THAT'S GOOD NEWS ABOUT JIM

CONFIDENTIAL

4640 NOBLE AVENUE SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91403

August 14, 1970

Dear Mary and Sylvia,

Nice to hear you two are putting your heads together at long last. I can't think of any two critics who could advance knowledge of this case more, and, only wish I could be there to listen to the dialog.

As you may know, and as your phone call this morning indicated, Mary -- I have not been getting on with David.

Our meeting with Life Magazine really ended things for me - or I should say the letter Dave sent me after this meeting did it. Dave is beyond all doubt one of the most devious, scheming, plotting individuals I've ever come across. I had indications of this long ago, but ignored them and considered him to be brilliant, though a bit weird. He helped me to get rid of the Garrison syndrome ("enemy's are all about us") and start looking at the evidence and the record again.

Then we started distributing films and making slides from the proceeds. That went along well until I noticed that he was going outside of our "partnership" and making separate deals using jointly held material in order to finance his research. This didn't bother me much at the time except when I had a hard time gaining access to these jointly held films.

I also noticed that when he sold material to others (documents) he would first remove the good stuff and distribute the junk. He once told me, in regard to his ABNP order, that "I can't distribute that to the other critics!" It was a receipt for a missle recovered during the autopsy at Bethesda, I believe. $\pm \text{D(D'NT SCE TH(S POCUMENT, AS})$ HE ONLY TOLD MUC ABOUT IT ON THE PHENE. HE would always, very graciously, offer a free xerox service to me whenever I got some new info and thus gain a copy for himself. I got a little nervous when I discovered that this service, while free, entailed Dave's going to UCLA between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. in the morning - disabeling a xerox machine so that it wouldn't count copies - and stealing the paper. He would do this regularly each weekend, consuming 1,000 to 5,000 copies for his files. He

soon wound up printing all weekend and selling this to critics at 5¢ per copy. It's a living I guess.

Between stealing xeroxs, using the phones and perloining equipment and office supplies, I would guess UCLA is out thousands during this three year period. As you may know, he has picked locks and used master keys to get into Wesley Liebler's files and much classified material that Liebler had no business keeping. So he's not above using any means necessary to gain his end. Now I knew this, yet, I was still surprised when he pulled that deal at Life. I don't know why I should be. I know better, but I still felt sorry for him and wanted to help make his book important. It may be important, but at this point I'm not sure. I like to think it will be, but I'm so god damn mad at him that my judgement may be biased.

Anyway, back to Life. As soon as you mentioned that remor to me about Life putting the z film on the market, I called my friend Dennis Roy and we discussed checking this out. Dennis called Life and talked to some girl in their library, and then to Dick Pollard. Dennis fibbed and said he represented a group out here that was interested in buying the film. Pollard agreed that it was for sale and wanted to know who Dennis represented - and Dennis said he would write a letter giving Pollard the particulars.

Dennis next called me with the good news and we discussed the possibility of finding a front man who would lend us his letterhead so we could examine the film and make a bid on it. We "knew" the film was not a camera original and that Life would misrepresent it as "the original" so any bid we made would be subject to the authenticity of the material sold.

MIKE

I called my friend, Mke Farrell - an actor and good friend who headed the "Who Killed Kennedy Committee" - and presented the problem to him. He offered to help and called back in a couple of days with a name of a man and an appointment for us. This man was Cal Bernstein, of Dove Films - who's partner was William Wexler (producer of the award winning film "Medium Cool").

At this point Dave Lifton and Jack Clemente entered the picture.

- Dennis and I invited David and Jack because:
 - 1. We wanted to help Dave and his book.
 - 2. Jack could assist in the photographic analysis.

The four of us met with Cal Bernstein and we explained to him our interest in seeing this film, our research to date and why this was important. Bernstein agreed and said he would contact his partner and get his okay. This was done and a letter was drafted on Dove Film's letterhead that went to Life's Richard Pollard.

At first Life wanted Dove (which meant Dennis, Dave, Jack and me) to pay for the courrier transportation out to the coast. This was later changed and Life agreed to send the films out no charge.

Dave then wrote an agenda for our meeting with Life - assigning tasks for the four of us - a rather good agenda.

