

7 March 1969

The Editors
TIME Magazine
New York, N.Y. 10020

Dear Sirs:

"Dallas Revisited" in the February 21, 1969 issue (page 18, column 3) has belatedly just come to my attention. The story, referring to the Zapruder film, states:

One sequence—which was shown in slow motion and frame by frame—clearly shows the President falling backward in his seat, an unlikely occurrence if he were being struck by Bullets from the rear. However, the Warren Commission Report has already met this objection by noting that Kennedy fell backward because his chauffeur had speeded up the car when the shooting began.

I wish to request you to inform me as soon as possible exactly on which page of the Warren Report the Commission notes or explains the fact that "Kennedy fell backward" as is stated in the quoted excerpt from your pages.

Subject to retraction and apology if and when you provide me with the exact reference in support of your statement, I wish to say that your claim is totally inaccurate, misleading, and mischievous. As I said in my book Accessories After the Fact, perhaps the most shocking aspect of the violent backward movement upon impact of the head bullet is the fact that it is not mentioned at all in the Warren Report—much less "explained." Your allegation that the driver "had speeded up the car when the shooting began" is also completely contradictory of the known facts and testimony, as set forth in Accessories, pages 3-4, and in J.D. Thompson's book Six Seconds in Dallas, page 92. There is irrefutable testimony that the car slowed down when the shooting began, and did not accelerate until some three seconds after the head shot, when the Secret Service agent jumped onto the back of the car.

In my book and in many subsequent published articles, I have repeatedly characterized Garrison as a crude charlatan, fabricator, and demagogue, whose clumsy vaudeville would cast discredit, undeservedly, on authentic criticism of the Warren Report. It is evident from TIME's published accounts on the subject of the Report that in common with the arch-mountebank of New Orleans, the most disreputable scholarship, or worse, is readily employed for ulterior and unstated purposes. But no amount of preposterous nonsense from Garrison, or sophisticated distortion or invention by TIME, can salvage the disgraceful and defective work of the Warren Commission—they can only share in the stigma ineradicably imprinted on the Warren Report by its authentic critics.

Yours very truly,

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