

are only four photographs on exhibit no. 890 whereas there are eight on the
question Exhibit No. 902, so that necessarily the photograph through the
scope is much smaller as it is depicted on Exhibit No. 902, and I want you
bear that in mind, Sergeant Zahm, in answering the question as to whether
consider the shot at a distance of 265.3 feet to be difficult or not difficult
characterize it for me in your own words.

Sergeant ZAHM. I consider it still an easy shot, a little more difficult
the President's body position and increase in distance of approximately 40
but I still consider it an easy shot for a man with the equipment he had and
ability.

Mr. SPECTER. Assuming that there were three shots fired in a range of
to 5.6 seconds, would that speed of firing at that range indicated in the
questions be within Mr. Oswald's capabilities as a marksman?

Sergeant ZAHM. Yes.

Mr. SPECTER. What effect if any would the alinement of the street have
the moving vehicle in the way that it is shown on the picture, Exhibit No. 890?

Sergeant ZAHM. This is a definite advantage to the shooter, the vehicle
ing directly away from him and the downgrade of the street, and he being
an elevated position made an almost stationary target while he was aiming
very little movement if any.

Mr. SPECTER. How would the fact that the street had a 3° decline affect
difficulty of the shot.

Sergeant ZAHM. It would make it easier because Oswald was in an elevated
position, and therefore if the car was traveling on a level terrain, it would
apparently—he would have to keep adjusting by holding up a little bit as
car traveled. But by going downgrade this just straightened out his line
sight that much better.

Mr. SPECTER. So that if the car had been proceeding on a level, the assassin
would have had to have raised his weapon as the distance between the rifle
the car increased to allow for trajectory?

Sergeant ZAHM. No; just to allow for the movement of the targets, the target
Assume that you are aiming standing at ground level and aiming down a hill
at somebody walking straight away from you, and you could hold your rifle
and point to him and never have to move it. But when he gets to the bottom
of the hill and the ground levels out, then as he continues on you have to pull
your finger—

Mr. SPECTER. Raise your finger as you are indicating with your finger now

Sergeant ZAHM. Right; you would have to raise your finger to track
target.

Mr. SPECTER. So that if you were aiming at a man in a moving car driving
on the horizontal, as he got farther away from you, would you (a) hold
rifle at the same level, (b) lower it, or (c) raise it?

Sergeant ZAHM. If you were in an elevated, a slightly elevated position
he was driving on straight level terrain, you would have to continually
and raise your weapon as he increased his distance from you.

Mr. SPECTER. And if he was going down in an angle of descent, would that
decrease the necessity for you to raise your rifle in tracking him?

Sergeant ZAHM. Right; it would slow the movement down. There still would
be a slight movement, but it wouldn't be as fast. Therefore, not affecting
aiming or possibly having to introduce a lead in your aiming, because the target
is staying relatively in the same position on the line of sight.

Mr. SPECTER. So then it would have been an aid to the assassin to have had
President's car going on a downgrade because that would have taken into
consideration some of the adjustment necessary by virtue of the greater distance
between the rifle and the victim?

Sergeant ZAHM. Yes.

Mr. SPECTER. Do you have anything to add, Sergeant Zahm, which you
might be helpful in this analysis?

Sergeant ZAHM. No, sir; I don't think so.

Mr. SPECTER. Thank you very much for appearing before the Committee
today, sir.