We had a meeting to hash this over and got equipment and generally briefed ourselves for the meeting. During this period David started talking about turning this "Operation Verify" into something he called "Operation Hiest" - stealing Life's copy by switching with one of our copies. Dennis and I warned Dave we would have none of this and Dave indicated that he was only kidding. However, you can imagine my surprise and anger when - as we were getting out of my car in the parking lot at Life - Dave nervously spilled about four copies of the z film together with four different colored film spools - all over the front seat of my car in a tangled mess.

He apparently had these films loose in his coat pocket ready for "Operation Hiest". He also admitted later that he had prepared two identical brief cases, one for each operation. Dennis and Jack did not see this - only Greg, my son, and I saw Dave scrambling around trying to wind z films on spools in the car as the rest were carrying equipment inside the building. That started things off badly for me.

I carried a 35mm camera in to the meeting on the chance that I would have an opportunity to copy slides or transparancies. Dave knew about this and approved. Taking a photo of a Brinks truck is not the same as stealing a sack of their money. I was not going to jeopardize this meeting by clicking away with the Life rep in the room and I did not hide the camera and it's case.

Dave and Jack started to work counting frames and working on the Recordac reader. Dennis and I eye-balled the slides and transparancies.

The Life rep left us alone with the door locked so I got out my camera and snapped a shot of one transparancy. Dave hit the roof and started yelling - so did Jack - only Dave more so.

I got mad, got up, put the camera away, walked over and pushed David around, preparatory to belting him one. Jack separated us and I calmed down. We completed our work and left. As we were loading the car to leave Dave asked Dennis and I if we had taken one of Life's films.

That set me off again. I drove Dave to his place and let him off, then went home. Soon things turned up missing:

- 1. Dave left his z copies in my car.
- 2. I couldn't find my notes but later found them.
- 3. Dave kept my copy of his agenda HE BORROWED IT AT THE MEETING,
- 4. Dennis lost his correspondence with Life Dave has them. 5. Jack kept the drawings I made at Life and has not
- returned them.

In spite of all of this, I then sat down and wrote a 7 page memo WHAT on this meeting and sent a copy to Jack, David and Dennis.

We were going to summarize our findings and write one memo for Mr. Wexler so he could advise Life when his "fixex film technicians" thought of the film. That was our agreed plan. As of this date I have not heard from Jack or Dave in reply to my memo or the results of their research. I've called Jack and he said he would send me his research, but no luck yet.

DAUG ALSO MADE ME ANDAM AWHILE BACK WHEN HE ADMITTED TAKING SOME CORRESPONDANCE OF YOURS (MARY) FROM MY DESK AND WHICING OUT OF MY HOUSE WITH IT. HE COPIED IT AND RETURNED IT AFTER I TOLD HIM HE COULD NOT DO SO. Dave has indicated to Dennis that he is not going to share anything. He even went right ahead and planned a trip to New York to talk to Life without first discussing it with us. I got more furious. His trip to New York didn't work out so now he's planning to meet with Wexler this month - alone.

David has been busy driving wedges between Jack and I and Dennis and I. With Jack I think he has succeeded, but new with Dennis.

I deliberately did not send you a memo on this as I hoped things could be worked out and I could give you the benefit of this group project. It makes me sick that things worked out so badly, especially since you were responsible for the original lead.

My memo, in it's present form, is incomplete and almost worthless.

On my own though, and using Volume 18, I have been able to prove that this film was put on an optical printer and a segment enlarged - beginning at frame 318.

I am familiar with prix optical printers and know that this work can be done in one hour's time and that the result will not show mechanical splicing. You can also program the printer to skp every other frame and thus speed up the motion of the film (to get rid of a car stop, for instance.)

This enlarging could have been done to get rid of material on both sides of the picture. Check frame <u>312 against frame 321</u> and note the difference in the size of the girl at the top of the picture.

Also, in frame 317 there is a noticable change in perspective of the car to the lense indicating that the car has moved further down the street than it should have in 1/18 of a second.

It is at this point that the car must have radically slowed or stopped and film has been removed. The only thing that can account for this is film removal and optical printing. Some photo retouching was necessary to get away with this, and this too was evident when I looked at Life's transparancies under magnification.

