

(Excerpts from notes of Thomas Stamm 2.9.65)

The Zapruder film takes about half a minute or less to run. Nevertheless it is of decisive importance. It affords a continuous view of the assassination. The continuity of motion of the occupants of the Presidential limousine provides a necessary context and frame of reference for discussion and interpretation of the separate still frames made from the film, and suggests that discussion of individual frames apart from their context in the film may lead to erroneous deductions and conclusions. The film also demonstrates that places on the grassy knoll afforded a continuing and uninterrupted view of President Kennedy along the entire length of Elm Street from Houston Street to the locus of the assassination, and in that respect was a more favorable vantage point for a lone marksman than the TSBDB window. Nor would the sun have been a problem to a rifleman positioned on the grassy knoll.

On other matters relating to the relative merit and superiority of the grassy knoll as the place of origin of the shots which wounded and killed President Kennedy over the TSBDB window, the Zapruder film has no bearing.

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Of greatest importance in the film is the sequence of the fatal shot and its aftermath. This sequence shows President Kennedy thrust violently back against the rear seat, from which he bounces forward and spins off to his left into Mrs Kennedy's arms. Almost immediately he begins to fall away from Mrs Kennedy as she rises in obvious shock, revulsion, and horror and climbs onto the back of the limousine from which she is thrust back into the car by S S agent Hill.

The sudden explosive violence with which President Kennedy is slammed back against the rear seat is unmistakable. It is within the realm of speculative possibility that the violent backward thrust of the President was caused by the sudden acceleration of the limousine, as S S agents

Kellerman and Greer, in the front seats, made their effort to escape the murder site and obtain medical help at Parkland Hospital. Against that thesis is the fact that Mrs. Kennedy is obviously not thrust back but maintains her position while the President gyrates back, forward, and into her arms. Against that thesis, also, is the testimony of Governor and Mrs. Connally, as noted in the Report: "Mrs. Connally heard a second shot fired and pulled her husband down into her lap...The Governor was lying with his head on his wife's lap when he heard a shot hit the President. At that point, both Governor and Mrs. Connally observed brain tissue splatter over the interior of the car. According to Governor and Mrs. Connally, it was after this shot that Kellerman issued his emergency instruction and the car accelerated." (page 50) No other testimony relating to this point is adduced in the Report, and the Commission apparently accepted the testimony of the Governor and his wife as accurate and factual.

The violent backward thrust of President Kennedy occurs, to the eye, at the instant of impact of the fatal shot. The two events appear to be simultaneous and to have the obvious relationship of cause and effect. The service of truth requires no other explanation.

That President Kennedy could have been thrust back violently against the rear seat in consequence of a bullet fired from above and behind him, seems a manifest impossibility. This sequence in the Depruder film, occupying a mere fraction of a second, invalidates the official autopsy finding and demolishes the Commission's thesis and findings of a lone gunman firing from the southeast corner sixth-floor window of the TMB. It makes of the Report a monstrous fabrication erected to obscure the truth which must now be disinterred despite the official verdict.