

PLAYBOY interview

Zapruder

Having never understood the real significances of the Zapruder film, having done none of the considerable important work on it, having missed the most glaring destruction of essential parts of it, Mark never ceases misrepresenting who did.

Knowing full well that it was brought to light in WHITEWASH, he alleges in his Playboy interview exactly the contrary. Here there is a virtuoso display of both his integrity and his knowledge - of the fact, the testimony and the Commission personnel: (p.46)

"The question of these missing frames was brought before one of the Commission's lawyers last year by David Lifton, a graduate engineering student and an associate of the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry. The lawyer was so concerned he wrote (the former head of the Commission). This Commission lawyer commented: 'I have no recollection that anybody considered what happened to the sign or that anybody was aware of the fact that the frames were omitted.'"

"Omitted" as a replacement for "destroyed: is a considerable understatement for Omniscient Mark to be quoting. The lawyer is Wesley Liebeler, from whom Mark, for a long time, was running. He had often promised to file a suit against Liebeler for calling him a liar but apparently never did.

Now, if there is anyone who did have knowledge and did have "recollection" about these two things, it is Wesley Liebeler, who took the testimony on the same day from the two people who gave just that information. With the sign, it was Groundkeeper Emmett Hudson, as I published in WHITEWASH. With the missing frames of the Zapruder film, it was his own "testimony" in Vol. 7, (sttsched), also revealed in my writing alone.

Now, a year before this alleged interest by Lifton and lapse of memory by Liebeler, all of this was brought to light in WHITEWASH. But Mark, consistent with his pose of having done everything that was done and all that has never been done - and alone and unassisted - pretends no other books exist. This is consistent with the failure of his own book to bring forth any major new information about the assassination or its investigation and consistent with his own high concepts of personal integrity and legal and literary ethics.

There is a different version of the same general character added in the reprint of Rush to Judgment (p.387), heralded on that cover as "important new information".

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Several other items, each its own kind of monument to the integrity, depth and exhaustiveness of Mark's work, and his dependability, are in the same Playboy interview. On p.28, for example, this; in reference to the documents burned by the doctor in charge of the autopsy:

"Think about this for a moment. Here we have a commander in the United States Navy, who is also a doctor, assigned to perform the autopsy on the assassinated President of the United States, burning his draft notes on the autopsy ..."

Now, Mark, before this, knew the truth but his vanity prevented acknowledgment of it for he pretends all knowledge began with and is vested in him. During the taping of a TV show many months earlier, he had made the same mistake in challenging me, as had Jim Bishop. The exchange, so unflattering to both of these self-touted "experts", was edited from the final showing. But on that occasion, what Mark learned is that the autopsy notes were not burned. Worse, they were suppressed by the government. I have receipts for them through the White House and Secret Service to the Warren Commission. What was burned is the first draft of the autopsy protocol itself.

On the same page Mark was asked, "Did the bullet fragments found in the governor's wrist, rib and thigh match Exhibit 399?" Mark's reply was, "Of course not ..."

No fragments of bullet were recovered from Governor Connally's chest or thigh.

In subsequent apology, the editors of Playboy told me they had devoted an enormous amount of staff time and personnel for three weeks in an effort to eliminate the error in this interview. These are but samples of what remained.