday, June 26, 1967--Was there more than one assassin?
- Tuesday, June 27, 1967--Was there a conspiracy?
- Wednesday, June 28, 1967--Why are the American people not satisfied with the Warren Commission Report?

The first program which was presented Sunday evening concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald did kill President Kennedy. Practically all of the evidence presented by CBS was evidence that had been reported by the Warren Commission in its Report. The conclusion reached, solidly backed up the Warren Commission. It appears that the primary purpose of the CBS programs is to bring to the attention of the American people the data in the Warren Commission Report recognizing that only a very small percentage of the American people have taken the time to sit down and read the Report.

In its program, CBS highlighted the assassination film which was taken by amateur photographer Abraham Zapruder. This is the film that was purchased from Zapruder by "Life" magazine and graphically portrays the assassination sequence.

In dealing with the Zapruder film, CBS presented interviews with photographic experts who studied blurred frames of the film and arrived at the conclusion three of the blurred frames related to three rifle shots. One of the photographic experts showed a frame of the Zapruder film that had a blur in a horizontal direction and he stated such blur was caused by jerking motion of the camera by Zapruder. He demonstrated this

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particular point and in so doing, he jerked the camera vertically. It should be noted that a vertical jerk of a camera would not cause a horizontal blur.

Because of the sweeping motion of Zapruder's camera as the latter followed the Presidential limousine, there are numerous blurred frames in the film. The arbitrary selection of three of these blurred frames to match areas where the shots occurred is not reliable evidence. It should be noted that these blurred frames were considered during the evaluation of the Zapruder film by the FBI Laboratory and representatives of the Warren Commission. The blurred frames were not considered strong enough evidence to support any reliable finding as to correlation with gunshots

Although CBS did not have access to the actual camera used by Zapruder nor the actual assassination rifle used by Oswald (both of which were, of course, available to the FBI and were tested by the FBI during the investigation) from tests which CBS performed using similar cameras and similar rifles, CBS concluded that Oswald did, in fact, have ample time to fire the assassination shots in the time span shown on the Zapruder film.

ACTION:

For information.

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