

Memo to Board

I am enclosing three documents that relate to the Zapruder film issue: (1) A letter from David Cohen of the Department of Justice that raises questions about the legal status of the Zapruder film and the Board's powers in connection with it; (2) A response from Jeremy, and (3) A draft of a possible agreement that represents one of the board's options in dealing with the Zapruder film.

Any decision by the Board to require that the original Zapruder film be added to the JFK collection would most likely result in great expense (the film has recently been appraised for \$30 Million) to the American taxpayer. Quite apart from the question of the Board's powers to take the film, the high price tag raises significant questions about this course of action. In order to give the Board as many options as possible in dealing with this question, the staff has conceived of a solution that would result in immediate, enhanced public access to the film and, at the same time, preserve the government's right to purchase the film at a later date should the family wish to sell it (and finds a bona fide purchaser).

The enclosed draft agreement has been reviewed by the Department of Justice and the National Archives, and both agencies believe that it provides for a creative and workable solution. The Zapruder family has indicated (through their attorney) that such an agreement (with details ironed out) would be satisfactory. The staff has been careful at each step to emphasize to all parties that it was operating without specific instructions from the Board in order to explore options.

The staff will be available next week to answer any questions you may have on this.