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August 30, 1968

PERSONAL

Dr. Josiah D Thompson, Jr.
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Haverford College
Haverford, Pennsylvania

✓ Miss Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12th St.
New York, New York 10014

Dear Folks:

I promised both of you a letter after our trip to New York to inspect the Zapruder pictures. As I want to be sure to report this accurately, I am sending a copy to Miss Scobey and asking that she correct me if it is in order to do so.

First, let me tell you that I remain convinced that Miss Scobey is 100% honest and sincere, and that she too is a seeker of truth.

In talking about our plans on the way up, Miss Scobey indicated she was trying to keep an open mind and volunteered that if she found anything which would change her original opinion, that she would take action on it.

Secondly, I must admit that the trip has helped me to appreciate the task which was originally faced by the Warren Commission and its staff. Everything is simple once it has been analysed and understood, but we must remember this is not so in the beginning.

To summarize our findings I believe I can say that we are in agreement: that the first shot reaching its mark hit Kennedy while he was obstructed from view by the sign. Immediately prior to this he is smiling and waving with an open hand; immediately afterward he is raising clenched hands to his throat or face area and grimacing.

Next, we were able to see the action cited by Dr. Thompson in frames 237-240. This was in slide form, rather than 4"x8" enlargements as the latter were missing from the series (Ed Kern thought these were elsewhere



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in the building but the people with access were not available). Even in the slides, the pictures are clearer than the drawings in published book form. Governor Connally's hair disarrangement and the puffing of his jowl are obvious. Miss Scobey feels that the jowl may have been enlarged earlier but unnoticed as there was a shadow over part of his face in earlier frames. I saw the shadow to which she referred, but felt it only partially obstructed observation of the area, and the remainder did not show the puff. Neither of us, looking at the pictures one at a time, could discern the shoulder movement which Dr. Thompson found in overlapping the frames. Mr. Kern explained that he had worked with Dr. Thompson on this and that the motion was distinct. Miss Scobey felt we could take Dr. Thompson's word and Mr. Kern's word for this.

These events appear to jive with Governor Connally's testimony.

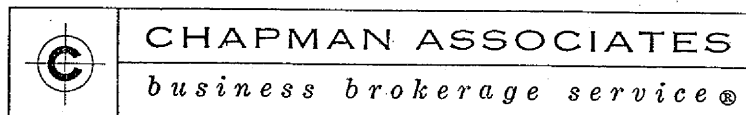
Even recognizing that these three actions take place simultaneously, there remains the question of whether it was instantaneous or a delayed, traumatic reaction. I plan to consult with some medical people on this.

In viewing the movie film we were aided by a most helpful projectionist, but an old fashioned piece of equipment. There was no automatic stop action and he had to do this by hand. Even so, it is possible to see the short forward motion, then leftward thrust of Kennedy's head, in the last shot to reach him, then this is seen even more clearly in the slides and 4x8's.

Miss Scobey pointed out one frame in this series as having a white spot above Kennedy's right ear. We saw it on only one frame. That evening in rereading, I noticed that a number of witnesses had described a wound in this area, including the doctors at Parkland Hospital.

Then we found a 4x8 shot which must be the last frame, or close to it. It shows the front corner of the picket fence to the right as the President's car starts under the underpass.

Not visible to the naked eye, but under the magnifying glass there appears two small flesh colored globs, between the top of the fence (rather easily discernible due to sunlight reflections) and the foliage of the bushes immediately above. My impression is that each was a little smaller in width than a picket, and they were in close proximity so that they could have been a single blob, divided by a leaf. The foliage in this area is all black, being



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the shadow side. The color of the blob was compared with other yellows in the same picture - i.e., yellow leaves on the far left outside the shadows - and the blob is distinctly different in color from all others. It is flesh colored.

Mr. Edward Kern took a glass and another copy of the same print and was able to see this also - both location and color.

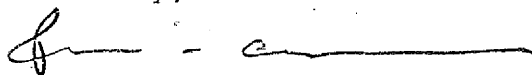
Since returning I have checked and found the location coincides with the shape which appears in the Mary Moorman photo. The two different camera angles gives a "fix" and this in turn conforms to the mass of footprints found here.

It is difficult for Miss Scobey to believe the Warren Report may have come to the wrong conclusion, based in part on the enormous manpower effort, mass of testimony, and financial resources which were behind it. However she does agree with me that bigness does not necessarily lead to perfection.

I would ask that we all do further research on Governor Connally's actions/ reactions, and exchange our findings.

May we yet find the truth to the satisfaction of all our consciences.

Sincerely,



Paul H Chapman

PHC:fh

c.c.

Miss Alfreda Scobey

Mr. Edward Kern

P.S.

Having quoted Ed Kern here I am sending him a copy also.

PHC