

MEMORANDUM

April 11, 1997 (Corrections made April 15, 1997)

TO: David Marwell
Jeremy Gunn

FROM: Doug Horne

SUBJECT: Examination of LMH Company Zapruder Films in the Office of Jamie Silverberg on April 10, 1997

1. On Thursday afternoon, April 10, 1997, I spent about 2 hours and 15 minutes in the office of attorney Jamie Silverberg examining various versions of the Zapruder film which, along with the original, were received from Time, Inc. in 1975 and have been in the LMH Company's possession since that time. I was accompanied by Brian Rosen.

2. Examined first were 24 copies of the Zapruder film in various formats. Most were 8 mm format, some were in 35 mm format, and a limited number were in 16 mm format.¹ Noteworthy observations follow:

¹Mr. Silverberg brought out an inventory listing of all of the materials transferred to LMH Company by Time, Inc. in 1975. It was a two part document; the first half consisted of a catalogue of line items 3 through 25 (except that # 5 was not on the listing), and the second half consisted of detailed descriptions of what each item was, and its provenance. One 35 mm product on the list (# 25) could not be found, and during the examination process two items not on the listing (# 2 and # 5) were located, and examined. There was no listing for # 1, since at one time the original film (now in courtesy storage at NARA and not held by the LMH Company since 1978) had that designation.

-Item No. 2 is a first-generation copy of the Zapruder film, in incomplete and badly damaged condition.² Its identification as a "first-day," first-generation copy is a certainty: the emulsion (or "dull") side is "up" when the frames are viewed correctly, the Zapruder "home movie" (side "A") is present, with poor-quality images between the sprocket holes (as on Secret Service copies no. 1 and 2), the colors are unusually vivid (as on Secret Service copies no. 1 and 2), the edge print information ("Processed by Kodak . D Nov 63" in turquoise blue lettering, and the words "Kodachrome IIA") consistent with the two Secret Service copies is present, and the label on the film can reads: "First generation dupe made from the original and turned over to Time Inc. by Zapruder. Frames were cut out of this 8 mm roll to replace damaged frames in making the work print." (A photocopy of the label on the film can for item # 2 is provided here as attachment one.) The first half of the assassination sequence, prior to the Stemmons Freeway sign, is missing; the remainder of the assassination sequence (side "B") is badly damaged--numerous tears, slices, actual breaks in the film, and ripped sprocket holes were observed, and had been repaired previously using ordinary scotch tape. Sticky sections of tape are also present on the "home movie" portion of this film in various locations, for reasons unknown. In my opinion, this film is in such poor condition that it is without any real value as a research tool for studying imagery; however, it may conceivably be useful for purposes of chemical testing of the film substrate, if that is ever necessary. (Note: although I did not observe either of the remaining {unused} unique, perforated numbers--"0185," or "0187"--on this film in the processed film and carrier strip, there is no doubt in my mind that this is a bonafide first-generation, "first-day" copy. See my April 9, 1997 memo cited above for an explanation of the Zapruder film affidavits and the unique numbers which were perforated into the copies made on 11/22/63.)

-Of the many 8 mm copies of the film in the possession of the LMH Company, the two in the best condition are item no. 5 (the second, unmarked gray reel in the can marked # 5)--which exhibits 3 blue-tinted "inertial effect" frames at the beginning of the lead motorcycle sequence, vice the one blue frame seen in most copies; and item no. 8, which has the four missing Stemmons Freeway road sign frames (which had been removed from item # 2) optically reinserted (without splices) into the movie. In my opinion, none of the other 8 mm films in this collection are worthy of study.

²Of the three first-generation copies of the original film made on 11/22/63, two (Secret Service copies no. 1 and 2) had previously been located, and the third was noted to be "unlocated" in my April 9, 1997 memo titled "Examination of Zapruder Film Original and Selected Copies at the National Archives." That mystery is now resolved.

