

BY TELECOPIER

February 28, 1997

Joseph G. Lynch, Esq.
Halloran & Sage
One Goodwin Square
225 Asylum Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Re: William Manchester Papers at the JFK Library

Dear Joe:

I am writing as a follow-up to our telephone discussion this afternoon.

The Review Board understands that the Kennedy Library now has completed its inventory of Mr. Manchester's records relating to *Death of a President*. Although I assume that you and Mr. Manchester were sent copies of the inventory, I am attaching, for your convenience, the copy we received.

My review of the inventory, and separate discussions with Megan Desnoyers at the Library, has raised two preliminary issues. First, it appears that the types of records that Mr. Manchester made available to the House Select Committee on Assassinations (copies of which I sent to you on December 5, 1996), are not included in the Kennedy Library holdings. This suggests that Mr. Manchester -- or perhaps Wesleyan -- may have some additional records that should be located and preserved.

The second issue pertains to the Review Board's continuing interest in reviewing the Manchester papers that are in the custody of the Kennedy Library.¹ Although the Review Board would like to

¹Although we fully understand Mr. Manchester's concerns regarding the use that might be made of the records if they were to become public, we continue to believe that history is best served by allowing the historical evidence -- in this case Mr. Manchester's early interviews with eye witnesses -- to be evaluated openly, fully, and objectively. Our goal is not support any theory or

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examine all of the records that pertain to the assassination, the records that appear (by the inventory) to be the most immediately relevant are those contained in boxes 43, 44, and 50. Accordingly, I think that it would sensible for us to examine those boxes first and then for us to discuss issues afterwards regarding those boxes and the remaining materials.

Once again, I hope that we can resolve the issues in an amicable fashion. I look forward to hearing your suggestions.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
General Counsel and
Associate Director for Research and Analysis

Attachment

cc: Elizabeth A. Pugh, Esq.

interpretation, but to see that the historical record is as full and as complete as possible.