

8/2/97

Mr. S. Rubenhold
18237 Jovan St.,
Reseda, CA 91335

Dear Mr. Rubenhold,

Please excuse the brevity of this response. I'm 84 now and suffer a number of serious and enfeebling illnesses.


To put it bluntly, if you and so many like you were not all wrapped up in the nutty assassination literature you'd know that what you wrote me about I wrote ~~it~~ about in the first book on the assassination, the first of my "Whitewash" series, and I carried that forward in the second one. But when people are happy involving themselves in nutty theories and ignore factual information they are bound to be uninformed or misinformed.

If you can borrow a copy of my Whitewash, which dates to 2/15/65, and look in the index under Zapruder, you will find this in his testimony. If you can get a copy of Whitewash II and check under Phil Willis you will find additional proof there.

You may have heard of the so-called jiggle theory that is attributed to the "obel laureate, Alvarez. That was not his. It was some of his students who had Whitewash and asked him about it. But he was determined to support the official mythology.

Zapruder actually testified to earlier shots than at Z210. And I included that in the very first book on the subject.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

CC: JOHN JUDGE

Syd Rubenhold
18237 Jovan Street
Reseda, CA 91335
7/23/97

Dear Mr Weisberg:

I have been a student of the JFK assassination since Mark Lane's *Rush to Judgement* was published. Over the past thirty years I have read many books on the assassination including yours of course and have watched several television documentaries on the subject.

Recently, while watching a tape of a documentary I recorded, I believe I discovered something that may have gone unnoticed concerning the location of the limousine at the time that the President was hit by the shot in the back.

As you noted in *Whitewash II*, the Altgen's photograph shows that the limousine's front tire was on the fourth road stripe at the time that JFK was reacting to the first shot that hit him. However, I maintain that he was hit when the car was about 22 feet back from the stripe and closer to the School Book Depository.

My explanation for this may be rather convoluted so I ask for your indulgence while I present my argument. After watching the Zapruder film shown on the taped documentary at a frame by frame speed I saw the instant the President was hit in the back. As the limousine emerges from behind the freeway sign, Kennedy's elbow is pointing down and his forearm and hand point up at an angle as if he is about to wave. The very next frame shows that his elbow has been lifted to the horizontal position with his fist clenched.

I stopped the tape at the instant before JFK raised his elbow then ran the tape at normal speed. With a stopwatch I found the time from just before Kennedy's reaction to when his wife reached over with her left gloved hand was close to 1.5 seconds. The Altgens photo was not taken when JFK was hit but 1.5 seconds after.

A vehicle traveling one mile per hour covers one foot in 1.46 seconds. If the limousine was moving at ten miles per hour it would have been almost 22 feet (14.6 feet x 1.5 seconds) closer to the Depository Building when the bullet struck Kennedy's back than the Altgens picture shows. At a faster speed the vehicle would have been even closer to the building.

The bottom line to all this is that at the time Kennedy was first hit, the limousine was probably completely obscured from the view of anyone at the sixth floor window of the TSD by the tree in front of the building. If it can be determined exactly how fast the limousine was moving when JFK was first hit and how much foliage there was on the tree in the line of sight of the alleged assassin, all other arguments against the Warren Commission's findings would be unnecessary. I would appreciate your comments on my observations.

Sincerely,

Syd Rubenhold

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