STOP PRESS: WE HOPE THAT OUR READERS ARE AWARE OF THE CURRENT SERIES BEING PUBLISHED BY THE SUNDAY MIRROR CONCERNING CRITICAL ASPECTS OF THE JFK CASE. IF NOT, WE WOULD URGE THEM TO ENSURE THAT THEY GET HOLD OF A COPY OF THE OCTOBER 23, 1977 ISSUE AS WE ARE PROMISED THAT IT WILL CONTAIN A MOST INTERESTING ARTICLE.

ANOTHER PHANTOM SPLICER?

by Chris Scally

Most, if not all, of the readers of this newsletter are fully conversant with the damage done to the Zapruder film by the Dallas Mafia. However, the controversy over the film has not ended with the publication of the first version of the film by the National Archives. The controversy has continued as new information has come to light. One of the most recent developments is the claim made by themoon.com that the film was spliced to remove evidence of a second gunman.

The controversy over the film will continue to be a focal point of attention for many months to come, and we hope that our readers will keep up to date with the latest developments. 

November 23, 1977

Interim Executive

The document is a newsletter discussing the JFK assassination and recent developments in the controversy surrounding the film. It mentions the inclusion of an interesting article in the October 23, 1977 issue of the Sunday Mirror. The newsletter also discusses the claim of another splicer and the controversy over the film's authenticity.
between UPI and the Archives. Under the terms of this contract, nobody was allowed to obtain copies of either film, or slides of individual frames, for any purpose, be it commercial or otherwise. Indeed, until researcher Harold Weisberg obtained written permission in 1966 from UPI, nobody was even allowed to see the Nix or Muchmore footage on file among the records of the Warren Commission in the Archives. Since Weisberg obtained permission, however, the Archives have interpreted his authorization in the broadest sense, and the films can now be seen under the supervision of the Archives’ staff.

A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to obtain a copy of the Muchmore film. The copy I received was a second-generation print, identical to the prints which were prepared for the House Select Committee. Of particular relevance to this article is the final segment of the film, showing the Presidential limousine before, during and immediately after the fatal shot to the President’s head. In all there are sixty-one frames showing the motorcade’s journey down Elm Street, and throughout this article the notation “M•” will indicate frame number “•” of the Elm Street sequence of film.

The sixty-one frames of the Muchmore footage under discussion here coincide with forty-three Zapruder film frames, Z280 through Z322. Since Abraham Zapruder’s camera was filming at a speed of 18.3 frames per second it can therefore be calculated that the Muchmore camera was running at fractionally more than \( \frac{26}{7} \) frames per second.

The spliced frames in the version of the Muchmore film made available to the Select Committee are M41, M43 and M45. The Warren Commission made very limited use of the Muchmore film, publishing just three separate frames as part of Commission Exhibit (CE) 885. Additionally, CE 902 contained the frame from the Muchmore film said by the Commission to coincide with 2313, the moment of impact of the fatal shot to JFK’s head. Comparison with M42 published in CE 885 suggests that M42 is also the frame which appears in CE 902. This conclusion, first published in 1970 by Richard E. Sprague in his significant Computers and Automation article on the Photographic Evidence, and confirmed by my own study of the relevant photographs, has since been acknowledged by the National Archives in a July 11, 1977 letter to me. They also then confirmed that CE 906, the Warren Commission’s copy of the Muchmore film, is completely intact:

The damage to the Select Committee’s version of the Muchmore film, while very obvious, is most difficult to understand since no frames would appear to be missing or transposed. For example, to omit or transpose frames could possibly have the effect of changing the direction of the President’s head movement after the fatal shot, as happened when frames of the Zapruder film were transposed in the published evidence (H18 pp.70/71). However, that is not true in this case. M41 contains two horizontal splice marks, one at the top of the frame and the other at the bottom. The top one is approximately three-quarters of the way down. Frame M45 is spliced in a very similar fashion. I have been given to understand that the damage to M43 was caused by over-exposure to heat, and this explanation is satisfactory in that the splice mark runs horizontally through the centre of the frame and is obviously the result of a repair being carried out. The splices in M41 and M45 cannot be so easily explained away.
My efforts to elicit an explanation from UPI have so far proved to be unsuccessful. Initially, I wrote to their London office to seek comment on the damage to the film; this damage was attributed to a fire that had occurred in a Manchester warehouse, in the same building as their offices. An answer I received from one of their junkets was, "No Comment," which made me wonder if the warehouse was the same one where they keep the copy of the film. My belief is that the film has been damaged accidentally, until the following points are considered:

1. The original film is, of course, undamaged.
2. The copy of the Muchmore film given by UPI to the Warren Commission in 1964 is undamaged.
3. The version of the film shown to researchers in New York in 1964/65, and again in 1967, was not damaged.
4. The failure of UPI to reply to my letters suggests that, rather than make a statement which might be used against them at a later date, they wish to use that phrase well-known to all politicians - "No Comment." Bearing in mind these points, it does not seem unreasonable to postulate the theory that the damage done to the film is part of an effort to demean both the Select Committee and its work. Of course the Committee can view the Warren Commission's copy of the Muchmore film in the National Archives: of course the Committee has the power to subpoena the original footage from UPI: "But why make it easy for them?" appears to be the attitude, not only of UPI in relation to the Muchmore film, but of the media in general towards the new investigation. As soon as the Committee was voted into existence in September 1976, the media began to trot out the phrase "New Evidence!" with no apparent understanding or respect for the Committee's role. It does not appear to be the Committee's intention to "cover" the film, rather it is to encourage the Committee to view the film in a way that is favorable to their own view of the event. The failure of UPI to reply to my letters suggests that they are not interested in having the Committee view the film in a way that is unfavorable to them. Of course, the film is not the only piece of evidence that the Committee has access to. They also have access to the testimony of witnesses, the documents of the Warren Commission, and the records of the government agencies involved in the investigation. It is not clear how much of this evidence has been made available to the Committee, or whether it has been used in their investigations. In any case, it is clear that UPI is not interested in having the Committee view the film in a way that is unfavorable to them. It is also clear that the media, in general, are not interested in having the Committee view the film in a way that is favorable to them.
NOTICE TO READERS

For some months I have been attempting to persuade my good friend Harry Irwin to take over JFK.AF. He has a truly remarkable variety of contacts in the USA and has been the indirect source of most of my material.

Now that he has at last agreed to assume the mantle, I can confidently predict a more up-to-the-minute product appearing on a regular businesslike basis - and I urge readers to stay with us.

I shall, of course, remain closely associated with the newsletter and shall continue to write for it. This issue marks the last of the present unit. My thanks to those who have already sent their renewal subscriptions. For the rest, please contribute to keeping the ONLY British newsletter on the Great American Conspiracy in solvent state.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

These are now due to cover Issues No.20-25. This is a non-profit making venture and we exist solely to provide an information service related to events connected with the JFK assassination.

Postal charges alone for six issues in Britain amounts to £0.42 and despite ever-rising printing charges and incidental expenses we are trying to hold our rate at £1.50. US subscribers can take advantage of a trial six-month subscription at $85.00 and this includes AIRMAIL postage:

We need your urgent support to survive!

Please renew immediately and try to attract additional subscribers. We reckon that if we could muster 100 paid-up members we would be

FREE FROM PRESSURE!

HERE'S TO AN EXCITING SIX MONTHS!

If you have any comments or suggestions to improve the newsletter please send them to me - and I will pass them on to whoever is next in line.

My thanks to those who have been in touch, and to everyone who has contributed to the last unit. I shall, of course, remain closely associated with the newsletter.

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