

April 27, 1934

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

FROM: Herman Keady

The purpose of this memorandum is to explain the reasons why certain members of the staff feel that it is important to take certain on-site photographs in connection with the location of the approximate points at which the three bullets struck the occupants of the Presidential limousine.

Our report presumably will state that the President was hit by the first bullet, Governor Connally by the second, and the President by the third and fatal bullet. The report will also conclude that the bullets were fired by one person located in the sixth floor southeast corner window of the building.

As our investigation now stands, however, we have not shown that these events could possibly have occurred in the manner suggested above. All we have is a reasonable hypothesis which appears to be supported by the medical testimony but which has not been checked out against the physical facts at the scene of the assassination.

Our examination of the Keady film shows that the bullet which struck the President at a point which was located with reasonable accuracy on the ground. To be sure, we have not had the exact frame (no. 313) in the film which shows the bullet striking the President and we have not had the opportunity of making up fixed objects at the scene where the bullet struck. However, we feel that we have located the approximate location of this point. This point is located by a line from the same spot from the point where the shooter was standing.

Because the testimony of Mrs. Sawyer and Mrs. Connally indicates that the Governor was hit with the second bullet at a point which was approximately correct with precision. We feel we are in a position, however, with the help of medical testimony, to feel that the point which hit the Governor did not correspond to the Keady film. The Governor feels that it corresponds to this, and with the doctor's testimony. Since the Governor was shot at frame 313, this would leave a time of approximately one second between the two shots, certainly ample time for an experienced marksman.

Prior to our last viewing of the films with Governor Connally we had assumed that the President was hit while he was concealed behind the sign which occurs between frames 217 to 225. We have expert testimony to the effect that a skilled marksman would require a minimum time of 21 seconds between shots with this rifle. Since the camera operation at 18 1/3 frames per second, there would have to be a minimum of 38 frames between shots. It is apparent therefore, that if Governor Connally was hit even as late as frame 217, the President would have to have been hit no later than frame 179 and probably even earlier.

We have not yet examined the assassination scene to determine whether the assassin in fact could have shot the President prior to frame 190. We could locate the position on the ground which corresponds to this frame and it would then be our intent to establish by photography that the assassin could have fired the first shot at the President prior to this point. Our intention is not to establish the point with complete accuracy, but merely to substantiate the hypothesis which maintains the conclusion that Oswald was the sole assassin.

I had always assumed that our final report would be accompanied by a surveyor's diagram which would indicate the approximate location of the three shots. We certainly cannot prepare such a diagram without establishing that we are describing an occurrence which is physically possible. Our failure to do this will, in my opinion, place this report in jeopardy since it is a certainty that others will compare the Kennedy film and raise the same questions which have been asked by our examination of the film. If we do not attempt to answer these questions with observable facts, we are very serious when with you which challenge our most basic surveying or other factual theories based on our observations and assumptions by the investigatory community.

I should add that the facts which we now have in our possession, submitted to us in separate reports from the United States Service, are totally incorrect and, if left uncorrected, will present a completely misleading picture.

It may well be that this project should be undertaken by the FBI and United States Service with our assistance inasmuch as being done as a joint project. The important thing is that the project be undertaken expeditiously.