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Editorial

The Zapruder Film

I have seen the Zapruder film, and I can well understand why it has not been shown to the American people. No sane person can see that film and still protest that Kennedy was shot only from the back.

Just before the fatal head shot, Mrs. Kennedy is holding the President. She realizes he has been shot. With the death shot, the head explodes, and the President's whole body is propelled out of his wife's hands so rapidly that Mrs. Kennedy is left with her hands outstretched and empty. The body of the President seems to be plunging down behind his wife from the force of the bullet. He was dead the instant of the massive head wound.

The movement of the President's body was so forceful, so rapid, my mind immediately made two comparisons: I thought of a hay baler plunger springing back to position

after a block of hay has been compressed. I thought of the breech mechanism of a .45 automatic pistol that kicks to full open and remains locked there after the last shot in a clip is fired.

After seeing this short film, I sat stunned.

I thought of the first witness of the day, FBI Agent Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, a photography expert, who sat on the stand with hands trembling and told the court that he had seen the film many times and that he thought the material from the President's head flew forward—indicating a shot from the rear.

Then I thought of the two Assistant United States Attorneys who escorted Shaneyfelt to the court room and asked permission of the court to remain present while Shaneyfelt testified. These men sitting on the same bench with me stared at "their boy" with stone faces all during the time he testified. That man seemed under house arrest.

I beg all of you. Do everything you can to force this government to take this film from Life Magazine and show it to the nation. It is the most important little piece of film ever exposed on this planet. And it holds the key to the welfare of this country.