HOWARD B. SPRAGUE, JR., VICE PRESIDENT

February 12, 1969

Mr. Don Olson
47 Abbot Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Dear Mr. Olson:

It is very gratifying to know that the technical-academic community is occupied in the analysis of the "basic" evidence which exists from the period surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, and that this analysis is being performed with the care which you apparently have taken. Your calculation of distance of limousine travel between the time of the Betzner picture and the time of the Willis picture is in the range of being "correct" as far as our recent analysis shows. We have analyzed the distance question since November of 1967 in answer to another inquiry and have found the distance to be 13.5 feet with one method using single frame resections, and 15.5 feet with a second method in which the two photographs were positioned by synchronization with a Zapruder frame.

In our consulting arrangement with Life, they asked specific questions, which we, in our technical analysis, tried to answer objectively. The question asked of us (as indicated in our report) with regard to the Betzner and Willis pictures was "which photograph was exposed first?" There was no requirement of distance traveled and no insinuated relationship with the sequence of gunshots. Therefore, the analysis was only pursued to the extent that the question was answered correctly but not intended to provide a detailed answer to a question that wasn't asked. Our discrepancy occurred because we lacked reliable information concerning the exact locations of Betzner and Willis. The one Zapruder frame we were provided (which showed the two photographers) was insufficient for analysis of the distance traveled although sufficient for the photo sequence question.

Thank you for your letter. A copy of the report you requested is attached.

Sincerely yours,

HBS/a
Enclosure