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August 7, 1999

Dear Harold,

On August 3 (your anniversary), the various newscasts featured the U.S. Government paying the Zapruder heirs \$16 million for the original Z film!! One commentator started the reason for this; the heirs wanted the original film returned which the government could not and would not do since they (the gov't) had removed frames from the original. The solution was to become legal owner of the film, hence the \$16million settlement. The whole thing implies some hanky-panky went on with the original film and returning what would be purported to be "original" without wearing the hinges off Pandora's Box!!! Both the audio and video implies that Mr. Z had filmed a.) JFK 'working the fence' at Love Field, b.) Clint Hill mounding the limo bumper from the rear left and c.) JFK, JR saluting!!! What these non-Z films show is that others took moving pictures during the event (and we know that)! What else do they show? The attached copy is ^{from} the August 3 Miami Herald. The copy ~~machine~~ machine was not in best of shape. Sorry!

Enough has been written and said about the JFK, Jr. affair and was summed up by an old-timer, "One does not put one's finger in an electric pencil sharpener and then turn on the power!!!!"

Please accept my hopes and prayers that all is going better for you and Lil!!! I 'lived through' the nursing home bit with my late brother and can equate with that sad experience!!

Best of luck, regards, wishes and whatever else is needed!!!!

Paul Haller



I still have not heard from my little Mexican girl if she got her first communion gift. The ~~PO~~ PO said I could get no record of its arrival (receipt)!!

Film of JFK's death worth \$16 million

From Herald Wire Services

WASHINGTON — The government must pay the heirs of Dallas dressmaker Abraham Zapruder \$16 million for the film in which he captured the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy — 26 seconds of history the Zapruder family said should be valued like a van Gogh painting.

Arbitrators decided what U.S. will pay Zapruder's heirs for '63 film.

In a 2-1 vote, announced by the Justice Department on Tuesday, arbitrators set the amount after lawyers for the government and the Zapruder family could not

agree on a price. The government offered \$1 million; the family asked \$30 million.

"The Zapruder film is one of a kind," arbitrators Arlin

Adams, a former federal appeals court judge, and Kenneth Feinberg wrote in a majority opinion.

With no way to compare its value to any single object ever sold, they said they relied heavily on testimony given by auction-house experts who put the value at

PLEASE SEE ZAPRUDER, 13A

ZAPRUDER, FROM 1A

\$25 million or more.

The third arbitrator, Walter Dellinger, a former solicitor general who teaches law at Duke University, wrote that \$3 million to \$5 million would have been enough.

Lawyers for both sides accepted the figure as an appropriate compromise. The family said in a statement, "We believe the result reached by the arbitration panel is fair and reasonable."

The use of the images on the Zapruder film was never at issue. The copyright belongs to the family, which has earned hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years from video-cassette sales, excerpts in such films as Oliver Stone's JFK and other uses.

But the government last year seized the original film from the family, declaring the fragile, six-foot long strip of celluloid to be a critical record of the still-controversial Kennedy assassination that should be preserved.

The award cannot be appealed. The Zapruders are expected to receive a check within 30 days for the \$16 million, plus about \$800,000 in interest.

The arbitration panel's opinion was made final two weeks ago, but its release was delayed out of respect for the Kennedy family after the death of President Kennedy's son, John F. Kennedy Jr., in a plane crash off Massachusetts on July 17.

The Assassination Records Review Board declared the film the permanent possession of the people of the United States. The Constitution requires the government to pay owners of private property taken for the public good.

David Ogden, acting assistant

attorney general for the Justice Department's Civil Division, issued a statement, saying the government was relieved that the film would not just be stored at the archives but would be part of its permanent collection.

Government appraisers had argued that, without projection, Zapruder's movie was just a strip of celluloid wound around a plastic reel.

The Zapruder family argued that the film should be valued like the works of Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh or pop artist Andy Warhol.

Zapruder cried when he told the Warren Commission in July 1964 of how he filmed the assassination with a Bell & Howell movie camera while standing on a concrete abutment along the route of Kennedy's motorcade through Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Zapruder, who died in 1970, sold the original film and a first-day copy to Time Inc. on Nov. 23, 1963, for \$150,000.

Time, unwilling to act as a censor and police its use, returned the original film to the family in 1975 and they deposited it in trust with the National Archives for safekeeping.