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Subject: Chapter 6 Stuff

Eileen, here is some input for you to massage and input as you feel appropriate. Groden: In 1996, the Review Board subpoenaed any original or first generation assassination films that may have been in the possession of Mr. Robert Groden, in order to determine whether he (a) had any, and (b) if he did, study the provenance of those materials. In response to a Justice Department subpoena requested by the Review Board, Mr. Groden appeared for a two-part deposition held in the states of Delaware and Texas. The Review Board felt this action was necessary because the Archives was not in possession of either the original Nix film or Muchmore film, and their whereabouts was unknown to the Review Board staff; furthermore, the location of certain alleged high quality first generation 35 mm internegatives made directly from the original Zapruder film was also unknown; and likewise, the generation, and provenance, of certain prints of President Kennedy's autopsy published by Mr. Groden was unknown. Mr. Groden claimed under oath to possess no original or first generation assassination films or images of any kind. His materials were returned to him in July, 1998. The two deposition transcripts are filed in the 4.50 series. Weitzman: Moses Weitzman is a special effects film expert who employed Mr. Robert Groden as a trainee and junior level staffer in the late 1960s. Mr. Weitzman pioneered the direct blowup of 8 mm motion pictures to 35 mm motion pictures (through modification of an optical printer shuttle) in his work with the original Zapruder film in the late 1960s for Time-Life. Although Mr. Weitzman told the ARRB he gave his best work products to Time-Life, the customer for whom he was working, he nevertheless admitted to retaining some 35 mm internegatives (with slight framing and track error) made directly from the Zapruder original film for the purposes of being able to demonstrate his technical capability of enlarging 8 mm films directly to 35 mm format. It was these less-than-perfect work products (internegatives) that he allowed Mr. Groden to have access to during the late 1960s, and apparently it is these products that are the source for the Zapruder film public showings made by Mr. Groden during the mid-1970s. Mr. Weitzman was kind enough to educate the Review Board staff on some basics of film reproduction and identification, and also examined the 35 mm prints of the Nix and Muchmore films provided for examination by Mr. Groden. Furthermore, Mr. Weitzman donated a 16mm copy of the Zapruder film that had been in his possession to the National Archives (via the Review Board), and testified regarding the importance of the Zapruder film to history at the Review Board's public hearing on this subject held in April, 1997.

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