Sometime while you and Sylvia are discussing things, could you two give me an opinion regarding the testimony in Volume 5 - bottom paragraph on page 473 and top third of page 474. Is this a move by RFK introduced through a sympathetic congressman? This strikes me as being significant and I'm trying to get a copy of this bill and the debate on this bill. The timing on this bill is fascinating.

Bless you two, FRED

MARY & SILVIA

TO: JACK, DENNIS AND DAVE FROM: FRED REWCOMB

PRELIMARY NOTES

confidential

Please excuse errors in spelling, syntax and punctuation, etc.

- <u>SUBJECT</u>: Examination of Zapruder film 8 and 16mm versions, 35mm slides, film strip and transparancies.
- WHEN: June 22, 1970. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- WHERE: Offices of Time Life, Inc; Beverly Hills, California
- WHO PRESENT: Dennis Roy, David Lifton, Jack Clemente, Fred Newcomb, Greg Newcomb and Miss Ann Drayton of Tine Life, Inc. (title)
- BACKGROUND: Dennis Roy, acting as representative for Dove Films, Inc., of Los Angeles telephonically contacted Mr. Richard Pollard of Time/Life on ______ and learned that Time/Life was interested in selling certain photographic materials related to the assassination of President Kennedy.

Arrangements were made by Mr. Roy with Mr. Pollard for an inspection of these materials in Los Angeles by Mr. Roy and his colleagues on June 22nd.

Mr. Pollard of Time/Life, New York, instructed Miss Ann Drayton (title) to courier the photographic materials to Los Angeles for examination.

THE MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY TIME/LIFE Miss Drayton began the meeting by displaying the material she

had brought which included:

- ITEM #1 one reel containing two 8mm color prints of Abraham
 Zapruder's film an amateur movie film taken on
 November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas showing the
 assassination of President Kennedy.
- ITEM #2 one set of 35mm color slides each slide consisting of an enlargement of a single frame of the Zapruder film. Miss Drayton said the slide set included the complete movie except the begining portion, which contained personel scenes - (approximately 14 frames

filmed by Mr. Zapruder before the motorcade arrived in the plaza where Mr. Zapruder was standing.) (It should be noted that the Zapruder film in the National Archives contains 118 frames of personal scenes.) This slide set was contained in three Kodac Carrousel slide projector trays.

- ITEM #3 one roll (film strip) of continous 35mm color film
 made from the Zapruder movie. This film strip con tained the same material as the 35mm slide set
 described above.
- ITEM #4 one set of 4x5" color transparancies. Each transparancy consisted of an enlargement of a single frame from the Zapruder 8mm movie. A total of 164 color transparancies were in this set. Frame numbers were assigned to each transparancy - the numbers being #166 through #206 and #211 through #333. Transparancies bearing frame numbers 207, 208, 209, and 210 were not included.
- ITEM #5 one 16mm color film containing two prints of the Zapruder movie. The first portion of this film being a print of the Zapruder movie at regular speed followed by another print of the same movie in slow motion.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT USED IN THE EXAMINATION

- 8mm Bell and Howell Multi-Motion Autoload Super 8/regular 8mm movie projector - model 4672. This projector can be set for three speeds - normal, slow motion and step motion.
- 16mm sound projector capable of normal speed only in this case, 24 frames per second.
- 3. Recordak 35mm microfilm reader.

4. Kodac 35mm Carrousel slide projector.

5. Table model light box.

6. 8mm film syncronizer - used for frame counting.

THE EXAMINATION

First, Item #1 - the 8mm Zapruder film was projected approximately six times using normal, slow and step projection speeds.

Miss Drayton explained that this particular copy was made from a <u>Dallas duplicate</u> of this film. The genealogy of the various prints of this film was described as follows:

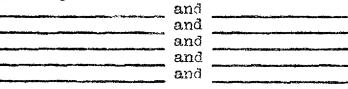
FIRST GENERATION: Camera original film

- SECOND GENERATION: Described as <u>Dallas duplicate</u> is a copy made while the original film was in Dallas. Testimony before the Warren Commission indicates that three copies were made from the original film.
- THIRD GENERATION: Copy of the Dallas duplicate. The print under examination June 22, 1970 at Time/Life, Beverly Hills was represented by Miss Drayton to be third generation copy.

This Third generation copy was projected and the following information was obtained.

