

Zapruder Film Contradicts the Warren Report

To the Editor: 6/14/94

In "What the Film Shows" (letter, May 27), William L. O'Neill's fanciful view that Jacqueline Kennedy was risking her life to help Clint Hill, a Secret Service officer, when she was seen on the trunk of the limousine just after the shots were fired that killed President Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, is quite mistaken.

Instead of correcting Anna Quindlen's May 21 column in which she merely wrote that Mrs. Kennedy's maneuver was "never fully understood," it would have been better to turn to Mrs. Kennedy's testimony.

Just after the fatal shot to the President's head, according to her inter-

view published in William Manchester's "Death of a President" (New York, 1967), the only authorized Kennedy family account of the assassination, she said that she crawled onto the limousine trunk to retrieve a portion of her husband's skull.

Agent Hill saw Mrs. Kennedy floundering precariously on the trunk and jumped up to push her back into the car, not the other way around. Appearances can be deceiving; what Mr. O'Neill thought he saw on the famous Zapruder film of the assassination (which I have often seen) is opposite what actually occurred.

Ironically, the real reason for Mrs. Kennedy's journey onto the trunk of the limousine disproves the Warren Commission theory that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole gunman. If the skull fragment was on the trunk of the car as reported in the Manchester book, it could have gotten there only if the bullet that shattered the President's skull had been fired from a position in front of the car. If Oswald had fired the fatal shot from his position to the rear of the car in the Texas School Book Depository, Mrs. Kennedy no doubt would have scrambled over the front seat to retrieve the skull fragment.

For that reason then, the Warren Commission's theory of a lone assassin is inconsistent with the laws of motion.

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New York, June 4, 1994



The New York Times Company

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