

1249 HI POINT STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90035  
NOVEMBER 20, 1967

MR. WILLIAM A. EMERSON, JR.  
THE SATURDAY EVENING POST  
641 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

DEAR MR. EMERSON:

I COMMEND YOU FOR CARRYING YOUR RECENT ARTICLE ON THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION BY JOSIAH THOMPSON, WHICH CONTAINS MUCH VALUABLE <sup>INFORMATION</sup> FOR YOUR READERS; AND EVEN MORE FOR YOUR POWERFUL AND COURAGEOUS EDITORIAL DEMANDING A NEW INVESTIGATION. AS ONE WHO HAS BEEN ENGAGED, SINCE NOVEMBER 22, 1963, IN RESEARCHING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, AND WHO HAS SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME STUDYING THE ZAPRUDER FILM, I FEEL QUALIFIED TO COMMENT ON A NUMBER OF POINTS IN THOMPSON'S ARTICLE.

THOMPSON AGREES WITH THE WARREN COMMISSION'S FINDING THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS FIRST STRUCK DURING ZAPRUDER FRAMES 210 AND 225. HE STATES THAT UNTIL 207, WHEN THE PRESIDENT DISAPPEARS FROM VIEW BEHIND THE ROAD SIGN, ". . . HIS NATURAL WAVING MOVEMENT CONTINUES" AND THAT ". . . WE SEE NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT A BULLET HAS STRUCK UNTIL . . . Z224". BY SO STATING PROFESSOR THOMPSON IGNORES THE FACT THAT SUCH EVIDENCE INDEED EXISTS, AS HAS BEEN POINTED OUT TO HIM BY THIS WRITER ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

IN FACT, THREE PHENOMENA OCCUR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ~~Z224~~ Z189 TO INDICATE STRONGLY THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN STRUCK FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING Z189-190, MOST PROBABLY IN THE THROAT, AND NOT DURING Z210-224, AS THE COMMISSION AND THOMPSON BELIEVE. THE THREE PHENOMENA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S RIGHT HAND, WHICH PRIOR TO Z189 HAD BEEN STEADILY RAISED IN A WAVING MOTION, DROPS SUDDENLY FROM A HEAD-HIGH POSITION TO A CHIN- OR THROAT-LEVEL POSITION BY Z-198, WHERE IT HALTS AND REMAINS UNTIL DISAPPEARING FROM VIEW IN Z207.
2. MRS. KENNEDY, WHO IN 189 IS FACING SLIGHTLY TO HER RIGHT-OF-CENTER, IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER SNAPS HER HEAD COMPLETELY TO HER RIGHT, AND BY Z200 IS FULLY FACING HER HUSBAND (THE PERTINENT TESTIMONY OF ALL WITNESSES TESTIFYING ON THIS POINT -- O'DONNELL, WILLIS, HOLLAND, AND MRS. KENNEDY HERSELF -- ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT SHE DID NOT DO SO UNTIL AT LEAST ONE SHOT HAD BEEN FIRED. MRS. KENNEDY'S TURN CAN BE TRACED AND TIMED BY NOTING THE CHANGE OF ANGLE OF HER ~~HAIRLINE~~ HAIRLINE/HATLINE.
3. AN EXTREME BLUR OCCURS AT Z190-192, ALMOST CERTAINLY THE GRAPHIC RECORD OF ZAPRUDER'S REFLEX REACTION TO THE SOUND OF THE SHOT; (WHICH HE BELIEVED ORIGINATED BEHIND HIM).

THE CONVERGENCE OF THESE THREE PHENOMENA, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING Z189, CONSTITUTE STRONG EVIDENCE INDEED (ALBEIT, CIRCUMSTANCIAL) THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS HIT IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THEIR OCCURRENCE. DR. THOMPSON MAY NOT AGREE WITH THE CONCLUSION I DRAW FROM THESE OBSERVATIONS, BUT IT SEEMS STRANGE HE FAILS TO AT LEAST CONFRONT THEM.

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT MOTION IGNORED BY DR. THOMPSON OCCURS AT Z226-227. WHILE PRESIDENT KENNEDY IS INDEED REACTING TO A HIT AS HE EMERGES FROM BEHIND THE SIGN

AT Z224, A VERY PRONOUNCED CHANGE OCCURS BETWEEN Z226-227 (1/18TH SECOND) IN THE POSITION OF HIS ARMS AND ELBOWS. THEY ARE SUDDENLY AND DRAMATICALLY FLUNG UPWARD AND FORWARD, AND HE SIMULTANEOUSLY HUNCHES HIS SHOULDERS. NOTING THAT THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS WERE ALREADY AT HIS CHEST- AND THROAT-LEVELS, THE SWIFTESS AND DIRECTION OF THESE MOVEMENTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT REACTION TO A SHARP BLOW ON THE BACK. TOGETHER WITH EXTERNAL EVIDENCE, THEY INDICATE STRONGLY THAT HIS BACK WAS STRUCK, BY A SECOND BULLET, AT THAT MOMENT.