-The Moses Weitzman 35 mm Zapruder materials, which he made for Time-Life in 1968, were located among the items inspected, as follows:

-Item # 24: This item is a 35 mm negative. The film can says "Manhattan Effects," the date of "5-6-68" appears on the leader, and the written catalogue description reads "slightly underexposed."

-Item # 23: This item is a 35 mm negative. The film can reads "Manhattan Effects," and the leader contains the date "5-7-68."

-Item # 25: This 35 mm print described in the catalogue listing could not be found on the day of the examination at Mr. Silverberg's office.

-Item # 17: This is a 35 mm print which is so washed-out that it is essentially now a B & W film.

-Item # 18: This is a 35 mm print labeled a "color dupe," and is so washed-out that it is essentially a B & W film.

-Items 20, 21 and 22: Three color 35 mm prints of the Zapruder film are contiguous on one yellow core; all are very washed-out and are virtually B & W films now.

All of the Weitzman materials are photographic enlargements of the original film in the same condition it is now in--with only 14.5 frames of the Dealey Plaza bystander sequence preceding the lead motorcycle sequence, and with the two splices in the original film photographically printed. *All of the Weitzman products exhibit both framing error, and track error.* Because the prints have deteriorated to such a remarkable degree (e.g., not only is the color washed-out, but the focus appears quite soft), I assume that the two negatives are in equally bad condition. In my opinion, none of the Weitzman materials would make useful research tools due to their deteriorated condition. (Note: the David Lifton 35 mm interpositive of the Zapruder film which was donated to the JFK Collection via the ARRB in 1996, created from a Moses Weitzman internegative in 1990, is in far superior condition than any of the original Weitzman 35 mm materials held by LMH Company, and in contrast, appears as though it could be a valuable research tool for assassination researchers.)

3. Although no 4" X 5" color positive transparencies are listed on the LMH Company inventory, I asked Mr. Silverberg if he had any 4" X 5" color slides of the Zapruder film frames, since writer Josiah Thompson has written (in *Six Seconds in Dallas*) that *Life* magazine had one such slide for each frame in the film (i.e., either 480 or 486 such transparencies). After repeated inquiries on my part, he eventually found an un-numbered envelope not on the inventory, which contained 27 each 4" X 5" *excellent quality* color positive transparencies of various Zapruder film frames--a photocopy of the 2-page document which came with this envelope, identifying the Zapruder film frame numbers of the transparency enlargements, is provided with this memo as attachment two. (Note: the frames appear to be those that would have been used to illustrate the November 1966 issue of *Life* which was titled on its cover "A Matter of Reasonable Doubt," and which questioned the single-bullet theory.) He said that these are the only 4" X 5" color positive transparencies which he is aware of in the custody of LMH Company.³

4. Mr. Silverberg volunteered to do the following in support of the ARRB's efforts:

- Mail the ARRB a copy of the LMH inventory listing of its Zapruder film motion picture holdings. (The tool we used was a draft copy which was marked up; he wanted to find the original listing and photocopy that version.)

- Telephonically contact Time, Inc. and ask whether they hold any 4" X 5" color positive transparencies of Zapruder film frames.⁴

- Contact Mr. Henry Zapruder and inquire as to whether the Zapruder family still has the original "home movie," or side "A" of the original, complete movie.⁵

³Mr. Silverberg said LMH Company has 35 mm slides of Zapruder frames, but time did not permit their examination. I did not make these a priority, since I know that NARA already has a collection of 35 mm color slides of Zapruder frames.

⁴Mr. Alan Lewis of NARA told me recently that the National Archives does not have any 4" X 5" color transparencies of the Zapruder film, and confirmed that they only have 35 mm slides of selected frames.

⁵I explained to Mr. Silverberg that many in the research community would like to compare the optical qualities of the original "home movie" with the original Zapruder film in the National Archives, providing the original "home movie" can ever be located.

-Attempt to locate a copy of the Time, Inc. Deed-of-Gift which donated Time-Life copies to NARA. (This offer by Mr. Silverberg implies that Time, Inc. donated Time-Life copies no. 1 and 2 to the National Archives.)