

Warren Commission Challenged on Photos

Author Says Panel Failed to Examine Picture Evidence

By PETER KIHSS

The Warren Commission failed to study pictures—some no longer available—that might have affected its version of President Kennedy's assassination, according to one insistent critic.

Harold Weisberg, a writer in Hyattstown, Md., says the pictures might show Lee Harvey Oswald standing in the doorway of the Texas School Book Depository and not in a sixth-floor window.

He says they also might verify positions of other witnesses, reveal other persons moving in the area and check President Kennedy's reaction to the shots.

The Warren Commission found that Oswald, acting alone, shot the President from the sixth floor of the depository.

Author's Third Book

Mr. Weisberg makes his charges in the third of his books attacking the Warren report, "Photographic White-wash: Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures," which is being published personally by him this week.

Of its 296 pages, 150 reproduce documents photocopied



Section of a frame of motion picture film has been enlarged to show fifth and sixth floors of Texas School Book Depository. Harold Weisberg contends it "shows no one in the window from which the shots were allegedly fired." But Warren Commission said a witness reported seeing the alleged assassin moving in window before last shot.

from the National Archives and dealing mostly with the photographers.

They also include two Federal Bureau of Investigation interviews with Mrs. Carolyn Arnold, a secretary at the book depository in Dallas. One, dated Nov. 26, 1963, said "she thought she caught a fleeting glimpse of Lee Harvey Oswald" in a first-floor hallway "a few minutes before 12:15 P.M."

The second, dated March 18, 1964, had her signed statement that she left the building "at about 12:25 P.M.," and that she "did not see Lee Harvey Oswald at the time President Kennedy was shot."

Mr. Weisberg complains that the commission never called her to check whether she still thought she had seen Oswald before the shooting, which was at 12:30 P.M.

Mr. Weisberg contends that Oswald was "probably" a man shown in a picture of spectators in the depository doorway, not a fellow employe as the commission held. He notes that Oswald insisted he had been on the first floor during the assassination, according to Dallas police reports of his interrogation.

Mr. Weisberg charges that Government investigators, including the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, "deliberately avoided" potential photographic evidence.

He offers testimony or investigative reports to contend that pictures of movements in the doorway were taken by Malcolm Couch and James Underwood, television cameramen, and Mrs. Mary Moorman, and Hugh W. Betzner Jr., two amateurs.

He also cites a letter to himself in which Phillip L. Willis, who took one picture of the President being shot, says he has unpublished slides of the crowd around the depository.

The book cites an F.B.I. report that said Miss Wilma Bond had offered color slides of the Presidential motorcade. Another report tells of Mrs. Elsie Dorman "taking pictures" from a fourth floor window of the depository and believing that "shots were coming from the

area of the Records Building" across the street.

Other F.B.I. reports, Mr. Weisberg goes on, say that Thomas P. Alyea, a television cameraman, shot 500 feet of film while running toward the assassination site and then photographed the search for an assassin inside the depository. All but a fifth of the film is now lost, Mr. Weisberg says.

Other photographers whose work should have been examined, Mr. Weisberg says, are Steven L. Alexander and David Weigman.

Mr. Weisberg says he has seen an 8-millimeter motion picture film by Robert J. Hughes, that covers the entire depository and the Presidential motorcade in each frame.

J. Edgar Hoover, the F.B.I. director, he says, sent the commission just part of one frame, showing only the sixth and fifth-floor windows, captioned as "taken moments before assassination."

An F.B.I. report on the Hughes film dated Nov. 26, 1963, says "there appears to be a person in the sixth-floor window." But a later F.B.I. report to the commission about a study of the film by the F.B.I. laboratory and Navy Photographic Interpretation Center study concludes that this was "probably a stack of books."

Mr. Weisberg contends this "shows no one in the window from which the shots were allegedly fired at the time they were fired."

However, the Warren Commission reported that Howard L. Brennan, a witness, said he had seen the alleged assassin leave this window "a couple of times" before his last shot.

Mr. Weisberg also discusses a film produced by 18 amateur photographers in Dallas, calling themselves the Dallas Cinema Associates. He says an associate of his, Richard Sprague, studied original footage that had been left out of the edited version.

Mr. Sprague, he writes, believes the original films have "important" footage on the front of the depository and on five men on the nearby grassy knoll—from which some critics

think shots may have been fired—"in apparent flight after the fatal shot."

"The 'puff of smoke' about which witnesses testified, which the commission deprecated, is quite apparent and can be seen floating away," Mr.

Weisberg writes.

Other observers have suggested such a "puff" might have been steam escaping from a pipe in the area or dust thrown up by a ricocheting fragment, not an indication of a shot from the knoll area.