

# Houston

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## Price tag on JFK death film:

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The family of the man who made the most famous home movie in history is selling the Zapruder film for as much as \$30,000 per use nearly 25 years after it captured the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

While the footage is under copyright protection, some believe profiteering from the historical film

made by Abraham Zapruder Nov. 22, 1963, is wrong and that the home movie should be in the public domain.

"You shouldn't be able to copyright something like that," said David Wroné, a history professor at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.

"It should be in the public domain, just like the crucifixion of Jesus. It's immoral, socially speaking," said Wroné, who teaches a class pertain-

ing to the assassination of Kennedy.

Chip Selby, a graduate student at the University of Maryland, sought permission from Zapruder's son, Henry Zapruder, to use the 22-second, color film in a documentary without being required to pay the \$30,000 fee for non-exclusive rights to unlimited use.

"I explained to him (Henry Zapruder) that I was a graduate student, and I didn't have that kind of money to pay," said Selby, whose documen-

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tary, *Reasonable Doubt*, concludes that more than one gunman fired at Kennedy. "He kept saying that he didn't want to close down my project with the price and that we would work something out. But apparently he was just jerking me then, too, because he won't return my calls. He won't answer my letters or anything like that."

Selby, whose documentary now includes a \$75 bootlegged copy of the Zapruder film that he obtained from

Canada, said a representative of Henry Zapruder stated he would be sued if the right to use the film was not purchased.

But Selby, who plans to sell his documentary for educational purposes, said he is considering filing suit against Henry Zapruder. Selby, 26, says Zapruder's \$30,000 fee infringed on his First Amendment rights "because I can't say what I want to say about the JFK assassination because I can't pay this guy the

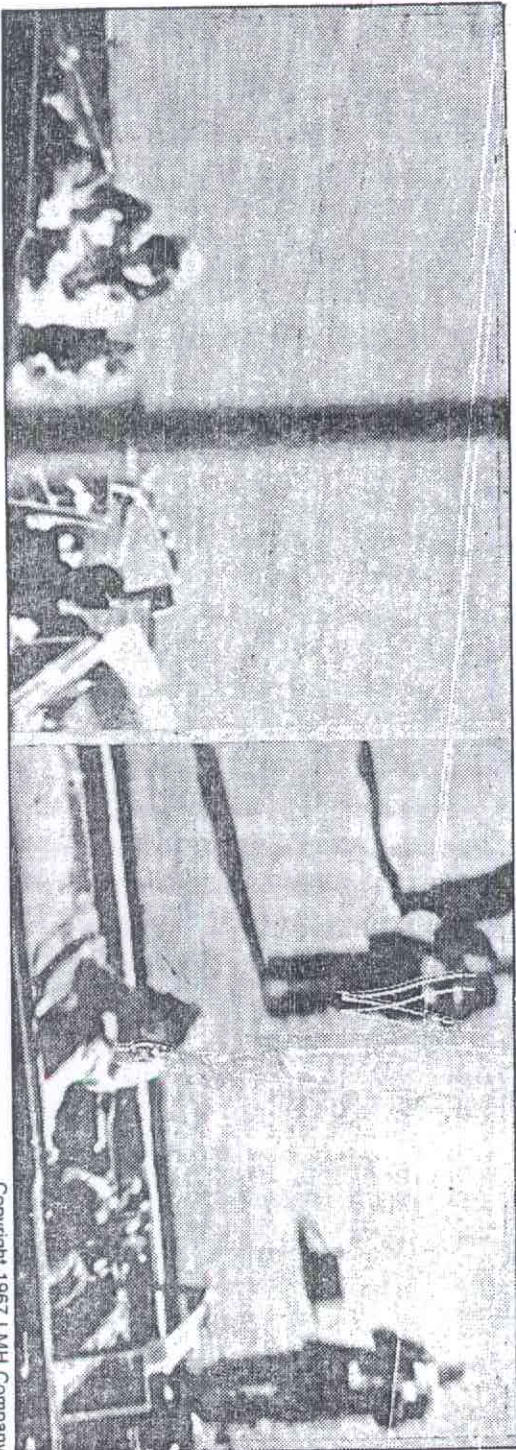
money he wants."

Henry Zapruder, a 50-year-old tax lawyer who has been negotiating the sale of the film's rights out of his Washington, D.C., office, would not comment about his financial interests in the film. However, he did say: "Anybody who is using it for their own use, research, showing it to students, colleges, can have it free of charge, other than the costs of re-

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These are scenes from the Zapruder film, capturing the tragedy as John F. Kennedy was shot Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas.

