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DEAR ART,

YOU WILL RECALL THAT YOU AGREED TO SEND A COPY OF THE NOVEMBER 22 "BLOWUP" ISSUE TO EACH SENATOR, CONGRESSMAN, AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE WARREN COMMISSION. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS WAS COMPLETED, AND I PERSONALLY OBSERVED SOME OF THE MAILINGS BEING PREPARED. BUT DESPITE TED ZATLYN'S INDICATION TO ME (AND I BELIEVE YOURS ALSO) THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ABOVE WOULD BE APPEAR PROMINENTLY IN THE FREE PRESS, THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED. THEREFORE, JUST FOR THE RECORD, I WOULD LIKE A WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM YOU INDICATING THAT THE COPIES WERE SENT.

AS TO JOSIAH THOMPSON'S NEGATIVE REMARKS (JAN 5) REGARDING THE VALIDITY OF THE #5 MAN IN THE MOORMAN PHOTO, THE PROFESSOR MADE A NUMBER OF ERRONEOUS AND/OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS, WHICH SHOULD BE CORRECTED:

(1) HE SAID, ". . . MARILYN SITZMAN WAS STANDING ONLY EIGHT OR NINE FEET FROM WHERE THIS FIGURE APPEARS".

THIS IS INCORRECT. WHILE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE PRECISE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE #5 MAN AND MISS SITZMAN (WHO CAN BE SEEN IN PHOTOGRAPHS STANDING NEXT TO HER EMPLOYER, ABRAHAM ZAPRUDER), IT IS CERTAIN, FROM EXAMINATION OF A SURVEYOR'S ~~MAP~~ MAP OF THE AREA AND VARIOUS PHOTOS, THAT THE DISTANCE IS NOT LESS THAN 20 FEET; AND PROBABLY CLOSER TO 25 FEET.

(2) HE SAID, "MARILYN SITZMAN . . . TOLD ME NO ONE WAS IN THAT AREA".

THIS IS MISLEADING. THOMPSON SHOULD KNOW THAT THE MOORMAN PHOTO CORRESPONDS TO ZAPRUDER FRAME ~~313~~ 314 OR 315; AND AT THIS TIME MISS SITZMAN WAS FACING THE MOTORCADE ON ELM STREET -- AND NOT BEHIND HER TOWARDS THE #5 MAN. THERE IS NO INDICATION -- NOR DOES THOMPSON SUPPLY ANY-- THAT SHE DIVERTED HER ATTENTION FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CAR UNTIL (AT LEAST) AFTER IT DISAPPEARED ~~BEHIND~~ BENEATH THE UNDERPASS SEVERAL SECONDS LATER. BY THIS TIME, OTHER PHOTOS SHOW THAT #5 WAS NO LONGER THERE--AN ABSENCE TO BE EXPECTED OF A PROBABLE CONSPIRATOR AND ASSASSIN ONCE THE ~~SHOOTING~~ SHOOTING WAS OVER (HIS PROBABLE HASTY EXIT TO THE PARKING AREA BEHIND THE KNOLL WOULD HAVE REQUIRED ONLY A FEW SECONDS FROM HIS POSITION).

HOWEVER, EVEN IF--CONTRARY TO THE ACTUAL FACT--SHE HAD BEEN FACING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE #5 MAN AT THE INSTANT OF THE MOORMAN PHOTO, SHE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE HIM; FOR HE WAS HIDDEN FROM HER VIEW BY THE WESTERLY CONCRETE "SHELTER" SECTION OF THE PERGO LA STRUCTURE.

(3) ALTHOUGH THOMPSON CONCEDES ". . . THAT THE (#5) FIGURE SHOWS UP PROMINENTLY IN THE PUBLISHED BEN DAY NEGATIVE . . .", HE SAYS THAT IN ". . . MARY MOORMAN'S ORIGINAL POLAROID PICTURE. . . WITHOUT THE BEN DAY DOTS, THE FIGURE SEEMS TO DISAPPEAR."

HOWEVER, PROFESSOR THOMPSON DID NOT INFORM YOUR READERS OF THE IMPORTANT FACTS THAT, (A) POLAROID PHOTOGRAPHS CAN DETERIORATE MUCH MORE RAPIDLY THAN OTHER TYPES; AND (B) THAT WHEN HE MADE HIS COPY FROM MARY MOORMAN'S ORIGINAL, IT WAS MORE THAN THREE YEARS OLD AND, IN FACT, VERY BADLY DETERIORATED.

(IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT ALL THE TIME THE MOTORCADE WAS ON ELM STREET, MISS SITZMAN WAS RATHER BUSILY ENGAGED, BALANCED PRECARIOUSLY ATOP A NARROW FOUR-FOOT HIGH PEDESTAL, AND WAS STANDING THERE WITH ZAPRUDER IN ORDER TO STEADY HIM AS HE WAS TAKING HIS MOVIE FILM.)

NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE THE VERY POOR CONDITION OF THE ORIGINAL, IT CAN BE DETERMINED BY CLOSELY COMPARING A COPY OF IT WITH A PRINT FROM THE BEN DAY NEGATIVE, THAT THE #5 IMAGE IS THERE. THIS COPY OF THE ORIGINAL MOORMAN PHOTO WAS SUPPLIED TO DAVID LIFTON BY THOMPSON HIMSELF.

(YOU, ART, HAVE SEEN THIS YOUR SELF, I BELIEVE; AS WELL AS ANOTHER EARLIER AND BETTER NON-SCREENED PRINT, WHICH ALSO SHOWS THE #5 MAN)

FURTHER, HIS DENIAL OF THE #5 MAN'S VALIDITY WHILE CONCEDED IT "!! . SHOWS UP PROMINENTLY IN THE PUBLISHED BEN DAY NEGATIVE" IMPLIES THAT THE IMAGE IS AN OPTICAL ILLUSION, ACTUALLY CAUSED ONLY BY THE DOT PATTERN ITSELF. HERE, THOMPSON CHOOSES TO IGNORE THE SIGNED STATEMENTS OF FOUR PHOTO EXPERTS, FROM M.I.T. AND U.C.L.A., WHO MADE THEIR JUDGEMENTS AFTER VIEWING PRINTS FROM THIS VERY BEN DAY NEGATIVE, AND WHO STATED THAT IT WAS "!! . . . HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT THIS IMAGE INDEED REPRESENTS A HUMAN FIGURE". HE IGNORES ALSO THE SKETCHES MADE INDEPENDENTLY BY EACH OF THESE EXPERTS, THREE OF WHICH SHOW #5 MAN HOLDING A STRAIGHT OBJECT.

WHILE REJECTING #5 MAN, ABOUT WHICH THE EXPERTS NOTED SUCH DETAILS AS SUN GLASSES, RECEDING HAIR LINE, APPROXIMATE BUILD AND AGE, ~~HAIR~~, EAR BULGES, COLLAR POINT, SHOULDERS, ARMS, HANDS, AND (APPARENTLY) A STRAIGHT OBJECT BEING HELD BY HIM; PROFESSOR THOMPSON, IN HIS BOOK, PLACES CONSIDERABLE CREDENCE IN A SMALL DARK SPOT, VISIBLE ABOVE THE FENCE IN THIS SAME PHOTO, ON ANOTHER PART OF THE GRASSY KNOLL. THIS SPOT IS TOTALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE AS A HUMAN FIGURE, OR ANY OTHER DEFINABLE OBJECT. BECAUSE THIS SPOT DOES NOT APPEAR IN A TEST PHOTO TAKEN IN DEALEY PLAZA THREE YEARS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, THOMPSON BELIEVES THAT IT REPRESENTS A MAN.

IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE THAT HIS GUESS IS CORRECT; BUT SURPRISINGLY, HE CHOOSES NOT TO APPLY THIS SAME REASONING TO THE FAR MORE COMPELLING #5 MAN -- WHO, SIMILARLY, IS NOT PRESENT IN TEST PHOTOS TAKEN LAST YEAR.

THIS SPOT, DISCOVERED BY THOMPSON, APPEARS IN THREE REPRODUCTIONS OF THE MOORMAN PHOTO PRESENTED ON PAGES 126-128 OF HIS BOOK, "SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS". AGAIN SURPRISINGLY, HE DOES NOT PRESENT THE FULL MOORMAN PHOTO IN HIS BOOK, FOR IN EACH OF THE AFOREMENTIONED THREE VERSIONS, THAT PORTION OF THE PHOTO CONTAINING THE #5 MAN--AND THE ALMOST EQUALLY CONVINCING #2 MAN--HAVE BEEN CROPPED OUT.

PROFESSOR THOMPSON IS, OF COURSE, FREE TO BELIEVE THAT HIS SPOT IS A MAN, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CHOOSING TO BELIEVE THAT THE VISIBLY MORE SUBSTANTIAL #2 AND #5 IMAGES ARE NOT (BOTH OF WHICH WERE DISCOVERED BY DAVE LIFTON, AND WERE WELL KNOWN TO PROFESSOR THOMPSON). IT SEEMS ODD, HOWEVER, THAT HE CHOSE TO CROP THE LATTER TWO FROM HIS VERSIONS OF THE MOORMAN PHOTO; THUS PREVENTING HIS READERS FROM MAKING AN INDEPENDENT JUDGEMENT AS TO THEIR VALIDITY.

SINCERELY,



RAYMOND MARCUS

c//c/ TED ZATLYN