

Critic of Warren Commission Disputes Conclusion on Timing

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NEW YORK, Dec. 10 — A critic of the Warren Commission contends that a key timing for the assassination of President John F. 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 Thursday that the shorter 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 that in which, the commission said, President Kennedy and Gov. John Connally of Texas were both most probably wounded by Lee Harvey Oswald as a lone assassin.

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 Kennedy and Connally despite an apparent half-second difference in their reactions.

Publishes Book

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

The book reproduced a Federal Bureau of Investigation report of an interview with Abraham Zapruder that said Zapruder's movie camera, which took movies of the assassination, had been set to operate at 24 frames a second. This would be 30 per cent faster than the rate the FBI later used in its analysis—18.3 frames a second. Weisberg cited FBI testimony, included in supplemental volumes of the Warren report, that a re-enactment that was photographed took only 3.5 seconds.

Private rebuttals in official quarters were that this varia-

tion resulted from difficulty in duplicating what happened, and that this had been explained to the commission in deciding to rely on a five-second time derived from the original Zapruder film.

Meanwhile, the Bell & Howell Co. announced in Chicago that it had given the camera, which it obtained from Zapruder for its own historical collection, to the National Archives; and that a United States marshal picked it up Thursday morning. Peter G. Peterson, the company's president, added:

"We recently tested the camera in our engineering laboratories. Our results would appear to corroborate the FBI testimony before the Warren commission that the average speed at which filmed passed through the camera was at 18.3 frames per second. In fact, our test showed the camera speed to be within less than one tenth

of a frame per second from the figure reported by the FBI."

In Dallas, meanwhile, Zapruder, a manufacturer of women's dresses, said, in response to a reporter's query about the FBI report in Weisberg's new book, that he believed he had never been interviewed by an FBI man.

Sent Camera to FBI

"I sent that camera down to Washington twice to be checked," 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."

The FBI document cited by Weisberg was taken from the National Archives. It was numbered file DL89-43, dated Dec. 4, 1963, and credited to agent Robert M. Barrett.

Weisberg is a 53-year-old Hyattstown, 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 Co. Weisberg says his inquiries have put him in debt, but he hopes to publish a collection of exhibits from the archives next February.