

“We cannot prevent the speculation that someone did cover up, but the arguments that a cover-up continues and will continue, can somewhat at least, be lessened. What has been lost cannot be replaced. But what we do have can be made public. We should have access and our students should have access to what still exists.”

--Bruce Hitchcock, May 1997

“We did not understand how intelligence agencies worked. The CIA “gave [us] nothing more than what was asked for. Every time we asked for a file, we had to write a letter. There were no fishing expeditions.”

--Ed Lopez and Dan Hardway

“One of the problems of secrets is that Americans are incapable of keeping secrets very long.
Anything like this would have leaked out by now.”
--Richard Helms, February 7, 1996

“[T]he enduring controversy of who Oswald really was, what he was, is an inherent part of the historical truth of this case. . . Oswald, as you know, is the most complex alleged or real political assassin in American history. . . the idea that, for the first time, citizens will be the judge of the balance between government secrecy and what we know, rather than the agencies themselves or the courts, I think is extraordinary. . .”

--Philip Melanson, March 24, 1995

“[T]he CIA, with thorough photographic surveillance of both the Cuban and Soviet Embassies, had at least ten opportunities to photograph Oswald, yet CIA records at the time of the assassination allegedly did not contain a single photograph matching the man arrested in Dallas.”
--Peter Dale Scott

“The Oswald visit was not, certainly to my knowledge, ever an operation, so it was just a flash in the pan, a product of something that happened. . .”
--Anne Goodpasture, 1995

The Committee has found . . . the FBI investigation, as well as the CIA inquiry [into the Kennedy assassination], was deficient on the specific question of the significance of Oswald's contacts with pro-Castro and anti-Castro groups for the many months before the assassination.

--Senate Report on JFK Act, July 22, 1992

The Joint Chiefs of Staff believe that the Cuban problem must be solved in the near future.

--Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, L.L. Lemnitzer, April 10, 1962.

The Kennedy Library very much appreciates that it has been able to open in excess of 30,000 pages of previously classified material, primarily on Cuba, through the efforts of the Assassination Records Review Board.

-- Stephanie Fawcett, September 1998

Several colleagues have called my attention to the role of the Assassination Records Review Board in potentially effecting the public release of documents related to Vietnam policy and perhaps other issues of foreign policy in late 1963. . . *I write now to add my voice directly to those calling for the complete release of such materials.*

--Professor James K. Galbraith

The Board has an obligation to examine the records of former public officials who participated in any aspect or phase of investigation concerning the assassination, or of former public officials closely allied with Kennedy.

--Anna Kasten Nelson

Because the files that were once known as Angleton's have been dispersed within the DO records, they are no longer identifiable as a collection.

--From CIA Response to Review Board informal request CIA-IR-4 for information on James Angleton files, August 24, 1998

I was completely convinced during this entire period, that this operation had the full authority of every pertinent echelon of CIA and had full authority of the White House, either from the President or from someone authorized and known to be authorized to speak for the President.
--William Harvey's testimony before the Church Committee June 25, 1975

We had begun to see a general outline of the truth in 1979, as the House Select Committee on Assassinations finished its investigation: leaders of organized crime were behind the President's murder.

-- Robert Blakey, *Fatal Hour*

The most durable conspiracy theory is that the Mafia killed the president.

-- Anthony and Robbyn Summers, in "The Ghosts of November," *Vanity Fair*, December 1994

The most telling evidence in our investigation of organized crime was electronic surveillance of major underworld figures by the FBI.
-- Robert Blakey, in *Fatal Hour*

In the case of the Kennedy assassination, unprecedented belief in all kinds of nonsense, coupled with extraordinary disrespect for the Warren Commission, has waxed in good times and bad times and flourishes among remarkable numbers of otherwise sober-minded people.

-- Max Holland, November 1995

At the time it seemed to me that LHO was reciting propaganda formulas, as well as phrases used in connection with his demand for citizenship renunciation, that he perhaps did not fully understand himself, and that he may have been coached by persons unknown.

--From Affidavit of John A. McVickar, June 23, 1997

The public was curious, and that curiosity could not be satisfied without revealing what we had decided to omit. At the same time, some political figures described in the manuscript demanded that they be presented in glowing terms. I balked and refused to make changes that would falsify history.

-- William Manchester, in *Death of a President*

In my view, the Manchester interviews have an extraordinarily unique historical value and are the most important records not yet released. . . I am hopeful that you might agree to release the material before the Review Board completes its work in September so we can help manage the release in an appropriate manner.

--Hon. John R. Tunheim's letter to Caroline B. Kennedy