

16 May 1969

Mr. Robert W. Johnson
405 E. Villa
Pasadena, Calif. 91106

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I do not recall any statement by Zapruder along the lines you suggest. In his Warren Commission testimony, he said, "...I was still shooting the pictures until he got under the underpass--I don't even know how I did it. And then, I didn't even remember how I got down from that abutment there, but there I was, I guess, and I was walking toward--back toward my office..." (7H 571).

It is possible, of course, that Zapruder elaborated on or altered his account in press or television interviews in recent years but I do not have a recollection of any substantial change in his description of filming the event (he did change his original statement about the direction of the shots, in a 1967 CBS-TV interview, saying that they had come from the Book Depository).

I did not see the original Zapruder film at Life but a very good first-generation copy (whereas the Warren Commission saw a copy of a copy). This viewing took place in December 1966 and my memory has dimmed somewhat about the terminal point of the film. I believe that it ended as the car went out of sight into the underpass, with perhaps a few frames beyond that of the knoll, at the picket-fence area, on the right.

A researcher who is now working on the Zapruder film has stated that "later portions of this film (after the shooting, when the car has disappeared from view under the underpass) show the grassy knoll to the right of Zapruder"--which suggests that he may have turned his camera around in the manner you suggest. The same researcher points out that frames 1 to 170, and 335 to 486, are omitted from CE 885 (black and white individual frames of the Zapruder film).

I am very happy to know that you find Accessories helpful. Please feel free to write again if I can be of assistance or if you would like to tell me about any research you are doing. With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York, N.Y. 10014