

Mr. Conrad

W. D. Griffith

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63
REQUEST BY INVESTIGATING COMMISSION

Yesterday afternoon Inspector J. R. Malley relayed to the Laboratory an inquiry from Mr. Howard P. Willens from the Commission investigating the President's assassination concerning the Laboratory's examination of one of the movie films showing the shooting sequence. Mr. Willens had stated that he and some of the attorneys working for the Commission will be viewing the "Zapruder" film Monday and would like to ask some questions of a technical nature concerning the manner in which the film was made originally and concerning our findings as a result of the Laboratory examination. I returned Mr. Willens's call promptly yesterday afternoon and arranged to make a Laboratory expert available Monday morning as requested. Mr. Willens was most appreciative.

The Zapruder film is the 8 mm home movie color film shot by Abraham Zapruder showing the whole sequence of events up to and including the shooting of the President. Inspector Gauthier's memorandum of 1/23/64 advises that arrangements will be made to show the Zapruder film and another movie of the same nature to the Commission on 1/27/64. When I talked with Mr. Willens yesterday he at first stated he would like to talk to the expert who originally examined this film and who prepared the Laboratory report concerning it. (This was SA Frederick E. Webb and his Laboratory report is dated 12/20/63.) I told him that the expert, SA Webb, is in St. Joseph, Missouri, handling testimony at a trial out there and is not expected to return until sometime next week but if the Commission desired, I would certainly explore the possibility of having him released by the court to handle the Commission's inquiry. Mr. Willens stated this was not necessary since their operations are "substantially more flexible than that of the courts" and they would prefer to wait until SA Webb returned.

I suggested to him we have other experts who possibly could handle any general technical inquiry and I wanted him to know we would be able to make an alternate expert available if he so desired. He stated actually this might solve the problem since at this time the questions they have in mind are rather general.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Malley)
- 1 - Mr. Callahan (Mr. Gauthier)

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