

Los Angeles Free Press

Jan. 5, 1968

# Prof. Thompson defends Garrison

DIGBY DIEHL

Calling the L.A. Times editorial on "California and the Garrison 'Circus'" "... too strong" and "ungenerous," Josiah Thompson, professor of philosophy at Haverford College and author of *SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS*, brought his sharp critical intelligence to bear on the Garrison case last week.

"People must recall that Jim Garrison will have to do what the Warren Commission did not have to do: prove his case in a court of law, arguing against defense lawyers. These absurd ad hominem slurs about Garrison's psychiatric record are disgraceful. So the guy got hives from lint. So what?"

Thompson, a chipper and collegiate-looking 33-year-old, has been called by many observers the most cool-headed and sharp-minded of the Warren Commission's critics. In his book he deals only with the photographic and physical evidence about the six seconds in Dealey Plaza when President Kennedy was shot.

After an exhaustive scientific analysis of this evidence, he concludes that four shots were fired from three different directions, negating the Warren Commission's single bullet theory and indicating the necessity of a conspiracy. "In my book, I deal only with the small core of facts we have. Stepping away from that core is like walking into a vast swamp of clues, possibilities, and loose ends. Although I have not studied this material, my slight familiarity with Garrison's work has impressed me."

There are peripheral connections with Thompson's work, however. "The findings I reported on an unidentified station wagon picking up a man from the scene, might well have been driven by a Cuban. On the other hand, my studies of trajectories, the site, would tend to disagree with his latest suggestions about a shot from the curb-level sewer."

Concerning the FREE PRESS article on the Mary Moorman (Continued on page 13)

photograph, Thompson commented, "I just can't put very much credence in the existence of this figure. For one thing, Marilyn Sitzman who was standing only eight or nine feet from where this figure appears told me no one was in that area. Secondly, the figure shows up prominently in the published Ben Day negative that Dave Lifton developed. I succeeded in having Mary Moorman's original Polaroid picture copied in Dallas, and in the original, without the Ben Day dots, the figure seems to disappear."



Josiah Thompson, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Haverford College, was interviewed by Free Press writer Digby Diehl this week (article on top left).

Thompson is the author of *SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS*, published by Bernard Geis Associates. This micro-study of the facts of the Kennedy assassination establishes that three gunmen fired four shots in six seconds.

Although he claims no expertise in the conspiracy area, Thompson suggested a cautious "possibility" that he finds compelling: "It appears that the assassination was executed by a small group of Cuban exiles, right wing sympathizers, and others who cooperated in the conspiracy. I don't see evidence for a general governmental coup. Now this is not far from the position Jim Garrison has taken. I am unclear, however, as to exactly how wide he claims the conspiracy to be now."

Thompson did call the subpoenas Garrison issued for the three men as material witnesses in the Garrison investigation, "potentially the biggest break in the case yet. In the Bradley matter, there is no way we can readily fit him into the events surrounding the assassination, whereas these recent subpoenas would lead directly into the Sylvia Odio matter and the loose ends surrounding the case that have always been suspicious."

"If Garrison is able to connect these, he is really on his way to cracking this. The material around David Ferrie is the most

fertile in this case."

Thompson became involved with the assassination investigation after reading discrepancies between news reports of the event and official reports. He began clipping papers, reading the Warren Report and following the criticisms as a passionate hobbyist. Then, in the Winter of 1966 he was arrested with another Haverford professor for handing out anti-war literature in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

"There was nothing illegal about our handing out the anti-war material, and we called the ACLU for help." The ACLU lawyer by fortuitous circumstance was Vincent Salandria, a strong Commission critic. They talked, traveled to the National Archives together, and Thompson began to work on his own in August of 1966.

Then he became involved with a book contract with Bernard Geis, and from there became a part of the Life Magazine research staff. In the Time-Life Building in New York, he and a group of researchers saw a copy of the Zapruder film which everyone present agreed was clear evidence that the single-bullet theory is wrong.

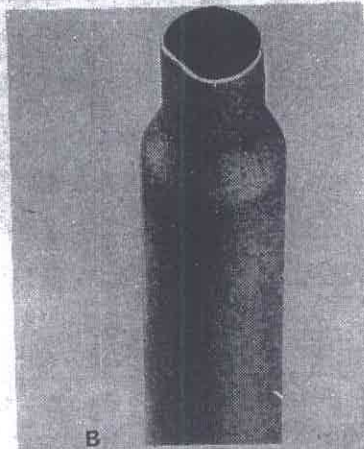
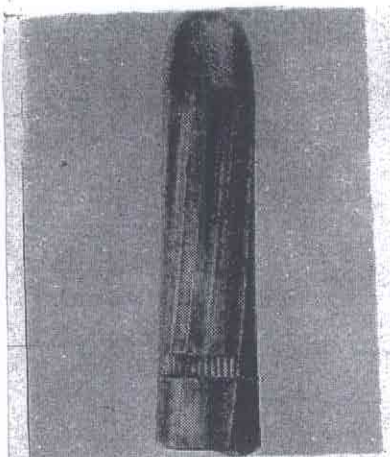
SEE L.A. FREE PRESS, RAY MARCUS, 12 JAN 68

