

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Casper

DATE: 12/4/63

FROM : H. L. Sloan *HL*

SUBJECT: MELVIN N. JOHNSON, JR.
JOHNSON GUNS, INC.
NEW HAVEN 10, CONNECTICUT
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Tolson	
DeLoach	
Mohr	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

I received a telephone call last night from Melvin N. Johnson, President, Johnson Guns, Inc., 152 Tempo Street, New Haven 10, Connecticut, (telephone 865-4517) regarding the assassination of President Kennedy.

I have known Johnson for several years as a firearms designer and inventor of the Johnson Machine Gun and Johnson Autoloading Rifle and as a consultant with Winchester Arms Company of New Haven, Connecticut. He is a retired Colonel, U. S. Army Reserve - Ordnance, an officer with the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, 1931 - 1949, and is also a consultant on weapons, Office of the Secretary of Defense since 1951. He is a controversial figure in the ordnance field but recognized as a ballistics and firearms authority.

Johnson advised he has been in touch with the editors of Life Magazine regarding the pictures in the November 29 issue, and based on these pictures and considering the reported speed of the automobile in relation to the people and tree in the background and the appeared times the President was struck, that he believes no more than one second could have elapsed between the first and second shot which is impossible with the bolt-action rifle reportedly used by Oswald. Johnson stated that when he finished talking with the editors of the magazine, even they were confused. He stated that he is convinced that more than one rifle was used in the assassination and that the empty cartridge cases and gun were "planted" in the building. He advised he feels so strongly in this regard that he has communicated with Chief Justice Earl Warren to give him the benefit of his, Johnson's, observations.

I told Mr. Johnson I have not seen the movie or any of the evidence submitted to the FBI Laboratory, but he could be assured that any conclusions reached by our Laboratory examiners would be accurate and would be based on actual tests and examinations.

- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

HLS:jms
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Section 26

Memorandum H. L. Sloan to Mr. Casper
Re: MELVIN N. JOHNSON, JR.
JOHNSON GUNS, INC.
NEW HAVEN 10, CONNECTICUT
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The writer immediately contacted Mr. Conrad of the Laboratory
Division and advised him of the observation received from Mr. Johnson.

ACTION:

None. . . For information and to record the telephone call received
from Mr. Johnson.

HL *Conrad* *Go* *SA*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Conrad

FROM: R. H. JEVONS

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY

DATE: 12/4/63

REC-31

Tolson	
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Gandy	

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

[Handwritten "11-5-63"]

On 12/3/63, SAC Henry Sloan at Quantico received a telephone call from Melvin N. Johnson, President, Johnson Guns, Incorporated, 152 Tempo Street, New Haven 10, Connecticut, regarding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

SAC Sloan advised by memorandum dated 12/4/63, that Johnson stated he believed no more than one second could have elapsed between the first and second shots. This estimate was based on his examination of the pictures in Life magazine of November 29, 1963, which were reprinted from a movie taken by an amateur photographer, considering the reported speed of the automobile in relation to the people and tree in the background of the movie. (Copy of SAC Sloan's memo attached.)

A careful study of the movie in question was made and it shows Mr. Johnson to be in error. It is pointed out that the photographs printed in Life magazine do not show the complete sequence of the movie and the write-up accompanying these photographs does not accurately indicate the time of the first shot.

From careful timing of the film, the most accurate estimate* possible gives seven seconds as the interval between the first and third shot with the second shot occurring approximately in the middle of the seven-second interval.

It should be noted that of the assassination sequence in Life magazine only 13 of the approximate 110 frames are represented.

ACTION: For information.

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Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Casper, Attention: Mr. Sloan
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Bartlett, Room 845 RB
- 1 - Mr. Handley, Room 5710
- 1 - Mr. Turner, Room 649 RB

NOTE: *The above estimate is based on a normal speed of 16 frames per second.

A check is being made to ascertain the actual speed of the amateur photographer's camera. Regardless of this speed, however, the second shot occurred in the middle of the time interval.

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