

Comments on the Seven Hypotheses (Manuscript from Mrs. Field, Beverly Hills)

A. I agree that Kennedy was hit before frame 210; I had been inclined to place the shot at about frame 204, on the basis of various factors.

B. I agree with the main lines of reasoning posed.

C. My main reason for believing that Kennedy was hit before frame 210 has been what I interpreted as the motion of Mrs. Kennedy's head from her left to her right, with the full turn completed by frame 212. However, one of my colleagues saw the Zapruder color slides at the National Archives at the end of 1964. He was aware of my interpretation of the movement of Mrs. Kennedy's head (based upon the changes in the contour of her hat) and paid special attention to that factor. He insists, however, that my interpretation is not confirmed in the color slides.

The suppression of Zapruder frames 208, 209, 210 and 211 from CE 885 has not been explained in the Warren Report or in testimony. These frames are missing also from the color slides at the National Archives. It is legitimate to ask whether those frames might not have shown some action, movement, or other feature inimical to the official conclusions. If the missing frames were suppressed for an innocent reason, an explanation should have been given in the Warren Report and/or the testimony. (It is surprising that none was attempted.)

The Stemmons Freeway sign can be seen in CE 2114, a photograph made after the assassination on an unspecified date, and perhaps the only photograph which shows all three signs in the following sequence (looking from the TSBD to the overpass):

- (1) Thornton
- (2) Stemmons
- (3) Fort Worth.

I question whether the same sequence applied on the day of the assassination and I believe that the sequence on that date may have been:

- (1) Stemmons
- (2) Thornton
- (3) Fort Worth.

My reasons for this theory are found in the Willis frame no. 5 and the Altgens photograph (showing a man identified now as Billy Lovelady in the doorway of the TSBD). (15H 696) Shaneyfelt states that Willis frame no. 5 corresponds to Zapruder frame 210, or another Zapruder frame within nos. 205 to 225. Willis frame 5 shows the Presidential Car at the Stemmons sign, and the Secret Service men in the follow-up car just behind the President's car looking sharply to the right, at the grassy knoll area. This would mean that upon emerging from the tree at frame 210, the car was already at the second road sign west of the TSBD or that it reached that point in less than one second. Since the car was traveling at 11.2 miles per hour, it moved about 17 feet in one second. Therefore, at Shaneyfelt's outside figure (under which Willis frame no. 5 corresponds to Zapruder frame 225), the car could not possibly have reached the second of the three road signs, which is far more distant from the tree than 17 feet as a mere glance at CS 2114 shows (compare the standing man at the R.L.Thornton sign, on the basis of average male height of 5.5 feet, with other apparent distances in the same photograph).

Shaneyfelt states further (5H 158) that the Altgens photo corresponds to Zapruder frame 255. In that photo both Kennedy and Connally have marked reactions to the shots which have struck them; the Secret Service men on the follow-up car appear to be looking to the right or the right rear--only the back of the head is visible in the case of the agent on the front right fender, who seems to have his eyes fixed on the doorway of the Depository but who may actually have been looking behind him at the grassy knoll area; the other agents, especially the man on the left rear, are looking to the right at the grassy knoll. The follow-up car appears to be slightly in front of the tree which obscures the Presidential car until frame 210. Even allowing for perspective and the

fact that the first of the three road signs is out of view but may be at the same point as the Presidential car, that road sign cannot possibly be the Stemmons sign as the second of three signs shown in CE 2114. Therefore, there is strong evidence for extrapolating the sequence of signs on 11/22/63 as (1) Stemmons (2) Thornton (3) Fort Worth.

Why was it necessary to reverse the positions of the Stemmons and Thornton signs? This became imperative in order to account for the trajectory of about 17° in the President's body wounds as specified in the autopsy report, although Spector in examining the medical witnesses had repeatedly postulated to them a 45° trajectory as an element in the hypothesis of one bullet causing all of Kennedy's and Connally's body wounds. The closer the car to the TSB, the sharper the trajectory. But since even the manipulation of the position of the Kennedy wounds (which places the alleged entrance wound inches above the corresponding hole in the back of the coat) could not produce a sufficiently sharp trajectory, it became necessary to place the car at a greater distance from the TSB at the time of the first bullet that hit Kennedy--by reversing the order of the first two signs.

D. I agree that Kennedy was hit before frame 210 but I am not sure that there is sufficient evidence to determine exactly which frame corresponds with the first bullet that struck him. It may be frame 189 or a few frames later. The reasoning for frame 189 is, however, entirely sound.

E. I hesitate to comment, in the absence of correlation between the postulated hit at frame 227 and the known body wounds.

F. I question the foundation for postulating a left rear head wound at frame 247. If there was a wound at the left temple as reported by McClelland and Huber (also by Jenkins 6H 51 and Giesecke 6H 74), I would relate it to the massive explosive head wound of frame 313, and reject the "official" entrance wound in the back of the head which was not seen except during autopsy and for which no photographic evidence (which is said to exist) has been produced. A head wound or wounds on the right and left sides of the head would eliminate a shot from the sixth floor of the TSB (assuming of course the absence of the wound in the back of the head).

Two separate head wounds would imply at least five shots that hit the two men and a possible sixth that struck the curbsto~~n~~e. There is considerable evidence for four shots, but less foundation for five or more.

G. I concur.

Sylvia Meagher

8 July 1965