

Text for photo-panel JFK-2

It is the position of the Warren Commission that JFK was first struck between Zapruder frames 210-225.^① However, two motions, one by JFK and one by Mrs. JFK -- occurring almost simultaneously, and visible in the Zapruder frames -- point to a probably hit at approximately fr. 189.

Since this is during the fr. 166-210 time-period when the FBI has established that, due to an obstructing tree, no clear shot from the TSB D sixth-floor window was possible,^② this shot would have had to originate elsewhere.

Mrs. JFK's turn to the right:

By the time Mrs. JFK had turned to face her husband, at least one shot had been fired. This is clearly indicated by all four witnesses whose testimony bears on the question; Willis,^③ Holland,^④ O'Donnell,^⑤ and Mrs. JFK herself.^⑥ Furthermore, her testimony indicates he had already been struck by the time she faced him.

In color fr. 183 she is facing forward,^(her face partially hidden by horizontal chrome bar) Note that the dividing line between her hair and hat is horizontal. In color fr. 226, where she is clearly facing him, this line goes sharply down to the right. This line is the critical factor in determining the timing of her turn to her right.

By extending the lower paper strip on the photo-panel so that the red arrow points to the lowest part of her hat in color fr. 226; and comparing the appearance of her hat in fr. 226 with that in the three preceding pictures, it is clear she was fully facing JFK in these frames. By extending the upper strip in a similar fashion, it can be seen that she was already doing so by fr. 200, and substantially so by fr. 198.^{⑦, ⑧}

JFK reaches for his throat:

It has been well established by numerous eyewitness press-reports and testimony that JFK had been waving with his right hand at the instant he was struck, and then immediately clutched at his throat. ⁽⁷⁾

Examination of the Zapruder frames reveals that he lowered his right hand (~~down~~^{green} arrows) very quickly from the highest point of his wave (fr. 189-192) to a throat-level position (fr. 198), and then held it there. ⁽⁸⁾ (although the lowering of his hand -- first discernible in fr. 193, and reaching throat-level in fr. 198 -- is accomplished in 5/18 second, it is still at the throat position 8/18 second later in fr. 206; after which it disappears behind the sign.) This action by JFK is virtually simultaneous with his wife's sharp rightward turn towards him. The convergence of these two motions strongly suggest he was first hit shortly before their occurrence, i.e., approx. fr. 189.

To believe otherwise, one must accept

- (1) that all four witnesses whose testimony covers the timing of the turn, including Mrs. JFK herself, were incorrect in their belief she turned sharply to her right only after one or more shots were fired; *
- (2) that they were also incorrect in the belief that JFK had already been hit as she faced him.
- (3) that coincidental with his wife's turn towards him, JFK lowered his right hand rapidly (less than 1/3 second) from a head-high wave, to his throat-level, and then held it there; and that by so doing he was not reacting to a hit.

*-see testimony, pg 4

Notes

(in tracing Mrs. JFK's turn and JFK's hand motion, it is suggested that Zapruder frames in vol. 18 be used in conjunction with photo-panel JFK-2)

- ①② Shaneyfelt, v.5, p.149-151. (The FBI test showed that at one frame, 185, JFK was visible while behind the tree. Since this represents only 1/18 sec., the possibility of a gunman in the window, fixing his target in the cross-hairs and squeezing off an accurate shot in that instant, is excluded).
- ③ Willis, v.7, p.496-497.
- ④ Holland, v.6, p.243.
- ⑤ Kenneth O'Donnell, v.7, p.449.
- ⑥ Mrs. JFK, v.5, p.180.
- ⑦ further confirmation of this is seen in Willis #5 (v.21, p.770), which another researcher has conclusively proven to be simultaneous with Zapruder fr. 202.
- ⑧ by using her hair/hatline as a guide, it can be determined that she was facing to her left -- the south side of Elm St. -- in fr. 172 (confirmed by Willis #4, approx. one second earlier); then turned and reached a forward-facing position 8/18 sec. later at fr. 180, where she remained for 5/18 sec. until fr. 185. In fr. 186-189, she appears to be facing slightly to her right of center. Fr. 190-192 are extremely blurred, and no change is discernible. The balance of her turn to the right is accomplished in the 5/18 sec. from fr. 193-198.
- ⑨ Holland, v.6, p.243; Zapruder, v.7, p.571.
- ⑩ Shaneyfelt, v.5, p.152, says that JFK's reaction to a first hit begins to be apparent in fr. 225 (seen more clearly in color fr. 226). Circumstances covered herein would indicate that if he is reacting to a hit in fr. 226-229 -- where he is rapidly raising both elbows -- it was a second hit.

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Willis: when I took slide No. 4, the President was smiling and waving and looking straight ahead, and Mrs. Kennedy was . . . facing more to my side of the street. When the first shot was fired, her head seemed to just snap in that direction . . . she turned to the right toward him and he more or less slumped forward, and it caused me to wonder if he were hit, although I couldn't say.

v.7
p.496-
497

Holland: and she (Mrs. JFK) was looking . . . in a southern direction . . . and about that time he . . . pulled forward and hand just stood like that momentarily . . . and another report rang out . . . and she turned around facing the President . . . In other words, she realized what was happening, I guess.

V.6
p.243

O'Donnell:she appeared to be immediately aware that something had happened. She turned toward him . . .

v.7
p.449

Mrs. Kennedy: so I was looking to the left. I guess there was a noise . . . Governor Connally was yelling, "Oh, no, no, no." . . . And my husband never made any sound. So I turned to the right. And all I remember is seeing my husband, he had this sort of quizzical look on his face, and his hand was up, it must have been his left hand

v.5
p.180

(underlines added)

R.M., - Dec. '65
R. MARCUS