

20 November 1970

The Editor
The New York Times
Times Square
New York 10036

Dear Sir:

After seven years we are making definite progress in the matter of Oswald ("The Real Lee Harvey Oswald," by Priscilla McMillan, page 41, this date). Mrs. McMillan, after five years of study, tells us that Oswald liked and identified with President Kennedy and that "he did not much want Kennedy to be dead." If she would spend five months studying the hard evidence and the forensic data, or five minutes viewing the Zapruder film in the National Archives, she might well reach the conviction that Oswald in fact did not kill JFK.

A viewing of the Zapruder film should be sufficient to convince any impartial person that the fatal head shot, which threw JFK back and left with force and velocity that can be ascribed to nothing other than a bullet impact, came from the front and right of the car. (The New York Times was mistaken in asserting, in the recent obituary of Abraham Zapruder, that the head moved forward upon impact of the fatal shot.)

Among the audiences who have viewed the Zapruder film, only the Warren Commission and its investigative aides seemingly failed to notice and understand the backward, leftward thrust. That prima facie proof of crescent fire and conspiracy was never mentioned in the Warren Report or the 26 volumes of Hearings and Exhibits.

The motion of the body upon impact of the fatal head shot is only one of a large number of hard facts which are inimical to the hypothesis of a lone assassin. Many inimical, ambiguous and contradictory findings lie in the central area of the autopsy, the wounds, and the ballistics. A medical panel that reviewed the autopsy photographs and X-rays in 1968 for the Government found that the supposed small bullet entrance wound in the back of the head was four inches higher than the site described by the 1963 autopsy surgeons. The 1968 panel also found bullet fragments in the neck where none had been visible in 1963, and still other serious anomalies.

These and still other unresolved problems too numerous to catalogue here present compelling reason to reopen the whole investigation of the Dallas assassination. So long as we lack conclusive evidence of how the President was killed—how many bullets, from what weapons, from which directions—psychological assessment of Oswald's personality is simply irrelevant. Even if Mrs. McMillan's attempt to achieve insight into Oswald is more objective than earlier sordid pronouncements by certain psychiatrists, it is still irrelevant because Oswald was not, as he was charged, a lone assassin. However persistently the news media attempt to bury the Oswald issue in the coffin of the so-called lone assassin, the flagrant defects of the official inquiry and the prosecution evidence will testify that the tragedy of 11/22/63 has been compounded by disregard for truth and for justice.

Yours sincerely,

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(Author of Subject Index to the Warren Report and Accessories After the Fact)