

April 27, 1934

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

FROM: Herman Keady

The purpose of this memorandum is to explain the reasons why certain members of the staff feel that it is important to take certain on-site photographs in connection with the location of the approximate points at which the three bullets struck the occupants of the Presidential limousine.

Our report presumably will state that the President was hit by the first bullet, Governor Connally by the second, and the President by the third and fatal bullet. The report will also conclude that the bullets were fired by one person located in the sixth floor southeast corner window of the building.

As our investigation now stands, however, we have not shown that these events could possibly have occurred in the manner suggested above. All we have is a reasonable hypothesis which appears to be supported by the medical testimony but which has not been checked out against the physical facts at the scene of the assassination.

Our examination of the Keady film shows that the bullet which struck the President at a point which was located with reasonable accuracy on the ground. To be sure, we know we had the exact frame (no. 313) in the film which showed the bullet striking the President and we have also taken up the film and we have taken up fixed objects in the scene. We feel that we have located the approximate location of this point. This point is located by a line from the point where the President was standing.

Because the testimony of Mrs. Connally and Mrs. Connally says that the Governor was hit with the second bullet at a point which was approximately correct with precision. We feel we can check this, however, with the help of medical testimony, the fact which hit the Governor did not even appear in the Keady film. The Governor feels that it came from a point which is certainly consistent with our observations on this, and with the doctor's testimony. Since the President was shot at frame 313, this would leave a time of about a second between the two shots, certainly ample time for an experienced marksman.

Prior to our last viewing of the films with Governor Connally we had assumed that the President was hit while he was concealed behind the sign which occurs between frames 217 to 225. We have expert testimony to the effect that a skilled marksman would require a minimum time of 21 seconds between shots with this rifle. Since the camera operation at 18 1/3 frames per second, there would have to be a minimum of 38 frames between shots. It is apparent therefore, that if Governor Connally was hit even as late as frame 217, the President would have to have been hit no later than frame 179 and probably even earlier.

We have not yet examined the assassination scene to determine whether the assassin in fact could have shot the President prior to frame 190. We could locate the position on the ground which corresponds to this frame and it would then be our intent to establish by photography that the assassin could have fired the first shot at the President prior to this point. Our intention is not to establish the point with complete accuracy, but merely to substantiate the hypothesis which maintains the conclusion that Oswald was the sole assassin.

I had always assumed that our final report would be accompanied by a surveyor's diagram which would indicate the approximate location of the three shots. We certainly cannot prepare such a diagram without establishing that we are describing an occurrence which is physically possible. Our failure to do this will, in my opinion, place this report in jeopardy since it is a certainty that others will compare the Kennedy film and raise the same questions which have been asked by our examination of the film. If we do not attempt to answer these questions with observable facts, we are very serious when with you which challenge our most basic surveying or other factual theories based on our observations and assumptions by the investigatory community.

I should add that the facts which we now have in our possession, submitted to us in separate reports from the United States Service, are totally incorrect and, if left uncorrected, will present a completely misleading picture.

It may well be that this project should be undertaken by the FBI and United States Service with our assistance inasmuch as being done as a joint project. The important thing is that the project be undertaken expeditiously.