

# KCOP, ABC FLOODED WITH LETTERS, PHONE CALLS Public response to assassination film overwhelming, support needed for Congressional investigation

## TOM THOMPSON

That was the week that was. The week the American public, on a mass scale, was finally able to view the infamous Zapruder film that depicts the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

As reported in last week's *Free Press* (March 7) and on two TV shows, Mort Sahl's (*Both Sides Now - KCOP*) and Geraldo Rivera's (*Goodnight America - ABC*), the brief 8mm film — taken by Dallas clothingmaker Abraham Zapruder as the presidential caravan moved through Dallas' Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963 — shatters once and for all the Warren Commission contention that President Kennedy was fatally shot from behind by a lone assassin.

The film, purchased by Time, Inc. immediately following the assassination, was never widely shown to the public until last week. It shows unmistakably that the fatal shot which tore the president's head apart was a frontal attack — a direct visual denial of the Warren Commission findings!

### Angry/Shocked Response

Comedian-researcher Dick Gregory posed the following question to the *Free Press* after a recent showing of the film: What happens when the mass of the people see this film? That question was answered last week when ABC and KCOP aired it and hundreds of thousands of Americans had front-row seats. Since then, both the ABC network and KCOP have been flooded with telegrams, letters and phone calls commending the stations for having the courage to put the evidence on the air and ask-

ing the vital question: who *really* killed JFK?

Los Angeles independent TV station KCOP aired the Zapruder film Wednesday night (March 5) and the following morning the response was so overwhelming that an additional person had to be hired to handle the telephone calls. Viewers, both grateful and irate, have to date sent in several sacks of mail, eliciting from *Both Sides Now* production assistant Shelby Livingston this comment: "An exceptional reaction — by far the most and best response we've had to any show." According to Livingston, most callers asked how to go about demanding an official investigation of the assassination.

At ABC network headquarters in New York, *Goodnight America* associate producer Elene Berg termed the response to the Thursday night showing of the Zapruder film "astonishing." Like KCOP's report of viewer-reaction, Berg says the showing of the film has resulted in "the most response of any show to date; we've had calls from all over the country."

Calls and letters have been so heavy at ABC that the network decided to devote the next *Goodnight America* program, airing March 27, entirely to the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the coverup by the Warren Commission.

### More Coverup

It is curious that much of the evidence sought by investigators attempting to unravel the true facts of the JFK assassination has been buried in the national archives for the past 11 years. Among the most important of those suppressed

documents are the results of two chemical tests, respectively known as "spectrographic analysis" and "neutron activation analysis," analyzing the exact composition of bullets by ballistics experts.

Considered the best available

tests for determining a group of bullets could have been fired from the same gun, those tests were made on the assassin's bullets. Despite the validity and importance of those tests, the results were never made public.

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# ASSASSINATION

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were never entered into evidence and were never even reviewed by the Warren Commission!

Among the many investigators seeking to obtain the test results are Maryland private investigator Harold Weisberg and Dallas U.S. Justice Department Attorney Kenneth Mighell. Mighell recently attempted to obtain the test results from the FBI, but his request was flatly denied by Washington FBI officials, who told him that the spectrographic analysis would not be released to anyone.

Weisberg, taking a more dependable legal tack is presently suing the Justice Department under the newly liberalized Freedom of Information Act for the release of the test results. Weisberg contends that the tests have been "suppressed" because they prove that bullets from more than one gun were used in the assassination and that such knowledge

would further discredit the Warren Commission finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone assassin.

(Ironically, the Freedom of Information Act, which Weisberg is using in an attempt to gain access to the potentially damning evidence, was just recently passed — despite the veto by President Gerald Ford, who as a Warren Commission member was among the most vocal supporters of the lone-gunman theory.)

## Congress Has The Ball

The overwhelming response by an outraged public to the Zapruder film comes at a time when Congress is being asked to reopen the assassination investigations of the Kennedy brothers, Martin Luther King and the near-assassination of George Wallace.

Congressperson Henry Gonzalez, D-Tex., has introduced a resolution (H.R. 204) in the U.S. House of Representatives asking that a select committee be appointed to conduct an investigation and study the circumstances surrounding the

assassinations (see *Free Press* March 7 for details of Gonzalez resolution).

## What Can You Do?

The Gonzalez resolution has been referred to the House Committee on Rules, whose chairperson is Rep. Ray Madden, D. Ind. Gonzalez has appealed to "all concerned citizens" to write Madden and their own Congresspersons demanding that an early hearing be held and that an official investigation be undertaken. (Mail for members of the House of Representatives may be addressed to: House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; mail for Senators to: New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.)

Those wishing to express their opinion on the reopening of the John F. Kennedy assassination may also fill out the following form and return it to the *Free Press*. (JFK Assassination, 5850 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., 90028). All forms sent to the *Free Press* will be appropriately forwarded.

I believe that certain facts concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy have been withheld from the public and that only by conducting a full Congressional investigation will the truth have any chance of emerging. I hereby demand in the name of justice and truth that a Congressional investigation be held at the earliest possible date.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_