

SCENE

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Time Inc. Giving Up JFK Film

By William Gildea

Time Inc. announced yesterday that it will return the original Zapruder film of the assassination of President Kennedy and all commercial rights to it to the heirs of Abraham Zapruder for the sum of \$1.

Time said it had been unable to donate the original film and its rights to the National Archives because of "legal obligations" to the Zapruder heirs. A spokesman for Time said the magazine had tried for several months to donate the film to the Archives.

"It's an historical document," said the Time spokesman. "We wanted it in the hands of responsible people. Now we're doing what we think is the next best thing. The \$1 transaction makes it legal."

A spokesman for the Zapruder family said the family plans "a liberal policy in making it available to the public" for seeking answers to questions about the assassination. He said any eventual monetary gains for the family will be "not at odds" with the film's historical significance.

For exclusive ownership of the film, Time Inc. paid the late Abraham Zapruder \$25,000, which he donated to the family of J. D. Tippit, the Dallas patrolman slain by Lee Harvey Oswald.

The 8-mm color film is generally regarded as the most authoritative motion picture record of the assassination. Time said it would present several copies of the film as well as a set of transparencies of each frame to the National Archives. The Archives for years has had a copy of the film and still pictures from it as part of the Warren Commission file.

There also is a report that the Zapruder family may physically store the film in the Archives anyway.