

MEMORANDUM

October 17, 1997

TO: Jeremy Gunn

FROM: Doug Horne

CC: Tom Samoluk

SUBJECT: Examination of Assassination Reenactment Films and Secret Service Copies 1 & 2 of the Zapruder Film at the National Archives on October 15, 1997

1. On Wednesday, October 15, 1997, in the company of Alan Lewis of NARA, I examined two 8 mm and two 16 mm films of reenactments of the JFK assassination filmed in Dallas, Texas. The archival designations of the films examined, and observations made, are recorded below:

a. **272 E 42.6 (Warren Commission Records, labeled as reenactment film shot in Zapruder's camera):** there were two reels of 8 mm film to examine.

(1) First reel, labeled "Reel 1 of 3, 47 feet:" As opposed to the marking on the reel itself, the writing on the yellow leader says "reel 2 of 3." This film is shot in color, and shows what appears to be SS-679-X (the black Cadillac used as the follow-up car in the November 22, 1963 Dallas motorcade) traveling down Elm Street. It appears to be shot from the ground level, and not from any building. **There are no images between the sprocket holes;** I did not notice any first frame inertial effect (*i.e.*, blue tint); and I did not notice any edge print whatsoever on this film. I therefore conclude that this cannot be an in-camera original shot in Abraham Zapruder's camera, since there are no images between the perforations. It may, of course, be a copy of a film shot in Zapruder's camera.

(2) A second reel is labeled "blank film" on the reel, and indeed, with the exception of about 6 frames containing partial images (possibly of the sidewalk), the entire reel consists of black film, marred by occasional fogging.

b. **Two 16 mm format black-and-white assassination "reconstruction" films (Secret Service**

Horne e:\wp-docs\Reenact.wpd
File: 4.0.2 (Photographic Issues)

Records) called JFK Exhibit # 3, 800 feet:

(1) Can is labeled "87.005 MPPC/S BWIND," with a red label on the can: this item contains single perforations.

(2) Can is labeled "087.005 MPPS BWIND," with a yellow label on the can: it is double perforated. I noted numerous assassination reenactments conducted in a light-colored, open-top limousine containing 4 occupants, in which the filming appeared to have been done from a high floor in the TSBD, and the scene was filmed through a telescopic sight.¹

2. The two 8 mm Secret Service copies of the Zapruder film (087.010) were viewed again, this time to compare the density of the "home movie" portion of each copy.² **When examined, the same differences in density were noted between the home movie portions of these two films as were noted previously between the Elm Street portions.** Specifically, Secret Service copy # 1 was darker to the naked eye, appeared to contain more detail, and was less grainy than Secret Service copy # 2, which was lighter in color, appeared slightly overexposed (or faded), "somewhat pinkish" (an observation made by Alan Lewis), and exhibited more grain than copy # 1.

¹The head of one film was manually examined, and the tail of the other film was manually examined; neither film was projected and viewed in its entirety during this visit, due to time constraints. It was unclear whether each reel was a unique item, or whether one was a copy of the other.

²On September 8, 1997, ARRB and Kodak noted that the Elm Street portions of each of these films exhibited strikingly different densities--that Secret Service copy # 1 was darker, and showed less grain, and more apparent detail, than Secret Service copy # 2, which was lighter, and apparently grainier and was of lesser quality than copy # 1. The goal of this additional examination was to see whether or not the home movie portions of the two films exhibited the same differences in density.