- 1. The film contained _____ frames.
- 2. This film consisted of two prints spliced together to make one film. It was noted that the film switched in color balance (from warm to cool colors) in two places. Once in the area of frame number (156?) and another time áround frame number (207?).

Observable splicing was noted between frames:



-3-

3. No mechanical splices were noted on the 8mm film examined. All of the splices observed were photographic. That is, they were photographic immages of mechanical splices on some previous generation copy.

4. This third generation print contained frame numbers: 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 and 212.

5. As previously described, a splice was noted between frames #156 and #157 (?). Some frames have been removed from the movie at this point which causes the limousine to lurch forward suddenly and unnaturally when the film is examined in motion.
6. A splotch or imperfection of considerable size was appeared in frame #258. It should be noted that this imperfection has appeared in every 8mm version of this film I have seen - also in the French 16mm version.

7. One method to determine whether this film was, as described, a third generation print was to check to see which side of the film stock contained the photographic emulsion. The film was examined by Jack Clemente and he determined that this print was indeed a third generation copy, having the same emulsion characteristics as a first generation print. (This also means that a second and fourth generation print would appear the same.) The images in this film were inverted and reverted. The emulsion side of the film contained the sprocket holes on the left hand edge.

NOTE: This method of determining the generation of a print is not entirely certain since a <u>duplicate negative</u> could confuse the issue. (Question Jack here.)

It goes without saying that the clearity of a film suffers with each succeeding generation, so telling a first generation from a third is a simple problem when viewed together.

-4-

ITEM #2 - set of 35mm slides.

Miss Drayton advised that this slide set was produced from the 16mm film (Item #5). The photographic images were not visable between the sprocket holes in these sliles. This could mean that the slide set was produced from a film that had this material masked off - machine duplication looses this material automatically - or the equipment that produced the slides caused this masking.

ITEM #3 - 35mm film strip

This strip was produced, we were advised, from the 16mm version of the film and contained ______ frames.

A splice in some previous generation film was noted at frame #154 and from #155 (see attached sketch). This film did not contain the color changes noted in the 8mm copy (Item #1). Color balance was consistant throughout.

Frame numbers ____, ___, ___, ___, were not included in this film.

ITEM #4 - 4x5" COLOR TRANSPARANCIES

Color balance seemed consistant throughout. Miss Drayton said this set of transparancies were used to produce the black and white version as printed in Volume 18 of the Warren Commission Hearings and Exhibits.

An area in the front windshield of the limousine appeared to have da large white glare or highlight envelope it at frame #330. Under magnification, this flare did not look like a normal sun reflection, but rather like the shattering produced by some projectile striking the glass.

Previous examination of two still photographs both taken by A.P. photographer Altgens -- one (#6) showing no scar on the windshield and the next, (#7) showing a scar -- indicated that the front windshield of the limousine was struck by a bullet at approximately this point on Elm Street.

-5-

Evidence: Photographic retouching was noted between frames #214and #333 in the area of film occupied by the driver of the limousine. In some cases his movements were distorted or obliterated. This was obvious to me, especially in frame #243 and #216. (I have movie films taken from Mr. Zapruder's position on November 22, 1969 under similiar lighting conditions - 12:30 p.m. - of a car driving down Elm Street and have no trouble "making out" the driver.)

Frame #212 was masked so that the material between the sprocket holes was not visible. Also in frame #212 JFK's head - as it appeared over the Stemmons sign, was dyed a dark bluish color for some unknown reason.

The impact on the President's head at frame #313 produced a yellow/orange burst as viewed on the 5x7 transparancies. The aftereffects of this hit - which appeared as if made an explosion - left a hole in the right temple and caused a flap to appear above and below the hole (sketch attached) in frame #323.

Gov. Connally, who had been facing Zapruder at frame #307 facing and leaning backwards towards his wife - was, in frame #323 sitting up, facing the front of the car apparently looking at the occupants of the front seat.

Connally's right hand was in a position to have been hit by the projectile that seems to strike the front windshield at frame #330. But this is speculation.

ITEM #5 - 16mm copy of Zapruder film.

We were told by Miss Drayton that this 16mm print was produced from the Dallas duplicate (second generation) when this print was projected it was noted that this film was far superior to the 8mm copy (Item #1). Miss Drayton said this film was made using a "watergate" method of duplication.

