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Subject: Specter and Stokes Letter

Jack:I don't know whether you have seen this from Kermit. What do you think.To: david_marwell @ jfk-
arrb.gov @ internet, jrtunheim @ aol.com @ internet, wljoyce @ firestone.princeton.edu @ internet, anelson
@ american.edu @ internetcc: (bcc: David Marwell/ARRB)From: kermith @ HUMANITIES1.COHUMS.OHIO-
STATE.EDU @ INTERNET @ WORLDCOM Date: 01/24/97 08:14:01 AM CSTSubject: Specter and Stokes Letter
Colleagues, I am sorry not to have been able to join you for the discussion yesterday. I gather, however, that
we have decided to send a letter to Stokes and Specter about the possibility of an extension, using the 25%
carry over with something less than \$2 million needed for another year. My reaction to the letter is mixed.
First, it does not deal with a real number, but instead indicates that we will need "considerably less than \$2
million." How much will it cost, do we think? Second, whether an extension will or will not compromise what
we have done is a good question, but I doubt it. More importantly, I think we way overstate the case about
what we can contribute in any case by suggesting that should an end to our existence at the time prescribed
by law would "also postpone a solution to a problem that will continue to vex our nation for years to come."
What is the problem? The release of the records? The question of who killed the president? I assume that it
means the former. If so, then I think the wording should be clearer. My own sense, by the way, is the nation is
not much vexed by this matter, although a few vocal people are. Third, other than rhetorically, this letter does
not seem to make much of a direct argument about what key areas of records would be opened as a result of
our continuation. I appreciate the last paragraph, which indicates our willingness to visit about specific actions,
but I don't find that satisfying. We need, I believe, to have something in the letter than speaks to specific
bodies of materials that, should be exist another year, will become an important part of the public record. In
order to keep the letter to a meaningful length, I would suggest eliminating some of the flag waving in it.
Finally, the letter suggests, to me, that we are promising to deliver more than I think we can, at least based on
our previous record. The letter carries with it a sense of finality in one year, when it should, I think, stress the
contingent nature of our efforts, even if the CIA, FBI, and others cooperated fully and wanted us continued
indefinitely. Finally, David, I'd appreciate an update on the discussion yesterday and some sense of where we
are with these issues. Best, Kermit

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