

Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW ■ Second Floor ■ Washington, DC 20530

July 12, 1995

BY FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Harry F. Connick
District Attorney
Office of the District Attorney of New Orleans
619 South White Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

Dear Mr. Connick:

I would like to thank you again for your taking the time to testify to the Review Board and for your expressed willingness to provide additional records to the JFK Collection.

As you are aware, we have just received a set of (unsolicited) documents that appear to be transcripts of Grand Jury testimony from Jim Garrison's investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. Although we do not know whether they are authentic documents (some are on onion skin paper and some seem to be photocopies), we are very concerned that the records be handled properly and correctly pending their final legal disposition. In order to ensure that the records are properly maintained, I have ordered that they be placed into our safe and that no staff member (other than our Acting General Counsel) read the material.

We do not have actual knowledge of the provenance of the records. We have heard different stories about who has had custody of the records and who may have had access to them. We do not know whether any privilege that would originally have attached to Grand Jury records may subsequently have been waived during the past twenty-five years. (It is our understanding that the records were previously in the possession of the news media.)

Under our statutory mandate, we are obligated to search out records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy, ensure that records are not destroyed, and issue subpoenas -- when necessary -- to inquire into the existence or destruction of records.

Because of your proffered willingness to help further our goal of establishing a comprehensive set of records in the JFK Collection, we would like to explore with you the possibility of the District Attorney's Office and the Review Board to approach an appropriate court and jointly ask that all issues pertaining to any possible confidentiality of the records be resolved and that we participate in a joint effort to lift any seal (if indeed the records still are effectively under seal).

We have -- as we are sure you do as well -- every interest in ensuring complete and full compliance with all appropriate Federal and State laws and, to the maximum extent possible, making publicly available all records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. With this end in mind, we are interested in working with you to further these important goals.

If you believe it would be appropriate, we would be pleased to notify the Governor and Attorney General of the State of Louisiana to help obtain their cooperation and involvement in this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director