

## Proposed Responses to Media Inquiries

### **Who owns the Zapruder film?**

The original film is in the National Archives. It was placed there on a deposit agreement by LMH Company, which claims ownership of the film.

### **Doesn't the government now own the film since it has, in effect, taken the film by refusing to return it to the Zapruder family?**

That is a complicated legal question that I cannot answer. The Review Board's hearing will address the status and the disposition of the film.

### **What is this hearing about?**

To explore issues surrounding the status of the Zapruder film.

### **How much is the film worth?**

The film is a valuable historical record of the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board views the Zapruder film in this context. However, the Review Board cannot estimate the worth of the film in terms of dollars.

### **Will the decision of the board lead to litigation and will the government argue that the film is a public document?**

Everyone wants to avoid litigation. That is the purpose of this hearing . . . to clarify the future of this important artifact.

### **How did the government come into possession of the film?**

The film was placed in the National Archives by LMH Company under a deposit agreement in 1978.

### **Are there copies of the film and where are they now stored?**

There are about 23 various copies of the film now stored at the National Archives in both 8 mm and 16 mm formats.

**Wouldn't the American public benefit if a copy were retained by the government and the original returned to the family?**

The film is an historical artifact. Historians and researchers have access to copies of the film.

**What is the historical value of the film?**

The Zapruder film is agreed to be the best of the four known motion picture recordings of the assassination. (The others are the Nix film, Muchmore film, and Bronson film.) No future research on the assassination would be complete without examination of the Zapruder film.

**Can I have a copy of the film or photographs made from the film?**

Yes. Copies are available through commercial vendors. The Zapruder family, under their deposit agreement, controls the commercial use of the film.

**Why doesn't the family donate the film to the American public?**

That is a question they must address.

**Can the government legally take the film without reimbursing the Zapruder family for its value?**

That is a legal question.

**What is the condition of the film?**

The 8 mm film is very fragile and must be handled with extreme care by the experts at the National Archives. The original cannot be projected.

**Has the film been restored, using the latest technology?**

Not that I am aware of.

**If the Review Board decides not to keep the film, what happens to it? Would the JFK Collection not retain a copy?**

That is a question the Review Board hopes to resolve by conducting this hearing. Copies of the film, which are now owned by the U.S. government, would be retained by the National Archives. The copies were made for the FBI, the Secret Service, the Warren Commission, the House Select Committee on Assassinations and other agencies.

**Will the Board make a final determination as to the status of the film at this hearing?**

The purpose of this hearing is to hear expert testimony regarding the legalities involved and the importance of the Zapruder film. It is expected the Review Board will make its decision at a later date.

**Is the Review Board negotiating the ownership of the film with the Zapruder family?**

The Review Board has discussed the status and disposition of the film with the family. I cannot, however, discuss the nature of those discussions.

**Is a representative of the Zapruder family present?**

No, but they are submitting a written statement for the record. We can make copies available.