

Zapruder kin to get 16M for film on JFK

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WASHINGTON — The government must pay the heirs of Dallas dressmaker Abraham Zapruder \$16 million for his film that captured the assassination of President John F. Kennedy — 26 seconds of history the Zapruder family said should be valued like a van Gogh.

In a 2-to-1 vote, announced by the Justice Department yesterday, arbitrators set the amount after lawyers for the government and the Zapruder family could not agree on a price. The government offered \$1 million; the family asked for \$30 million.

"The Zapruder film is one of a kind," arbitrators Arlin Adams, a former federal appeals court judge, and Kenneth Feinberg wrote in a majority opinion. With no way to compare the film's value with any single object ever sold, they said they relied heavily

on testimony given by auction-house experts who tagged the value at \$25 million or more.

The third arbitrator, Walter Dellinger, a former solicitor general and now a law professor at Duke University, wrote that \$3 million to \$5 million would have been enough.

Attorneys for both sides accepted the figure as an appropriate compromise. The film is stored in a 25-degree room at the National Archives in College Park, Md.

The Assassination Records Review Board in 1997 declared the film the permanent possession of the people of the United States. The Constitution requires the government to pay owners of private property taken for the public good.

The Zapruder family argued that the film should be valued like the works of Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh.

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