



### Transcript of the Abraham Zapruder Interview on the ABC Network

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This transcript is taken from video tape of the live broadcast seen nationwide on the ABC network on November 22, 1963. The interviewer, seated on the left, is WFAA-TV program director Jay Watson. On the right, with his hat on the desk, is Abraham Zapruder.

**WATSON:** A gentleman just walked in our studio that I am meeting for the first time as well as you, this is WFAA-TV in Dallas, Texas. May I have your name please, sir?

**ZAPRUDER:** My name is Abraham Zapruder.

**WATSON:** Mr. Zapruda?

**ZAPRUDER:** Zapruder, yes sir.

**WATSON:** Zapruda. And would you tell us your story please, sir?

**ZAPRUDER:** I got out in, uh, about a half-hour earlier to get a good spot to shoot some pictures. And I found a spot, one of these concrete blocks they have down near that park, near the underpass. And I got on top there, there was another girl from my office, she was right behind me. And as I was shooting, as the President was coming down from Houston Street making his turn, it was about a half-way down there, I heard a shot, and he slumped to the side, like this. Then I heard another shot or two, I couldn't say it was one or two, and I saw his head practically open up, all blood and everything, and I kept on shooting. That's about all, I'm just sick, I can't...

**WATSON:** I think that pretty well expresses the entire feelings of the whole world.

**ZAPRUDER:** Terrible, terrible.

**WATSON:** You have the film in your camera, we'll try to get...

**ZAPRUDER:** Yes, I brought it on the studio, now.

**WATSON:** ...we'll try to get that processed and have it as soon as possible.

WFAA then shows a video tape of the hearse with Kennedy's body leaving the Parkland Hospital driveway. Watson next shows a photograph of the Texas School Book Depository and points to the sixth floor window.

**WATSON:** There is a picture of the window where the gun was allegedly fired from that killed President Kennedy...

**ZAPRUDER:** I must have been in the line of fire.

**WATSON:** ... today. Excuse me, go ahead sir.

**ZAPRUDER:** I say I must have been in the line of fire where I seen that picture where it was. I was right on that, uh, concrete block, as I said. And as I explained before, is a sickening scene. At first I thought perhaps it's a, uh, it sounded like, uh, somebody make a joke, you hear a, a shot and somebody grabs their stomach.

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WFAA-TV

CLIP

11-22-63

*Zapruder*

*describing location  
of shot*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. Tolson

DATE: November 22, 1963

FROM :

A. H. Belmont *adms*

SUBJECT:

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

Tolson	
Belmont	
Mohr	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
DeLoach	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

I talked to SAC Shanklin in Dallas. He said arrangements have been made with Carswell Air Force Base to fly one of our Agents up to Washington with the rifle that was recovered by the police together with the fragments of the bullet taken from Governor Connolly and the cartridge cases. I told SAC Shanklin that Secret Service had one of the bullets that struck President Kennedy and the other is lodged behind the President's ear and we are arranging to get both of these. I told him to notify us when the gun will reach Washington so we can have the Laboratory standing by.

I told Shanklin that it appeared the rifle was highly important particularly as Oswald is making no admissions and leads should be set out to immediately check this rifle as well as the telescope sight. Shanklin said this was being done. I told Shanklin to also see if the police want us to make a ballistics test on the pistol which shot the police officer and if so to forward the pistol and the bullets to us for examination. I told Shanklin if the police don't want to release the pistol to us, he should find out all about it; that is, make, caliber, how many bullets were fired, etc.

Shanklin said that he realized that it was extremely important to locate and interview the co-workers of Oswald and any people that knew him in order to account for his whereabouts and actions, and he said this is being done.

I told Shanklin that President Johnson has been in touch with the Director and wants to be sure we are on top of this case and is looking to the FBI solving the case. It is, therefore, imperative that we do everything possible in this case. Shanklin understood.

Shanklin was advised that we are sending out another teletype to all offices instructing that any allegations or leads pertaining to the assassination must be run out on an urgent basis and the Bureau and Dallas, office of origin, advised.

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

001464

Memorandum to Mr. Tolson  
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

In view of the fact a number of leads are developing in Dallas and it is necessary to conduct numerous interviews at one, I told Shanklin we would send in an additional 20 Agents, four stenographers and ten cars. The Administrative Division is handling this tonight.

*[Handwritten mark]*

*↑ Done  
WJH*

*G.M.  
H*

*no serial on  
this copy  
please*

26 November 1963

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School  
To: CDR James Joseph HUMES, MC, USN, 497831/2100

1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November - 23 November 1963.

2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

*J. H. Stover, Jr.*  
J. H. STOVER, JR.

27 Nov 63  
(Date)

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: CDR James Joseph HUMES, MC, USN, 497831/2100  
To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School

1. Above orders received this date.
2. I have read and fully understand them and am aware of the disciplinary action possible in the event that I disobey these orders.

JAMES JOSEPH HUMES

27 Nov 63  
(Date)

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School  
To: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center

1. Forwarded to you this date for retention in your files.

*J. H. Stover, Jr.*  
J. H. STOVER, JR.

000947

MD 75