-6-

The color balance changes - the switch from warm to cool colors characteristic to the 8mm copy, were not visable here. Warm colors predominated this print - or the print was on the "warm side."

The splice at frame #156/157 and resulting gap in the 8mm copy was not in this copy. Rather, there was a large visible splice in frame #154 and another in frame #155, in this 16mm version. (See sketch.)

Visual examination of this film indicated that (the picture extended between the sprocket holes? - did not extend between the sprocket holes?)

JACK - were mechanical splices detected in this copy:

There were _____ frames in this film.

There were ______ frames missing from this copy. It also appeared that one of the occupants of the front seat probably the passenger - stood up in his seat in the area of frame #462.

In summary - the differences between the 8mm version, Item #1 and the 16mm version, Item #5 were as follows: (Jack and Dave supply answers:)

	§franes	splices	frames	missing	other
8mm					
1 6mm					
35mm		~ × [*] *	.*	• •	

ONFIDENTIAL

5:00

THAT WAS GOING TO PRODUCE A MICTIO FOR WEXLER? I COULD'NT SPOT MUY 118182 Dorothy St. "DATA KU THIS LETTER" - IS A PARE Fred Newcomb Missing >

WHAT MADAJED TO THE TEAM EFFORT

L.A. Calif. 90049 June 28, 1970

Dear Fred,

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A TRUÉ

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s

Sherman Oaks, Calif.

4640 Noble

In view of the events of the past week, (1) thought it might be useful to put certain views and opinions in writing.

Re the incident at the offices of Time-Life...... Vulu \mathcal{WERW} WHEN WE EXAMINED THE ZAPRUNEL FILM IN BOU, HILLS ? (I) am sure you know what a "straw man " argument is. It is when a person misrepresents an issue at hand, and addresses himself -to the misrepresentation, rather than the issue itself.

(I)feel that this is exactly what you have done in this case, thereby permitting you to see yourself as the innocent victim of my unjust charges, rather than (myself) as the victim of your unwise actions.

You have reacted to the whole incident of last Monday as if the issue was whether or not (1) was unjustly accusing you of theft, and was thereby impugning your integrity and honesty.

This is a gross misreprentation and oversimplification of what really was at stake.

If (I) were about to enter a room where some item of evidence existed to which (1) might not ever again be given access , and which ---as evidence --- was so conclusive that it could conceivably "solve" the entire JFK assassination -- "break the case", etc. --- if only such an item could be retrieved from the room, than I believe I would do everything in my power to get the item retrieved from the room, and use it appropriately, whether that meant going with it to appropriate officials, or journalists, or what not. , STEAL ? NOT ME y horasi (I/would then gladly serve my sentence in jail for "theft", if

it really ever came to that, with no more conscience qualms than a man who refuses induction accepts the consequences for his - ma faller

Our Juno TETRI (I)do not believe that any situation such as the one I_{j} to hypothetically described above existed on Mcnday. Quite to 14 if the contrary, there was every indication that future access to to a NewYork City trin to evening and (I)look forward most keenly to a NewYork City trip to examine originals, and question staff people there about various pertinent matters.

Therefore, when---to my shock and suprise---I saw you clicking away with a fully loaded 35mm camera, my instantan_ious reaction 1745 $\mathsf{H}_{\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{U}}}$ was that by your action, you were jeapordizing the entire operation not at that time, as well as any future legitamate relationship with 21 JU 51 + Life Magazine, a relationship which (1) certainly would not want to hurt in any way, not only because of the key evidence they possess, in which () am interested as a researcher, but also because () will STARIS soon have completed a panuscript and, if they are sympathetic and

