

14 October 1967

Dear Miss Brunson,

I appreciate your note of the 12th and I am sorry that I became so waspish in response to what seemed to me, perhaps mistakenly, to be undue forcefulness. I am sorry also that I was not as clear as I should have been about your study of the Zapruder frames. The black-and-white frames in the Exhibits were made from a copy of a copy of the film. The amount of clarity and detail that has been lost can only be judged when one compares them with the color slides in the Archives (or, if one has entre, at LIFE's offices). It is really remarkable how the first-generation copy (color slides) illuminate everything, compared with the black-and-white frames in the Exhibits. The first-generation film or its frames would be a much better basis for assessing the frame-to-frame position or movements of the motorcycles—that is what I had in mind, that you might go to the Archives and study the color slides there, as many of the critics have done. I spent a day examining the slides, projected on a large screen, in July 1965, and was greatly rewarded by many new insights which could not be derived from the black-and-white frames.

It may be that you cannot manage the trip to Washington, as many of the critics have not been able to manage because of distance. That would be entirely understandable. Another consideration to bear in mind is that other films made by various spectators that day are being rounded up, mainly by Dick Sprague, and those films may throw additional light on events. That was why I had hoped that you and Sprague would be in touch. I gather that you never heard from him, which is a pity; actually, I have not heard from him either for quite a long time now. Perhaps he is offended by my negative view of Garrison, whom he admires.

Another thing that I probably did not say clearly, and I say it now in a very friendly way, is that if you have strong confidence in your reconstruction, really deep conviction that it provides the answer to the mystery as no one else has done, or done as well, then you should prepare a monograph or article and seek to have it published. No critic, whether Weisberg or myself, would have the same conviction as you, the originator of the theory, nor (speaking for myself) would I appropriate the results of another's study and imagination, nor serve as a midwife or middleman, even if I were less skeptical about the hypothesis. I don't drive a car or even ride a bicycle; so I find myself overwhelmed at the thought that a motorcyclist could perform the act you postulate while continuing to steer his vehicle nonchalantly, and without being detected by eyewitnesses or betrayed in film or photographs.

I have enjoyed our correspondence and I hope that it can continue, with mutual forbearance and better understanding. Heaven knows, I don't want to be pompous and I certainly don't want to be discourteous, ever, so I do hope for your patience on those occasions when I just don't have the time to reply in the kind of detail or at the length commensurate with your letter. Please consider my good will and friendliness as proven, however seemingly curt my letters may be on occasion. Sincerely yours,