

typed by: KG
trans by: "
1-10-68
1 - Time (Lucille Nunes)

TIME INCORPORATED

Jerry Williams

WBBM Radio

December 30, 1967 - 8:00 PM

Chicago

JOSIAH THOMPSON ON TIMEOLIFE MAGAZINE

Guest: Josiah Thompson, author of "Six Seconds in Dallas"

JOSIAH THOMPSON: ...I studying the Zapruder Film in the archives in the summer of 1966...

JERRY WILLIAMS: Was this a copy of a copy?

THOMPSON/ Yeah. It turned out to be that. I didn't what it was when I was looking at it.

WILLIAMS: It's in the archives...

THOMPSON: Yeah, its in the archives right now. That copy that I was studying was a copy used by the Commission in its photo studies. I was trying to figure out when the Governor was hit . I was looking at this film to see whether I could see the impact of the bullet on the Governor. Because, quite clearly, if the single bullet theory was wrong, the President and the Governor were not hit by the same shot, then you ought to be able to see the impact on the Governor some time later - after the President was hit. I couldn't see it on this copy.

And it wasn't until about 3 months later when I went to work as a special consultant for Life magazine who owned and still does own the original film. That -- I was able to see a better copy of the film than the copy studied by the Commission. I looked into it and then determined that actually the film studied by the Commission was a copy of a copy. A second generation copy. And that's the stuff I was looking at at Life - transparencies that were made from the original film were better than anything the Commission say. And on these transparencies it was quite clear - there was no problem or ambiguity about seeing the impact of this bullet on the Governor. It was quite clear.

WILLIAMS: Well, did the copy of the copy obscure the impact? Why would it do that?

THOMPSON: Well, as you know, with every photographic copying process you lose resolution. And in this case, what's critical like details such as the buckle of the Governor's shoulder, the puff of his cheeks, the arrangement of his hair, all like this one particular Zapruder frame 238 -- unless you've got very high resolution those details are not readily apparent and that was the case.

WILLIAMS: Well, you say now, with the original Life Film, which they still own, it is readily apparent.

THOMPSON: It's readily apparent too, not only to me, but to experts such as Dr. Cyril Wet (?) who also saw that film at Life.

WILLIAMS: What stupidity would bring the Warren Commission to look upon a copy of a copy?

THOMPSON: Yes, but that's for them to answer. I mean that's not for me to answer, I don't know. I see it only as an oversight, as a rather foolish blunder. But I can't answer that question, I wasn't on the Commission, I had nothing to do with it at this point.

WILLIAMS: And that particular film -- this particular film, the film that you feel discounts completely the single bullet theory?

THOMPSON: Right...

WILLIAMS: The only one -- now in the possession of Life Magazine.

THOMPSON: Right...

WILLIAMS: Not the Warren Commission Film either? What I'm trying to find out is why some member of the Warren Commission has said, "Wait a minute now, that particular," since the book they must be aware of it and Saturday Evening Post and all the publicity you've received as a result of it, why hasn't any member of the Warren Commission at this point said, "Mr. Life, I want to see that original film now."?

THOMPSON: I think it would be a wonderful idea if Mr. Russel or some member of the Commission would do just that. And as a matter of fact, I think we've had an even better idea. For the last month I've been urging Life to release so that not only a member of the Warren Commission but anyone, you or any of our listeners, can see these critical 4 frames -- Zapruder frames 237 - 240. Now 2 weeks ago Life answered my appeal by bringing suit against Random House, against my publisher,

and against me, asking the judge to enjoin distribution of the book and have all copies that were then in existence impounded and destroyed. So that's where we sit right now.

WILLIAMS: Life Magazine...

THOMPSON: Has brought suit...

WILLIAMS: Enjoined you and the publisher...

THOMPSON: Enjoined distribution of this book because we published in this book sketches to indicate what their Zapruder films showed, and they claim the sketches infringed their copyright and thus they have brought suit. But let me point out, you know, I didn't imagine...

WILLIAMS: It still seems incredible to me at this point with all of the conjecture about the Warren Commission Report and the assassination of the President, that the government is not in possession of that original film.

THOMPSON: I think its appalling. You know, Walter Cronkite, last summer, appealed to Life to release the film at that point. CBS has wanted to use this film in their Warren Report coverage and they were told by Time Incorporated that the Zapruder film quote, "is an incalculable asset of Time Incorporated." And Walter Cronkite went on to point out at that time that he thought it was an incalculable asset of the American people and should be released to the American people. And I think so too. I think its an amazing sort anomaly that this one critical peice of evidence on the assassination of a president - evidence which to my mind now throws the whole case into turmoil because it does explade the single bullet theory...

WILLIAMS: And there's not one of those outstanding citizens on the Warren Commission Report who has even made a statement about it as well.

THOMPSON: No. We sent -- I sent copies of the book to them. I have a personal contact with the one -- of the commiss@on members and all I've received is the same silence that I think everyone else has received on this case.

* * *