

The term or definition of the term 'assassination records' is likely to be the most important administrative decision the Board will make.

--Mark Zaid and Charles Sanders, October 11, 1995

“[H]ow the term ‘Kennedy Assassination Records’ should be defined...is a very significant question because it goes to the heart of this Board’s capacity to restore the confidence of the American people that they have a right to know their own history....”

--James Lesar, October 11, 1995

“One involves setting the boundaries of, quote, “assassination material.” The joint resolution defines the term “assassination material” as “a record that relates in any manner or degree to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.” Given the wide ranges of theories that have developed as to who killed President Kennedy and why, many types of records arguably relate in some way to the assassination. What records regarding, for example, Cuba, Vietnam, and organized crime should be covered? This matter requires careful consideration.”

--Senator David L. Boren, May 12, 1992

“[W]ith respect to any assassination record, deception, alteration, or concealment implies that a truth is being concealed, and the records of the concealed truth, whatever the content of that truth, should be deemed to constitute an assassination record.”

--Peter Dale Scott, October 11, 1995

“[T]he historical profession seeks the broadest definition possible in determining what is an assassination record. We hope that the Board will actively pursue records even though agencies may not have labeled those records as assassination-related records...”

--Page Putnam Miller, October 11, 1995

“I believe the major issues include, first, how will agencies and others who hold records define the universe of, quote, ‘relevant’ Kennedy assassination materials. It is important to be able to go beyond the frame of reference of previous inquiries of commissions and committees, but the question must be asked, where will the search for documents end. In other words, what is relevant?”

Senator John Glenn, May 12, 1992