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Jury to View 'Copy' of JFK Slaying Film

A spokesman for Life Magazine said today that a copy of the motion picture film of the Kennedy assassination, taken at the scene by Abraham Zapruder, not the original film, will be shown to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury tomorrow.

Yesterday, the District Attorney's Office, which had subpoenaed the film from Time, Inc., said the original would be delivered by the magazine for viewing by the grand jury in connection with the DA's Kennedy probe.

DA Jim Garrison contends that the original film, sold by Zapruder to Life, would show that President Kennedy was shot from the front; the Warren Commission said he was shot from the back.

In printing the copy for the Warren Commission, four frames of the film were damaged and were deleted.

THE COPY THE jury is to view was made before the film was damaged and includes the four frames which were not seen by the commission.

Warren Commission critics have made much over the fact that these four frames were missing.



Lillian & Harold Weisberg

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NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, MD. 21701:::301/473-8186

March 29, 1968

Editor, States-Item
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir,

Whoever gave you the information in your story, "Jury To View 'Copy' of JFK Slaying Film", which begins with an attribution to "a spokesman for Life Magazine", underinformed and misinformed you and through you, your readers.

It is I who brought to light the fact that four frames of the Zapruder film are missing in the Warren Commission printed evidence (WHITEWASH, original edition, which you have, pp 45, 206) and the fact that while pretending to "release" these frames, Life devised a means of further suppression (PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH, pp. 20ff).

It was not "in printing the copy for the Warren Commission" that "four frames of the film were damaged and were deleted". The two copies for the government were printed, immediately, at the Dallas processing plant while the original was being developed. The hand-lettered memo with which the first copy was forwarded to Washington that night I also brought to light (PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH, pp. 15, 138-9).

Whoever told you that "the copy the jury is to view was made before the film was damaged and includes the four frames which were not seen by the Commission" misled you in a number of ways. First of all, the Commission had a copy identical with the copy to be shown the jury. Second, viewing the missing frames in motion is entirely meaningless, for they pass the eye in less than a quarter of a second.

Aside from what it says of the integrity of evidence and seriousness of intent of the official investigation that it suppressed the fact that these frames were known to be missing, as I also brought to light (WHITEWASH II, pp. 138-9), the great significance of the missing frames is that they cannot be replaced, regardless of what the unidentified spokesman tells you.

When 8mm film is exposed, the film between the sprocket holes by which the film is advanced through the projector is exposed and has content. It is not seen when projected, but what the lens sees is captured and preserved on the film. When this film is made into slides for showing frame by frame, what is invisible on projection is visible. When 8mm film is copied for motion-picture use, the material between these sprocket holes is not duplicated. Thus, the copies of the original Zapruder film do not contain this quintessential intelligence. Now in quantity, the ~~unseen~~ unseen part of the 8mm film is close to a third. Allowing for the blank space represented by the sprocket holes, there still remains 20-25% of what the negative of the original captured that is missing in any mechanically-made copy such as those supplied the government. There is enough in this to destroy the basic conclusion of the Report, that the President was struck or after Frame 210.

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You will find this set forth in Chapter 17 of WHITEWASH II, the appropriate detail beginning of page 200.

Regardless of what caused the destruction of these four frames and the resultant alteration of a fifth and mutilation of a sixth, what cannot be justified is the false statement by the Commission staff that all the frames were reproduced seriatim beginning with 171 when this was known to be untrue, the failure of any of the many officials who knew these frames were missing to let it be known, in or out of the evidence and Report, and their continuing silence about this. Now it happens that the Commission itself says frame 210 is the crucial one because it also says that here for the first time the President could have been shot. This in itself make both the destruction and the silence culpable. However, there is additional significance in the absence of these frames. Phil Willis took a still picture of the President that even the Commission says was snapped in reaction to a shot. This means that this picture was taken after the President was shot.

Examination of the existing picture shows that Willis has to be in Zapruder's pictures at the time of this shot. He disappears from the left-hand margin of the Zapruder film at about Frame 202 and from the marginal material at about Frame 205. Thus, he cannot be, as he must be, in Frame 210 if the basic conclusion of the Report is to be even tenable.

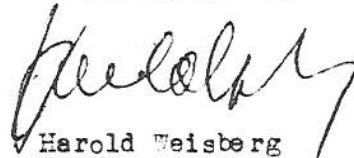
Here, I think, you find the essential reason for the absence of these four frames: they destroy the Report.

It is unfortunate that, at this too-late date, newspapers are imposed upon by those ~~in the~~ every reason to trust. But it is fortunate that Jim Garrison has subpoenaed the original of the Zapruder film, for thus, officially, the people of the country- who have been denied all version of this film save for a few frames- can learn what I earlier published that the government ignored.

Any impartial examination of any motion-picture version of the Zapruder film will show the jury what I first brought to light in WHITEWASH II (page 221), that at the time of the fatal shot the President was hit from the front and that at this point, almost simultaneously, he was hit from both front and back.

No one man, Oswald or any other, ^{see} possessed such magic.

Sincerely yours,



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