

April 19, 1995

TO: File

FROM: Sheryl Walter

RE: Zapruder -- call to Gabriel Perle

At Review Board member Henry Graff's suggestion, I called Mr. Perle for some background information regarding the transfer of the Zapruder film from Time-Life in 1975. Perle was general counsel for Time-Life in the 1970s.

I explained the present situation in which the Zapruders are claiming ownership and seeking a payment of \$15 million from the government in order to leave it at the National Archives. Perle immediately said "that's not right. We donated the original to the government; all we gave the Zapruders is the copyright." I told him that the documentation at NARA is sparse, and that while there is a deed from Time-Life to the Zapruders assigning the copyright, there is no documentation regarding transfer of the rights in the original film to anyone, including the government. Perle was adamant in his belief that Time-Life thought the original film was donated to by that corporation to the government and there was never any intent to transfer title in the original to the Zapruders. He referred me to Time, Inc.'s current general counsel, Harry M. Johnston, III (212-522-2063) who he said we'd find very cooperative and is most knowledgeable about what their files say.

I called Mr. Johnston immediately afterward and left a message for him to call me back.