

December 10, 1996

Darrell Blevins  
Privacy Officer  
Social Security Administration  
Operations Building  
Room 3-B-6  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21235

Re: Assassination Records Residing with the Social Security Administration

Dear Mr. Blevins:

We are writing to the Social Security Administration ("SSA") to obtain from it as complete an accounting as possible of all assassination-related records within its custody or control, while still balancing the need for confidentiality afforded to tax records under Section 6103 of the IRS Code.

Since 1994, the Assassination Records Review Board ("Review Board") has been working with a number of Federal agencies to locate and publicly release records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. These actions have been taken pursuant to The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994) ("JFK Act").

While recognizing the unique considerations involving SSA, we wish to nonetheless request SSA's cooperation in assisting the Review Board in discharging its responsibility of assuring Congress and the American people that the goals of the JFK Act have been accomplished to the greatest reasonable extent. We want to assure the American people that the United States Government has identified, located, and released all records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. Indeed, one of the paramount purposes of the JFK Act is to certify to the public that the United States Government is not withholding relevant materials related to the assassination. *See, e.g., Assassination Materials Disclosure Act*, H. R. Rep. No. 625, Part 2, 102d Cong. 2d Sess. 9 (1992) ("The Federal Government's failure to release official materials has contributed to numerous conspiracy theories and fueled charges of government complicity in the assassination . . . [A] salutary purpose is served in opening these files [relating to the JFK assassination] to allay the suspicion of government

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cover-up.”).

The Review Board has recently considered how it, along with the relevant federal agencies, can best demonstrate to the American public that a thorough, good faith, and diligent effort has been made to locate and release all remaining assassination-related records within the control of the United States Government (and that the Government is not hiding any such materials from public disclosure). Pursuant to the Congressional mandate under the JFK Act to “create an enforceable, independent, and accountable process for the public disclosure of such records,” 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (2) (a) (3), the Review Board is having the relevant federal agencies provide a complete and specific accounting of their efforts to locate and release assassination-related records, including a full explanation for any destruction of such records.

Because the JFK Act specifically recognizes the confidentiality of tax records under Section 6103 of the IRS Code, we hereby request that SSA take certain unique procedures in order to make a complete accounting of all assassination-related records that are within SSA’s custody or control. Recognizing that some of these records may be subject to confidentiality under Section 6103, it is important that SSA, at a minimum, identify whatever assassination-related records it possesses. It is the present intention of the Review Board to include in its final report to Congress an accounting of all relevant assassination records residing with SSA, even if the records cannot be publicly released under Section 6103.

Earlier this year, the Review Board released, in part, certain SSA records that had previously been made available to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. See July 30, 1996 Letter from David G. Marwell to David Blevins (attached hereto). Those records were described in your letter of July 8, 1996. See July 8, 1996 Letter from David Blevins to David G. Marwell (attached hereto). It is not clear whether these represent all of the assassination-related records within the custody or control of SSA. Accordingly, we hereby request that SSA inventory and identify all assassination-related records that it has, including but not limited to the records that SSA made available to the HSCA.

With respect to all such records, we request that SSA make them available for confidential inspection by the Review Board (and of course not for public release if they are protected under Section 6103). In addition, we also request that SSA more specifically identify the subject records. Specifically, we hereby request that you prepare a log of these records and that the log identify, for each record, the following information: (a) the date of the record; (b) the author and any recipients; (c) a description of the record (*e.g.*, Oswalds’ income tax return); and (d) whether the record is subject to confidentiality under Section 6103 of the IRS Code. (This log would thus be similar to a “Vaughn” index often prepared for classified material in connection with FOIA).

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We also request that the SSA locate the following records, to the extent it has not already done so, and include them in the log to be prepared by IRS: all tax returns of Lee Harvey Oswald, including all individual returns and joint returns with Marina Oswald; Marina Oswald's tax returns for 1963 through 1966; all of Jack Ruby's tax returns, including individual returns and returns for any of his businesses; any other documents reflecting the wage earnings, tax payments, or employment history for Lee Harvey Oswald, Marina Oswald, or Jack Ruby; any correspondence with, or documents relating to or supplied to, the Warren Commission or the House Select Committee on Assassinations; and any and all other records that SSA has that relate to Lee Harvey Oswald, Marina Oswald, or Jack Ruby. We request that SSA release any such records that do not fall within the protection of Section 6103.

In addition, we also request that SSA provide to the Review Board the tax identification numbers for various former employers of Lee Harvey Oswald, including:

Dolly Shoe Co., New Orleans  
Gerald F. Tujague, Inc., New Orleans  
J.R. Michels, Inc., New Orleans  
Pfisterer Dental Laboratory, New Orleans  
Leslie Welding Co. (Louv-R-Pak Division), Fort Worth/Dallas  
Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall Co., Fort Worth/Dallas  
William B. Reily Co., New Orleans  
Texas School Book Depository, Dallas

The Review Board would like to obtain all tax identification numbers ever issued for these employers during the years 1950 through 1966, including whether more than one tax identification number was ever assigned, the date that the number(s) was issued and, if applicable, the date the number(s) was discontinued.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell  
Executive Director

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