June 20, 1970 might (not alienated, they/conceivably be interested in buying You They serialization rights. Finally, these are the people with whom THOY WHE a publisher of my work would have to deal if they wanted to obtain permission to publish certain Zapruder frames. therp you? LIFE MELPS LIF (I)was fully aware of these considerations and , at the BLOW THE CASE moment that (I) saw just what it was you were doing, my instant reaction was to tell you to cease such activity immediately, and The camera away. You your, "Hey FRED CUT THAT OUT." - LOUD ENCOURT TO BE HEARD DOWN THE HINC. You will surely understand that I had no concern at that put the camera away. moment for whether or not you don't care to be "yelled at". , BIG ATTACK 1 NNIS Your reaction, in response to my spontaneous outburst, was to oulert. rise from your chair and actually come across to where I was standing, and physcially attack me. (I have been under the impression) that you threw a punch at me, though Dennis insists I was "only" NUEN ITTY isocr shoved. I also recollect that one of them helped pull you off me, FINDE TENS From that moment on, (I) became convinced that whereas (I) had carefully planned out a legitamate research program to take place is with in that room, typed up and distributed copies of it, rehearsed with Jack the taking of various measurements as efficiently and j23. quickly aspossible, and rented much of the equipment as well pas made provision for the microfilm reader -----you had meanwhile J come to view this opportunity from an entirely different strategic intect I DID. WE BUSHE (I) realized then that you viewed the situation in the viewpoint. way I described IX at the beginning of this letter, as a once in a lifetime opportunity to photograph evidence which would support your theory of the assassination ---- perhaps a transparency showing a Secret Service man in the front of the presidential limousine turning around, gun in hand, shooting the President of the United States. n zertanet It was with great dismay that (I realized, at that moment, that you did not view this as a team operation at all! But that rather, you came into that room prepared to jeapordize the interest of others (and certainly my interests, previously described) NAUKCAM in the service of proving your own pet assassination theory: that the agent in the front of the car shot the President , and that elear transparencies to which you would be given access to for that one USCI IS IN day in your whole life, would show this to be true. GREAT LINE ECAF Of course, no transparency or film material showed any such thing. , TITE S. S MED THUE GUESS - TREESAND BUSHES DO NOT. ed crains But that is not really the point. Let us assume that it had. monistre Even if it had ---- don't you think there were other ways to handle y.U.L the situation?? OPINEDL Don't you think that ---- if such an image existed on any material wewere shown --- that this called for a meeting on the minds among us all as to what to do about it??? This SURE EVENY BOY WOULD HAVE MISSED TITIS AND WE WOULD SEE THIS FOR THE FIRST After all, there is more than one issue involved here. Another TIM. and and far more probable and provable one is the question of whether the Z film Life bought is a copy made on an optical printer. WELL SEE In the last analysis, a trip to New York City and future contacts with Time-Life will be necessary to develop the evidence necessary to resolve this matter with certainty.

* EVER ATEM OF PITON RETRUCTIONS?

Fred Newcomb Win Tou

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(In this regard, I) would hope that you realize the importance ي ريغ of keeping the contact with Life in strictest confidence, until after my trip to New York has taken place. Any exception to this FRUCK rule risks exposure via promulgation on some grapevine. Strictest confidence means that one does not tell anyone, no K NOT BURNE? matter how fond we may personally feel about them, or how much we would like to share the visual experience that was had with WILLIAS A BOOK-UNAEL So Peril Deppite all these considerations, I am told that already, welling others. re trapen you have spoken with Lillean C. about the whole matter. I please request --- in the name of my completing successfully the May I PAIL investigation that must take place before a particular chapter in Ty in my own manuscript can be written ---- that you excercise more discretion in this matter????) ONE THU 700 1 - TEAM !

BULISIAT. Getting back to where I was at the bottom of page 2 of this letter This matter of the optical printer is a legitamage research interest, every bit as legitamate as your theory that if in the SS man in the front seat turned around and shot the President. So ATLE AL

OR YOURS TITIT MEN WERE IN TREES AND BUSITES! Now, what I can't understand is, that youlidn't realize (and haven't conceded it even, since) that your action in bringing a camera into that room, and then in using it, and then you you KLOT in physically fighting with me (for getting "yelled at", I suppose) ", in physically lighting with me (for getting "yelled at", I supply jeapordized all future contacts with Life of any kind, as well as those taking place right there that day.

NIGHT I MAN'NT YOU EVEN SEEN A FIGHT? The fact that I hissed my contempt at your action, and ordered you to put the camera zway----and that you don't like to be addressed in that fashion, does not appear to me to be a particularly important consideration under the circumstances as they existed at that moment, and given the risks to which your action was exposing us all.

o Kalenta Joining this incident with what took place at the end of Joining this incident with what took place at the end the day, I hope you realize that what is at issue here is not whether or not I had "the nerve" to accuse the CON MA whether or not I had "the nerve" to accuse you of theft; TEM YOU rather, it was a question of a severe policy disagreement between YEUNC you and I, about & what our objectives ought to have been and were while we were in that room.

