

In January, 1997, the Review Board began the process of contacting the beneficiaries of the wills of Evelyn and Harold Lincoln. Evelyn Lincoln had been the longtime personal secretary to President Kennedy, and had reportedly accumulated numerous items relating to the late President. Ms. Lincoln died on May 11, 1995, and her husband, Harold, died on June 26, 1995. Both Lincolns left virtually identical wills, with the same residuary beneficiaries. The Review Board's purpose in contacting the beneficiaries was to ascertain whether the Lincolns had bequeathed them any assassination-related items.

One of the beneficiaries of the Lincoln will was Mr. Robert White, a Baltimore collector of Kennedy memorabilia who was reported to have had in excess of 100,000 items in his collection.¹ Mr. White had been personal friends with the Lincolns for in excess of twenty years. Many of the items in Mr. White's collection reportedly came from Ms. Lincoln. Among the items Mr. White received as a beneficiary of the Lincoln will were an entire file cabinet and "Kennedy Memorabilia such as brief case, signing table, rocker and stereo."

Upon receiving the Review Board's correspondence, Mr. White contacted an attorney. In a February 1997 letter, the attorney stated that Mr. White "did not receive nor was he in possession of any assassination-related artifacts and/or memorabilia originating from the Lincolns or from any source." Nevertheless, Mr. White agreed to speak with Review Board staff on April 10, 1997. At this meeting, Mr. White provided a brief, hand-written list of the items he had received under Ms. Lincoln's will. Mr. White also briefly described his involvement with inventorying and appraising the items in the Lincolns's estates. White reiterated that his inventory of the estate did not reveal any items related to the assassination, other than the diaries and appointment books that had been bequeathed to the Kennedy Library.

After meeting with Mr. White, the Review Board continued to receive information from various sources that Mr. White did in fact possess more items related to the assassination. The Review Board also learned that Mr. White was scheduled to auction many items from his collection at Guernsey's auction house in New York City, on March 18 and 19, 1998. The Review Board thus requested that the Department of Justice issue a subpoena duces tecum to Mr. White. The subpoena, served on January 9, 1998, requested to depose Mr. White and required that he produce all objects and/or records that related to the assassination of President Kennedy; all records that pertained to President Kennedy and Johnson's administrations on such subjects as Cuba, the FBI, the CIA, and Organized Crime. The subpoena also sought inventories of Mr. White's collection and a list of items that Mr. White had received as a beneficiary of the Lincolns' wills.

The Review Board staff took the deposition of Mr. Robert White, in the presence of his attorney, Mr. Robert Adler, on March 3, 1998 and on March 6, 1998. During the deposition, Mr.

¹Glenn Collins, *Kennedy Mementos to be Sold at Auction*, *The New York Times*, December 23, 1997, at A19.

White described his friendship with Evelyn Lincoln and discussed the various Kennedy-related objects that she had given to him. In certain cases, Mr. White relayed Ms. Lincoln's comments or documentation about the provenance of various objects. Among the records that Mr. White produced for the Review Board's inspection were Texas trip advance sheets, Secret Service White House Detail photograph book, Memoranda authored by President Kennedy, and twenty-three White House Dictabelt tapes. Four of the memoranda that were authored by President Kennedy contained classified, national security information, and were ultimately forwarded by the Review Board to Mr. Steven Garfinkel of the Information Security Oversight Office for their review.

On the last day of his deposition, Mr. White informed the Review Board that he had just donated the Dictabelts to the President John F. Kennedy Library. The Dictabelts contain telephone conversations, dictations and other discussions involving President Kennedy and other individuals. Specific topics of the Dictabelts include: dictation by President Kennedy during the week of November 4, 1963; discussion of the Berlin Crisis; Conversation regarding the Cuban Missile Crisis; and thoughts dictated by President Kennedy on November 12, 1963.