

P. Akse send to J.M.

CONFIDENTIAL

3/7/71

Dear Paul,

I ask that this be kept confidential because the work is incomplete and in order to reduce the possibilities of any interference with what is still planned and the personal hazard to the technician who is doing it. There are two exceptions: Alvarez starts up again, and JMS, for whom I have just realized I should have made a cartoon, now that he is not close to you, and haven't.

The work was done with a commercial version of Mix, from a TV station, 16mm with soundtrack. While it is far from a real good print, it is also much better than the available 8 mm copies.

What was done in this: each frame was duplicated 3 times, after zooming in on a small part of the frame, the purpose being to isolate the President. The magnification is great, but not so great that some air space above his head is always in each frame. It includes all of his body that is in the film.

I have not studied this work with the attention and repetition I would prefer, but I am not alone in certainty about the three things I report with certainty, one of which seems to be in disagreement with virtually all interpretations of Sapruder:

There is a visible and rather large fragment of the skull that goes upward and backward. The backward direction is much more pronounced.

The violence of the backward motion ascertainable in the study of the Z slides is strongly confirmed; the violence of the subsequent leftward motion appears to be greater than in this study of Z, and because this is accurately paced (that is, the relationships in time are faithful) and would appear to have been caused by the same force. There is a difference in impression caused as compared with Z in that this strongly suggests what I cannot assert as fact and is contrary to what I have decided from Z, that the source of the force is to the direction of the north grassy knoll. I was not willing to say this based on Z. This does change my thinking on that point. I suggest that it is applicable to any conjectured counter-force argument or postulation.

What is most surprising is that there is no visible forward motion. If I cannot explain this, I can assure you it is so. I presume the angles account for it and that the angles create an illusion in Z, plus the fact that this is a rather great spacing, adding all these extra frames, which should tend to reduce optical illusion.

Continuing work on Z: I now have and will not mail but will show you when you are again here the largest and clearest printed versions of 313 and 314 yet. They were made for me for a special purpose: to study the dispersal-pattern of the spray and the flap and the wound. The pattern is far downward on the front of the face in a way I cannot explain from anything we have learned of the sound(s) and in the flat plane seems to be almost all forward an impression I had gained from close study of motion prints projected and the earlier enlargement, not as great. This work consists of a number of different contrasts in printing. The flap is entirely forward of the ear, which is clear, very clear. The President's right arm has cocked and moved upward, toward the front of the head (the head is obliterated by the spray). There is what I regard as unexplained and possible illusory, the impression that the body has squashed downward some, almost vertically.

Continuing work on the earlier frames shows other interesting things: the possibility that Willis took another picture (recall how long his film was kept) at a later time but still in Z and close to 313; that his is visible much, much later than admitted before total disappearance behind the sign, and his right hand is visible after he is claimed to have disappeared, strong suggesting by his motion that he is resetting; and that he either speaks or goes through the motion of speaking, as Kellerman claimed. The enlargement is such that the open mouth is clearly visible, as is its closing.

As I reported earlier, there is a splice prior to the section contained in the slides and, take my word for it, in the original, meaning not in the copies made in Dallas and Chicago but in the version from which it was known all enlarging and other work was to be done. This destroys the LIFE's "answer" to my WW charge. Several frames are missing (PM).