While I thought we had a team operation, it became apparent that the seedule of events that I designed and typed up was an item No which you paid purely lip service.

WIRE WITAT HAPPENED TO MY COPY OF YOUR SCHEDULE ? The other incident, therefore, to which I wish to address myself your occured at the end of the visit. TERG

E TURNS? I sensed what I felt to be a sudden odd tlesire to terminate £) the visit, and leave the room --- a marked departure that I felt (u^{β}) the various materials and felt the iter wrapped in tissue paper which was supposed to be the 16mm film we had been containing it felt very \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{X} be the 16mm film we had been containing you itin YOUNL LITTLE? T I IT IN TITT It felt very and malleable to the touch, and I concluded that it must contain a rolled up AC extention cord. A (By testing a reel wrapped in trissue paper later that evening, I know now why it felt that way).

The Day BEFORE YOU THEWATT MY CAMERA WIS A SPLEWAID IDEA -

Fred Newcomb

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nie!

I then bluntly asked you and Dennis whether or not you guys had swiped the 16mm film, making it clear that I wanted no part of any such matter, if this was the case.

-4-

I am convinced, today, that these suspicions of mine were undounded.

I $\epsilon \varkappa$ tend a most sincere apology to you for having made the matter a subject of my question, and any hurt feelings it may have caused you.

I hope you will understand that --- once I saw that you had smuggled in a loaded camera into theroom and were bent on using it ---- I simply no longer had a reliable standard by which to gudge any of your actions and intentions. WALT GOOD IS AN UNHADED CAMBLE?

I IF ONLY WE ALL HAD YOUR OBJUTIUS

Therefore, I found the idea, at the time, perfectly credible.

I now realize, in retrospect, that you entered the room prepared "only" to secretly photograph materials, but not to take physical possession of them.

BREAK A TRUST ?

PAGE

C

But don't you see, Fred, once you break trust like that ---- can you really blame me for not knowing where you intended to draw

THE CITE WITH THAT FOLLED UP MESS OF Z FILMIS IN THE CITE AFTER WE HAD TOLD YOU NOT TO DO THIS HOW DO YOU I summarize with these key points: YOU NOT TO DO THIS HOW DO YOU THINK I FELT?

1) Under circumstances that are highly specialized and unusual, I feel it would be proper, if the gain was that great, and the loss fot too great, to technically "steal" evidence that might be absolutely crucial to exposing a conspiracy that took the life of JFK. - WITY NOT JUST CONFRANT LIFE RIGHT THERE - WITY STEPR ?

I do not believe any such situation or opportunity presented itself on Monday, June 22, at the offices of Time-Life here in LA.

AND AFTER? 3) At the time we entered the room, I felt we were involved in a team operation to obtain certain research data, in a prearranged and pre-agreed upon and perfectly legitamate format.

4) When I saw the camera in your hands, and you taking pictures of your favorite Zapruder frame, I immediately realized that you had Du Frid entered the room with research methods and objectives of your own. 5) My concern and outrage was not with the issue of whether or not T FAVORI you were technically "stealing" property owned by another, but with the gross lack of judgment you displayed, and the complete lack of consideration you showed for my interests and future contacts with that corporation, by engaging in activity which would everything, when there was absolutely no need to. As I have jeapordize since said to you on the phone, there is a line one draws between

WITHTS TECHNICH SATITURE? IS THE

Fred Newcomb

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the heroic, and the stupid; its important not to lose sight ' GREAT of that line, and to try to stay or the correct side of it. , ADVICE !

The camera incident in turn upset my ability to judge accurately 6) each of your subsequent actions --- even to the extent of guaging just what the atmosphere was in that room. I then falsely suspected and alleged that you had swiped the 16mm copy of the Z fidm. THAT DROWING

I apologize for that. OK

I felt so strongly about it , at the time, that I spent most of my dinner hour agonizing with a close friend as to whether or not it was my duty---given these suspicions---to return to Time Life the next morning, before the package was put on the plane, and ask that it be reopened in my presence, and the contents completely and meticulously inventoried. This is when I started wrapping reels in tissue paper and testing to see how they felt.

