

CYRIL H. WECHT, M.D., J.D., F.C.A.P.
CORONER

JOSHUA A. PERPER, M.D., LL.B., M.Sc.
CHIEF FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST

CHARLES L. WINEK, PH.D.
CHIEF TOXICOLOGIST

BERNARD J. MCGOWAN, Esq.
SOLICITOR



County of Allegheny

542 FOURTH AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

(412) 355-4460 355-4466

OFFICE OF THE CORONER

February 5, 1974

Mr. Thomas Stamm
2705 Bainbridge Avenue
Bronx, New York 10458

Dear Mr. Stamm:

Thank you for your interesting letter of January 25th, and for your courtesy in sending me a copy of the very fine report that you prepared in 1965 after you reviewed the Zapruder film at the National Archives.

I cannot be certain that JFK sustained only one gunshot wound of the head. It is quite possible that he was struck by two shots in a simultaneous crossfire. This could explain the movements of his body, as depicted in the Zapruder film.

There is some dispute among critics as to whether or not there is a slight initial forward movement of his body at the time of the head wound(s), followed in a fraction of a second by the more obvious movement backward and toward the left. However, it is Bob Smith's and my interpretation of the film and the stills that such a minimal and brief forward movement did occur first.

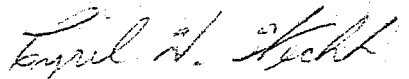
The biggest problem with postulating a second shot to the head from the direction of the so-called grassy knoll area is that we cannot explain what happened to that bullet, and why there was no apparent damage to the left side or left rear of JFK's skull. If a bullet came from the right side, it is extremely

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difficult for me to explain how there would have been no damage to the left cerebral hemisphere, or any portion of the left side of the calvarium.

In any event, I definitely agree with you that the Zapruder film is of major evidentiary value, and it is a shame that it was initially neglected or deliberately misinterpreted by the WCR and its investigative staff. Clearly, it is perhaps the most important key to the physical events of the assassination, and it must be recognized as such by appropriate people if we are to ever succeed in bringing about the reopening and reinvestigation of this tragic event.

Sincerely yours,



Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

CHW/mg