

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Professor Henry Graff has passed your letter of November 22, 1996 on to me. I am both surprised and distressed by the tone and substance of your message.

You assert that the Review Board's release of the Dave Powers film was an outrageous act somehow linked with Oliver Stone and the pursuit of "nutty" conspiracy theories. You suggest that our motives included self-aggrandizement and catering to base interests. You allege that we are somehow "running wild" and out of touch with what our "real goals" should be.

Beyond being insulted by what are serious charges indeed, I am appalled that anyone (especially someone with your experience) could so misread and so mischaracterize our actions.

Congress established the Review Board to identify, seek out, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. In the case of the Powers film, that is precisely what we did. At every stage of the process, we consulted with Mr. Powers, the owner of the film, and we acted pursuant to his wishes. Our actions resulted in the public having access to a film that had previously been thought lost (the JFK Library could not locate the film for years) and that had been the subject of speculation concerning its content.