

Analysis of Depository film fails to convin

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Groden acknowledged that the slides of the film that he displayed were "extreme blowups" from a copy of the Bronson film — containing less detail than he would have liked. But he said he had no doubts about a second figure. "To me there's no question," Groden stated. "There are at least two people up there. What we are saying is that

there are images of two figures moving in those windows, beyond question. Beyond question."

Groden said he would "certainly suggest" sophisticated computer "enhancement" of the film by the House assassinations panel for a more detailed scientific analysis of the images, and AIB members said they were trying to arrange a viewing for the panel members

as quickly as possible.

"The fact we have a photo showing two persons in the windows doesn't necessarily mean this is a sniper's nest," said Jerry Polkoff, an AIB member and free-lance writer on the assassination. "If there was a case manufactured against Lee Harvey Oswald we have a very real possibility that we have a photo of two people setting up evi-

dence."

The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald, acting alone, fired the fatal shots at Kennedy from the sixth-floor window. The panel considered the evidence overwhelming, noting Oswald's fingerprints on boxes stacked next to the window and the discovery of Oswald's rifle nearby.

Meanwhile, the AIB scolded the House committee, which is nearing the end of its investigation into the Dallas slaying, for not finding the film itself. Chief counsel Robert Blakey has stated the panel was unaware of the film's existence until this weekend.

"The world may wonder... why the existence of this film should come as such a total jolt to the House committee and its \$5 million staff," AIB member Carl Ogelsby said, "when the FBI document that led citizen investigators to the Bronson film has been in the select committee's presence for more than a year."

Ogelsby explained that the film was tracked down in the Bronsons' Ada, Okla., residence after assassination researchers found it mentioned in a Nov. 25, 1963, FBI document recently released to the public. Although the FBI had access to the two rolls of color film Bronson took on the day of the shooting, Dallas agents apparently found them to be of little interest.

At the press conference called to screen the film, photographers and camera crews were prohibited from filming the footage itself, even though it was the only attraction.

Bronson's attorney, John Sigalos, explained that he "wanted the committee to see it first" even though the whole point of the meeting seemed to be the generation of news coverage for the Bronson film.

Sigalos, of Dallas, then said it was "my judgment, as an attorney," to withhold disclosure of the film images to the general public in order to preserve Bronson's ability to market the footage for profit. He said Bronson was not marketing the film "at this time," although he might in the future.

Although Bronson intends to make his views on the film known at a Dallas press conference during the next few days, Sigalos said, the attorney did acknowledge that the filmmaker's conclusions "are not the same as those expressed by the AIB."

Bronson's film, AIB members explained, had been kept at his home in the 15 years since the assassination and there had been no inquiries until last month when he was contacted and asked to turn it over for Groden's analysis.

Groden is best known for his photo enhancement of Abraham Zapruder's famous film of the shots hitting Kennedy. That sequence led some to conclude that the movement of Kennedy's head indicated at least one shot came from the front. This, if true, would have established a second gunman in Dealey Plaza.

A panel of photographic experts hired by the committee to review the film with highly sophisticated spectrographic analysis techniques, however, concluded just the opposite — that all the shots came from the area of the Depository.

Groden said that he was "on the record as a believer in a conspiracy" but said a second photographic analysis of his work was certainly necessary, and that he would be surprised if it reached a different conclusion.

According to the AIB, Bronson's footage was taken at about 12:24 p.m., or about seven minutes before Kennedy

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was shot. This was established by the presence in the film of an ambulance, which was at Dealey Plaza at that time on a call unrelated to the assassination.

AIB members said the presence of at least two persons in the sixth-floor window of the Depository so close to the time of the shooting made it improbable that Oswald could have been by himself when the shots were fired.

Groden also said one of the figures in the window was found to be wearing a magenta or reddish-orange shirt, while Oswald was wearing a brownish-colored shirt at the time he was arrested.

He insisted that the film was of sufficient quality to allow analysis to such an extent, although he said the committee's ability to subject it to stricter analysis was needed.

DALLAS TIMES HERALD

Film analyst insists two pictured in Depository

By BOB DUDNEY NOV 27 1978
Times Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A flickering, eight-second film shot at the scene of President Kennedy's assassination was screened here Sunday amid a chorus of conflicting claims about whether two persons could be seen within the Texas School Book Depository's sniper perch.

Proclaiming the Nov. 22, 1963, footage to be new evidence "beyond doubt" of conspiracy, a private group of Warren Commission critics said the film establishes at least one person besides Lee Harvey Oswald was present at the sixth-floor window only minutes before the fatal shots were fired at the Kennedy motorcade.

Members of the "Assassination Information Bureau," based in Washington, declared the film taken by former Dallas resident Charles Bronson was proof that either someone was in league with the presumed assassin, or that evidence against Oswald was being manufactured in the minutes before the assassination.

"All other films of the shooting have their value," said Robert Groden, a photo analyst from Hope Lawn, N.J., who said he examined the footage scientifically in recent weeks. "But none other shows with such clarity the probability of conspiracy."

Despite the insistent claims of Groden, who served as a consultant on photographic evidence for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the view that the film disclosed nothing of a second figure was just as prevalent among the nearly 30 reporters and observers who came to witness the film.

Shot at a distance of about 70 yards with an amateur 8mm home movie camera, the recently discovered footage appeared to many to show only shadows or stationary objects, rather than movement, in the sixth floor area. Others saw movement in the window believed to be the one Oswald fired from, but none in an adjacent window as Groden and AIB members claimed.

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