I finally decided that I was the victim of completely upset judgement caused by the aforementioned camera incident, and that there was nothing to be afraid of, in that regard.

You do me and our past relationship a great Misservice if the 7) above complex situation is oversimplified and misrepresented , and Hein's the vigorous arguments I have presented as an attack on your judgement and decision making in this situation, is seen as some TEN Mein 12 sort of hypocritical accusation of "theft" on my part.

I, do not make such a charge; that was not the issue last Monday, nor is it at issue now.

By misdefining the issue, you become the victim of my 8) unnust charges, rather than myself (indeed --- all of us) becoming the victim of your unwise and uncalled for actionS.

This straw man version of events also permits you to indulge yourself in much self pity at being "unjustly accused".

" I PROBABILY REMINIMMERCO VI EXTERNING " III. FURINI " The above concludes my summary of this matter, and I hope that these comments will cause you to reconsider the incident more fairly, when you think back to it at anytime in the future.

THIS SATUR WATTER I would like at this time to comment on certain-other peripheral-matters.

You implied and practically accused me of stealing your ndes. I did not. I understand you have even found them, in your car. you Too RETURNING before making accusations like that. " I would wish you would search your car more carefully next time, YUL SHIDES RENNOMBER LONG BEACH STATE ? For about 5 days, you arrogantly and defiantly held onto property that I left in the glove compartment of your car, as if to hold material "hostage" to items X; you had legitamately loaned me in May.

Why did you attempt to turn a loan between associates (materials you loaned me) into a trade between thieves (my Z films for fhe return of that material)?

you must understand TITAT I was ANGRY

WHO FIRST INTRADUCED THE TERLIN STEAR INTO TAIS? OPERATION LIVEST

WHAN NOV TELL WIE THIS WITCH yon ELEST, CALLED? Fred Newcomb June 28, 1970 THIS A GREAT As you may have learned via Dennis, I had an extremely cordial FCRUSH meeting set up with Ray Marcus at my apartment for Wednessday evening. This had to be called off because of your ৻ঢ় •-inconsiderate, errogant; and whimsical refusal to return property accidentally left in your car. INCONSIDERATE, ARROGANT, WHIMSER? K putting them immediately in the mail----promptly, and with a putting them firm plans, airline reservations and allä, for a trip to New York City. You were notified of this on Thurse' and then simply did not do so. Finally, and this is really outraging --- why did you keep me guy Eville nterhooks up to the last minute as to whether t morning, assured Dennis you would promptly mail the material to me, Pardon my use of the word, but don't you think that is just ELLIN'? a bit cruel? SLIDES, (TILLS, 1611111, JACK'S Z'S ETC How would you like to wait for <u>crucial</u> material to be returned, JX while the hours tick away towards flight time, and where phone calls are met with snotty little remarks and broken connections. YUU? jih NIEED Caller, Furthermore, what am Isupposed to think when you reel off to 15 60 Hapt me on the phone a list of activities I've been involved in with the 100 8 implied veiled threat that you might just have to "use" them, if the vést. needbrose? A -----as if, somewhere in the back of your mind, you CF 4 keep a list of what you "have on Lifton". not LIENE I can assure you that all the above types of behavior doengender trust, or that you are really sympathetic and without hostility to my own interests in completing my work successfully. Mixtile1. As for me---even when I am angry---my emotions do not have to I conc be vented in a sadistic or cruel manner¥, whether against another person, an innocent duck, or any other living thing. ET WIND VENT MM * TEMU Milleen. Sincerely David Lifton * REMEMBER YOU TOLD ME THAT IF I DIDNT RETURN TEASE FILMS BY & OCLOCK - THEN I LOULD NOT GET MUS STUFF BACK? TATTIC OUTRAGETOUS ! (CRUEL?) I LOST AN 8 MM PICK-UP REEL TO THE BELL & HENETT PROJECTOR. IF TT CARLIET BE FOUND I HUST REPLACE IT. HAVE YOU SEED IT ? THE NOT SAYING YOU STOLE IT NOW GREY ELTAT IT MARY BE WITH TATAT TOWN STUFF YEULETAVE.

DENDIS SAID YOU RUTURDED THIS - TUTANE