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Critic of Warren Commission Disputes Film Timing of Assassination Shots

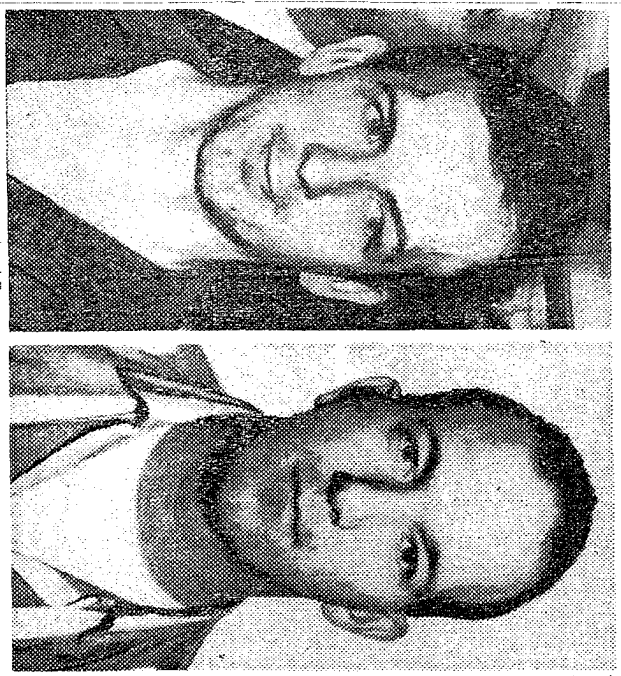
By PETER KHSS

A critic of the Warren Commission contended yesterday that a key timing for the assassination of President Kennedy should have been reckoned at 3.5 seconds instead of 5. The contention evoked new, although mainly private, rebuttals.

The critic, Harold Weisberg, argued that this shortened time would imply a second assassin to account for three shots in this key interval—or imply an earlier shot. The period at issue is the time in which the commission held President Kennedy and Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas were both most probably wounded by Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle, required 2.3 seconds between shots — three could be fired in 4.6 seconds. The commission held that there was "very persuasive evidence" that two bullets inflicted all the wounds, with one hitting both the President and Governor despite an apparent half-second difference in their reactions. A counterview to Mr. Weisberg's could be that speeded timing would help explain such a reaction difference.

Mr. Weisberg offered his timing interpretation in his second book on the case, "Whitewash II," which he published privately yesterday, and in an interview.

The book reproduced a Federal Bureau of Investigation report of an investigation with Abraham Zapruder that said Mr. Zapruder's movie camera, which took films of the assassination, had been set to operate at 24 frames a second. This would be 30 per cent faster than the rate the F.B.I. later used in its analysis—18.3 frames a second.



Associated Press

A man thought to have been Lee Harvey Oswald, at left, was photographed in a doorway during President Kennedy's assassination. Billy Nolan Lovelady, right, testified he was that person. A new book contradicts his testimony.

Mr. Weisberg's new book, that he believed he had never been interviewed by an F.B.I. man, "I sent that camera down to Washington twice to be checked," Mr. Zapruder said, "and it was set at 18-something, 18.3 or 18.6 frames a second. I don't remember ever saying it was 24."

Mr. Weisberg also cited F.B.I. testimony, included in supplemental volumes of the Warren report, that a filmed re-enactment took only 3.5 seconds. Private rebuttals in official quarters held yesterday that this variation resulted from difficulty in duplicating what happened, and that this had been explained to the commission in a five-second film.

Mr. Weisberg was taken from the National Archives. It was numbered File DL 89-43, dated Dec. 4, 1963, and credited to Agent Robert M. Barrett.

Mr. Weisberg is a 53-year-old Hyattsville, Md., writer. He says he was a staff member of a Senate civil liberties investigating committee from 1936 to 1940 and an analyst in the Office of Strategic Services in World War II. He ran a poultry farm from 1948 to 1964.

He initially printed his first book, "Whitewash," privately by offset for 22,500 copies. This week it was issued in a 95-cent indexed edition by the Dell Publishing Company. Mr. Weisberg says his inquiries have put him into debt, but he hopes to publish a collection of exhibits from the Archives next February.

In his new book, Mr. Weisberg also published from the Archives two of the three photographs taken by the F.B.I. of Billy Nolan Lovelady, which had been left out of the report and 26 supplemental volumes by the Warren Commission.

The Warren report had noted that Mr. Lovelady, supported by two other men, testified he was the person resembling Oswald who was photographed in a doorway during the assassination. Mr. Weisberg contended that "the man in the picture cannot have been Lovelady."

The Zapruder camera, Mr. Shaneyfelt testified, and other cameras relied on, had been loaded with film and had then been used to photograph a clock with a large sweep-second hand in several tests "at the speed and conditions as described by the people who used the cameras."

The average was understood to take in different sections of the film from the beginning, when it was tightly wound, to the end, where it would be getting run down.

In this book, Mr. Weisberg disputed the positioning of cars and photographing points used in the reconstruction, and noted that the use of a car different from the Presidential limousine had required an acknowledged adjustment because standards for the President and Governor Connally were sitting 10 inches higher than in the original case.

The Warren commission also said that "for a fleeting instant, the President came back into view in the telescopic lens at Frame 186 as he appeared in an opening among the leaves."

Mr. Weisberg's book notes that Mr. Zapruder's clear film became blurred at Frame 190 and for several frames thereafter, and suggested the amateur photographer had come under stress after seeing the President wounded.

In Dallas, Mr. Zapruder said a "certain amount of fuzziness" was inevitable with the telephoto position he was using. "Possibly I could have joggled the camera when the President was hit," he said, "but I was panoramizing when it happened, and this would make it a little unclear."

He noted the film has "a continuous motion," instead of any stoppage.

Jersey Doctor Convicted In Vitamin B-12 Case

NEWARK, Dec. 7 (UPI) — Dr. Caesar O. Boltone, 39 years old, was found guilty of criminal contempt today by a Federal jury.

The Englewood doctor was charged with violating patents on Vitamin B-12, owned by Merck and Company of Rahway.

The weakling trial ended when a jury, after three hours of deliberation, found Dr. Boltone guilty on four counts of criminal contempt.

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