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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SEPTEMBER 18, 1997 CONTACT: EILEEN SULLIVAN(202) 724-0088, EXT. 253ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD RELEASES CLAY SHAW PAPERS; ACQUITTED IN 69 FOR ALLEGED JFK MURDER PLOTThe Assassination Records Review Board, the independent federal agency overseeing the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, announced today that it has released the original personal papers of the late Clay Shaw, the New Orleans businessman charged with conspiracy to murder President Kennedy. Shaw was acquitted after a jury trial in 1969.Shaw, who died in 1974, was charged as part of the Kennedy assassination investigation conducted by the late New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. The papers were kept by one of Shaws friends until earlier this year when he donated the materials to the Review Board. The collection includes Shaws diary that chronicled his life after being arrested for conspiring to kill the President, records from his criminal case, correspondence, business records, his passports, personal records and photographs.The New Orleans chapter of the Kennedy assassination story and the whole Garrison investigation is still debated and surrounded by controversy, said Dr. Kermit Hall, a member of the Review Board. The acquisition of the Clay Shaw papers means that historians and the public will now have the benefit of the personal perspective of the only man ever tried in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy. The Shaw papers have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in the JFK Collection, which is housed at the National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland. Copies of excerpts from Shaws diary are available from the Assassination Records Review Board, 600 E Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20530; telephone number: (202) 724-0088.The Assassination Records Review Board was established by the JFK Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.The Review Board consists of the following members:Honorable John R. Tunheim, Chair; U.S. District Court Judge, District of Minnesota.Dr. Henry F. Graff; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.Dr. Kermit L. Hall; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.Dr. William L. Joyce; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.Dr. Anna K. Nelson; Distinguished Adjunct Historian in Residence at The American University.-30-
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