

20724

May 27, 1966

Mr. Marion Johnson
The National Archives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Examination of the Zapruder slides took more time than anticipated and I had to leave the Archives without seeing you, but I did make numerous attempts to reach you by phone. One line remained busy and the other did not answer. I shall be in Washington later today and will seek you and the copies of the documents from Document 571. Meanwhile, I want to thank you and the Archives for the helpful and cooperative reception.

As always, each time I seek an answer I have more questions, and like Document 571, so it is with the Zapruder film. I would like to add to the suggestions I made yesterday. While I still believe it is desirable to study this movie in slow motion and offer my own Polar Beam for this purpose, I also believe it is desirable for analysts to be able to stop this film on single frames, which the Polar does not permit. My reasons are these: As Zapruder himself suggested in his testimony, each stop away from the original reduces distinction that much more. If you made a 16mm print from the 8mm copy LIFE gave the government, while you can project a larger image, it cannot be as clear as that projected by the 8mm print, which, in turn, cannot be as clear as the LIFE original. About speed, I believe the opposite from the desired effect is obtained by having the first of the three versions at fast motion and that one of the better versions should be in slow motion, with the frames replicated. This, I believe, is especially true of the frames beginning around 180 and before and after 318. One of the things that perplexed me is that at frame 318 the President's hand made rapid motions generally in both a backward and a strong forward direction. The unfortunate effect of the motion-picture version as now arranged is similar to that of an ancient Biograph film. But in each of the three versions, to me there is a suggestion of speed that is faster than my recollection of the testimony and faster than my own experience with my own 8mm film.

Hence I would like to know whether the movie version contains all the frames of the Zapruder film, especially because the slides do not. If any frames are missing, I should like to know which ones, both from the entire film exposed by Zapruder and from any sections after the beginning and before the end. It is my impression that he exposed more film than I saw and that some was missing after the beginning and before the end. If this is the case, I should like to see the original film supplied by LIFE and will supply my projector in advance for this purpose. I should also like the opportunity to obtain for you, if you cannot do so, an 8mm projector that will safely stop on individual frames.

In Volume 18 the Commission prints frames 171 through 334 of this film with 208-311 eliminated and 318 altered and 307 implicitly marred. These seem to be the frames we saw in stills and I wonder if these are the only frames on the 16mm

...you refer to the ... missing frames ... and the ...
...for example, in Volume II on ...
...it has no meaning. ...
...that caused the ...
...to be the ...
...that I see the ...

In general, all these frames seem to me to be remarkably less clear than those ...
...I should hope that some means might be available by which the ...
...the best ...

Now these films have revealed many ... to your know-
...the ...

Finally, you do not have the answers to my questions, for there may be only what ...
...to direct them.

Again I want to thank you. I hope in the near future to be able to see the other ...
...of the actual ...

Sincerely yours,

David Keisling