

NOTES ON VOLUME XVIII

The following brief notes are not based on an exhaustive study of the volume. They are ~~as~~ ~~the~~ a result of a cursory examination which, as yet, is not complete.

As with all the volumes, unless you know what you're looking for, you're just going to blunder on it. There's just no way of finding anything by any logical system.

The first 85 pages are devoted to selected frames of the Zapruder, Nix, and Muchmore films. These are collectively identified as Exhibit No. 885, whereas on the second page of the table of contents the "Copy" of the original footage is in the same sequence numbered Exhibits 904 905 and 906. Note that the word "copy" is used. This appears to be literally the case. From Zapruder's film, LIFE has the original which, of course, is by far the most distinct when you have to make very careful examination of the film, and copies were made for the government. Having not read the testimony of Nix and Muchmore yet, I nonetheless conclude that the same is true of their films. With respect to the Zapruder films printed in this volume, it would seem ^{trouble} that somebody went to great ~~trouble~~ to keep them from being intelligible. They are very blurred, even in the relatively small size to which they have been enlarged. Compared with those pictures printed in LIFE, there seems to be no excuse for reproductions of this very poor quality. The net effect, of course, is to disguise from the public what can be seen on the Zapruder films. At the crucial point, at the time the Presidential car is about to go behind the ^{sign} ~~sign~~, the films seem poorest. However, from what I can make out in these films, I would say that they do tend to bear out Governor Connally's testimony about his position and the attitude of his body at various times. In not one of these films do I see any Secret Service men looking

upward, which of course was one of their main missions. Also, these films seem to dispute the testimony as I read it in the paper, I have not yet read it in the report, of Secret Service Agent Kellerman about when he became aware of what and what he did. In connection with this, see the statement of Agent Hill, pp.740-5, who said that Kellerman didn't radio the to-the-hospital call until after Hill had reached the car. See also the statement of Secret Service Agent Emory P. Roberts, pp.733-9, wherein Roberts says it was he who radioed the "to the hospital" alarm to the lead car. It should be noted that none of these statements by Secret Service agents is listed separately in the table of contents and from the table of contents it is not possible to locate any one of these statements.

From the Zapruder film it would seem as though the road signs had been moved. This is based on what I think I can see in the Zapruder films and what seems to show on aerial copies of other photographs that I have. I do not state this as a fact, but I do think it is possible. (Subsequently proved; see separate memo on photographs).

Returning to the Zapruder films, various photographic exhibits constructed by the Commission dealing with individual frames of these films appear on pp.86-96.

Exhibit 903, an enactment of ~~the~~ the Commission's belief of the angle of declination showing how one bullet might have passed through President Kennedy and Governor Connally, appears on p.96. It should be noted, first, ^{that} this only shows how the Commission says on a left to right basis the bullet could have gone through the President and struck the Governor in the back. It does not show how the bullet could have thereafter gone through the Governor's wrist and lodged at least in part in his thigh. In other words, it is left to right but not front to back.

Beginning on p.97 is a long series of State Department documents relating to the Oswalds. These continue through p.545. I wish I had time to read through all of them, but I will have a separate memo on the passport list from New Orleans.

Exhibits consisting almost entirely of photographs of various sorts dealing with Gen. Walker begin on p.648 and continue through 661. It ^hould be noted that not one of these exhibits is in any way connected with Oswald.

Exhibit 1015, identified as "Book of reprints of Dallas Morning News and Dallas ^Times Herald stories published during the 10 days following ^President Kennedy's assassination", is not printed because of its bulk.

The Secret Service documents referred to previously begin on p.666 and continue through p.835.

Documents relating to right-wing groups in Dallas, including the "Wanted for Treason" circular, are on pp.643-7 and 836-97.