OVER



In his research, Thompson met with a government attitude of "non-cooperation" and was pleased that Life had made such an astonishing discovery. To Thompson's surprise Life has never published this information. They have refused publication of the Zapruder film (which they paid \$250,000 for), and they are attempting to suppress Thompson's book with a suit to enjoin distribution. "I have no comprehension of what Life is doing. They saw the evidence; they admitted its truth; I cannot guess why they are withholding it."

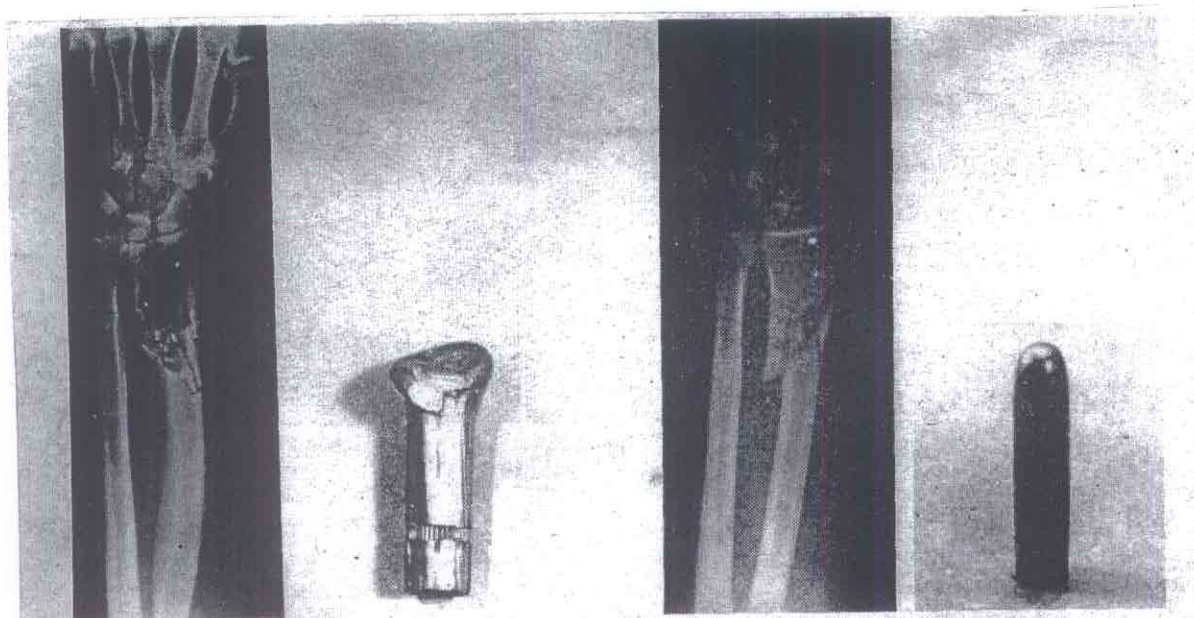
Since the Saturday Evening Post article about his book, Thompson has been appealing to Life publicly to release the four crucial Zapruder frames to the public. These frames are the basis for basic later research indicated in the photo captions. Thompson, at present, has no plans for further research into the assassination.



B

A. Did this undamaged bullet inflict seven wounds?

B. In its present condition this case could not have held a projectile on Nov. 22, 1963 as Warren Report claims (Comm. Exhibit 543).