THOMPSON IS CORRECT IN STATING THAT GOVERNOR CONNALLY WAS STRUCK WITH A SEPARATE BULLET IN Z238, THE DECISIVE MOTION HERE BEING THE SHARP AND SUDDEN DROP, IN A SINGLE FRAME, OF HIS RIGHT SHOULDER; CLEARLY INDICATING THE IMPACT ON HIS BACK OF A BULLET FIRED FROM AN ELEVATION TO THE LEFT REAR OF THE CAR (THUS PRECLUDING FOR THIS SHOT THE SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY OR THE GRASSY KNOLL).

DR. THOMPSON RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OBSERVATION, WHICH NOT ONLY OFFERS IRREFUTABLE PROOF THAT THE GOVERNOR WAS HIT BY A SEPARATE BULLET -- AND THEREFORE DEMOLISHES THE COMMISSION'S INDISPENSABLE SINGLE BULLET THEORY -- BUT ALSO XE SERVES AS AN ADDITIONAL CRUCIAL FIXED TIME-POINT IN THE ZAPRUDER FILM.

HOWEVER, CONTRARY TO THE CLEAR IMPLICATION IN THE ARTICLE, THE OBSERVATION IS NEITHER ORIGINAL NOR NEW. THE DISCOVERY WAS MADE BY ME AND ORIGINALLY NOTED IN MY UNPUBLISHED PAPER, "HYPOTHESES RE: THE ZAPRUDER FILM", IN MARCH, '65.\* THIS CONCLUSION APPEARED IN PUBLISHED FORM IN "THE BASTARD BULLET", MY STUDY OF COMMISSION EXHIBIT 399 WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER, '66. DR. THOMPSON WAS NOT ONLY WELL AWARE THAT I HAD MADE THIS DISCOVERY, BUT IN PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS HAS CONGRATULATED ME A NUMBER OF TIMES, AND ADMITTED THAT HE ABANDONED ANOTHER THEORY (THAT CONNALLY HAD BEEN HIT AT A MUCH LATER FRAME) IN FAVOR OF MINE. Pg. 5

IT IS SURPRISING, THEREFORE, THAT DR. THOMPSON NEGLECTS TO MENTION THE AUTHOR OF THIS DISCOVERY, AND INSTEAD PRESENTS IT IN A CONTEXT WHICH SUGGESTS IT WAS HIS OWN.

SIMILARLY, DR. THOMPSON IS WELL AWARE THAT I, AND NOT HE, WAS THE ONE WHO ORIGINALLY NOTED THE DOUBLE HEAD-HIT (JFK Z312-314). I INITIALLY MADE THIS OBSERVATION IN DECEMBER, '65, AND WROTE OF IT IN AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER TO RAMPARTS IN JUNE '66. IT WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN EPOCA MAGAZINE, ROME, NOV. 27, 1966; AND IN RAMPARTS LETTER COLUMN IN MARCH, '67.

HERE TOO, DR. THOMPSON APPEARS TO PRESENT AN IMPORTANT OBSERVATION AS HIS OWN ORIGINAL FINDING WHILE KNOWING THE FACTS TO BE OTHERWISE. ONE WOULD THINK THAT A MAN OF DR. THOMPSON'S IMPECCABLE ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS WOULD BE LESS CARELESS WITH COMMONLY RECOGNIZED ETHICAL STANDARDS.

SINCERELY,

*Raymond J. Marcus*  
RAYMOND J. MARCUS

COPY: PROF. JOSEPH THOMPSON

ENCLOSURES: COPIES OF PUBLISHED MATERIAL REFERRED TO

\* THIS PAPER WAS WELL CIRCULATED IN THE CRITICS' COMMUNITY.

P.S: AFTER PRESENTING EVIDENCE PROVING THE EXISTENCE OF AT LEAST THREE ASSASSINS, DR. THOMPSON CONCLUDES THAT THIS ". . . DOES NOT PROVE THAT THE ASSASSINATION WAS A CONSPIRACY. . ." DR. THOMPSON SHOULD HAVE BEEN WILLING TO STATE EXPLICITLY, AND TO DEFEND, WHAT THIS BREATHTAKING POSITION UNMISTAKABLY IMPLIES; THAT HE CONSIDERS IT A REASONABLE POSSIBILITY THAT THREE ASSASSINS, EACH ACTING WITHOUT CONFEDERATES AND UNAWARE OF THE OTHERS' INTENTIONS, DECIDED TO SHOOT THE PRESIDENT AT THE SAME TIME IN DEALY PLAZA.