

2 Sue Over Film Rights on Kennedy Slayi

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 (AP) — The son of Abraham Zapruder, the dress manufacturer who filmed the assassination of President Kennedy with a home movie camera, should be stopped from selling rights to the film, two researchers contend.

In a lawsuit filed last Thursday in Federal District Court, the researchers contend that Henry G. Zapruder, a Washington tax lawyer, should not have a copyright claim to the 8-millimeter film that recorded the shooting of Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, at Dealey Plaza in Dallas.

The case was brought by Harold Weisberg, an author of six books on the assassination, and Gerard A. Selby Jr., a graduate student at the University of Maryland who made a documentary on the Kennedy slaying.

Mr. Zapruder, reached by telephone, refused to answer specific questions about the suit but said the family

charged a fee only to those who use the film for commercial purposes.

The elder Mr. Zapruder, who died in 1970, had sold the film to Life magazine for \$150,000 shortly after the assassination. In 1975 Time Inc. sold the film back to the Zapruder family for \$1.

The original film is in storage at the National Archives, but the Zapruder family retains exclusive rights to the film's use and copies of it. The suit contends that the younger Mr. Zapruder has been charging up to \$30,000 for the right to use the film footage.

"It's a historical event and it's far too important to American history to allow its use to be dictated by a copyright owner who has shown no sensitivity for the uses which scholars and writers want to make of it," said James H. Lesar, a lawyer who is vice president of the Assassination Archives, a private research group.