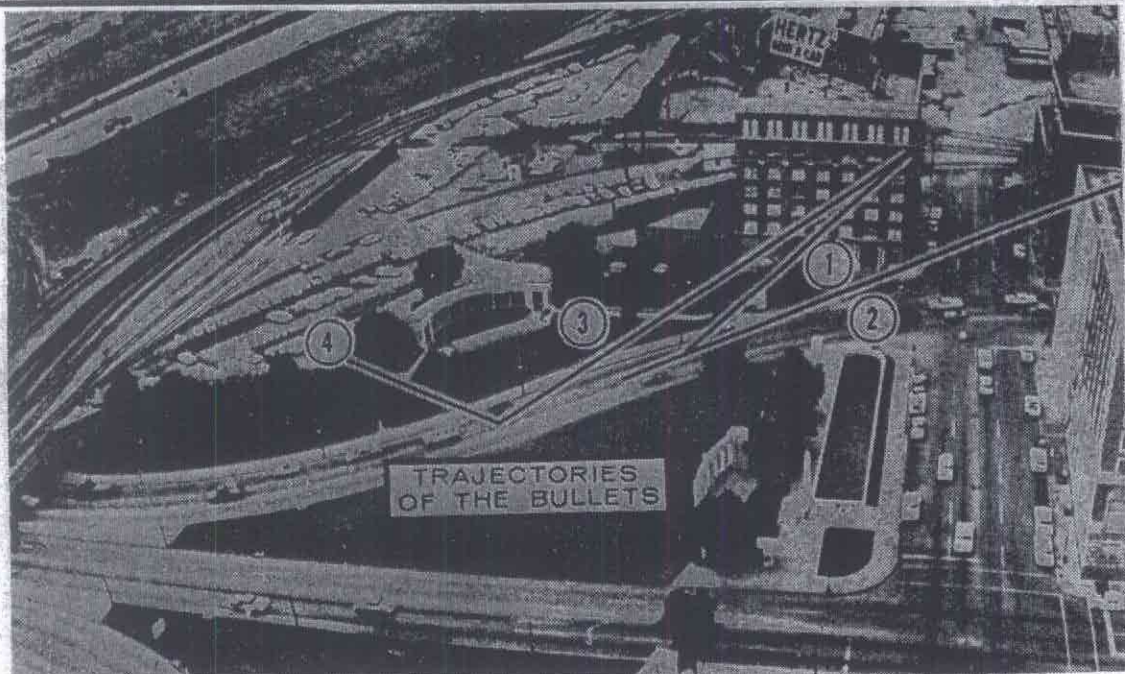


In his argument against the Warren Report's single bullet theory, Josiah Thompson cites Commission Exhibit 856 and an X-ray of the cadaver's wrist through which it was fired. Note the extreme flattening of the bullet's tip. On the right are photographs of Exhibit 399 and Gov. Connally's wrist through which it was supposedly fired.

OVER



Jan. 5, 1968

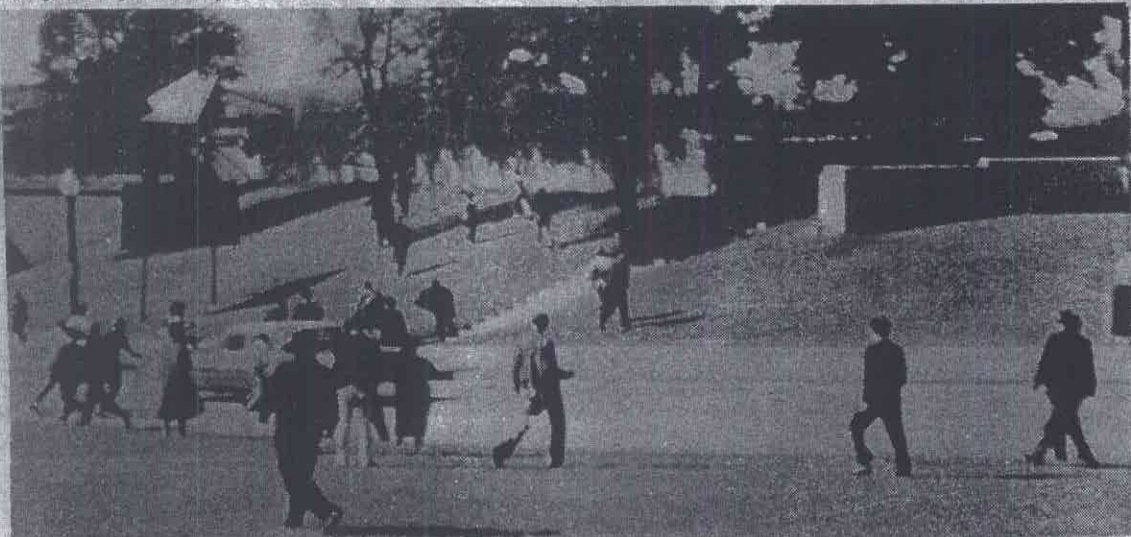


Prof. Josiah Thompson argues that three gunmen fired four shots. The first bullet (fired from the Book Depository) hit Kennedy in the back, the second (fired from the Dallas County Records Building), hit Gov. Connally. The third and fourth shots which struck the President's head almost simultaneously, came from the Depository and the grassy knoll. This crossfire inflicted the fatal head wounds.

(Credit: Arthur Shatz)



All photos printed by permission of Josiah Thompson, author of "Six Seconds in Dallas."



Professor Thompson's contention that shots were fired from the grassy knoll is supported by the photos above, showing police and spectators scrambling up the slope in the direction of the shots.