

6/22/67

Airtel

① - Mr. Lenihan
1 - Mr. Goble

To: SACs, New Orleans (89-89)
Dallas (89-43)

From: Director, FBI (62-100060)

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963,
DALLAS, TEXAS

ReJNAirtel 6/20/67 specifically, the next to the last paragraph which dealt with the tape recording.

The Bureau has reviewed the tape recording by Jackson. For information of recipients, the contents appear to be telephone conversations of Gordon Novel with several persons, including "Mr. Robertson," possibly Willard Robertson who has previously been mentioned as one of Garrison's financial backers. The tape recording contained no pertinent information concerning the assassination of President Kennedy and hence, no copies are being prepared for interested offices.

1 - Jackson (175-5)

TNG:as (8)

NOTE:

An attache case apparently the property of Gordon Novel, was found at an airport in Gulfport, Mississippi. The contents of the attache case were made available to the Jackson Office and copies were prepared and furnished to the Bureau. A spool of wire from a wire recorder was in the case and Jackson made a tape from this. Jackson submitted the tape as well as copies of the other material in the attache case to the Bureau and suggested that the Bureau might desire to prepare copies of the tape for NO and DL. Since the tape contained no pertinent information concerning the assassination of President Kennedy, it is unnecessary to furnish DL and NO copies of it. The above notifies them that this is not being done.

Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
62-109060

particular point and in so doing, he jerked the camera vertically. It should be noted that a vertical jerk of a camera would not cause a horizontal blur.

Because of the sweeping motion of Zapruder's camera as the latter followed the Presidential limousine, there are numerous blurred frames in the film. The arbitrary selection of three of these blurred frames to match areas where the shots occurred is not reliable evidence. It should be noted that these blurred frames were considered during the evaluation of the Zapruder film by the FBI Laboratory and representatives of the Warren Commission. The blurred frames were not considered strong enough evidence to support any reliable finding as to correlation with gunshots.

The CBS program also made reference to a possible inaccuracy in the timing of the Zapruder camera and based these observations on studies made by a photographic expert on numerous other cameras of the same make and model as the one used by Zapruder. Without having ever tested the Zapruder camera, the CBS expert concluded from these other tests that the Zapruder camera may have been running at a speed other than that reported by the Warren Commission and the FBI Laboratory, thus giving Oswald additional time for the three shots. In this connection, it is noted that the Bell and Howell Company which manufactured the camera used by Zapruder arrived at exactly the same film speed (frames per second speed) as the FBI Laboratory. The testing of other similar cameras has no valid basis for questioning the performance of the Zapruder camera.

In its program, CBS noted also in its efforts to determine how fast the rifle used by Oswald could be fired, that Warren Commission tests of the rifle were fired at stationary targets. Mr. Cronkite made this observation and indicated that the FBI did not comment on why this was done. The CBS program then portrayed for the television audience the firing of a rifle, similar to Oswald's rifle, from a high tower on a moving target and concluded that Oswald's rifle could have fired three shots in 5.6 seconds, a conclusion that was reported by the Warren Commission in its Report.

In connection with the above, the FBI Laboratory was requested by the Warren Commission to conduct firing tests of the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle recovered from the Texas School Book Depository Building (Oswald's rifle) to determine the rapidity at which it could be fired and to determine the over-all accuracy of the telescope sight and rifle assembly. For the purpose of these tests, the firing was done at a stationary target at ground level, since such tests were adequate to answer the questions.

ACTION:

For information.