

July 24, 2017

BY FACSIMILE and U.S. MAIL

Laury M. Frieber, Esq.
Time Inc.
Rockefeller Center, Room 3343
New York, New York 10020

Re: Search for Documentation Pertaining to the Assassination of President Kennedy and the
Zapruder Film

Dear Ms. Frieber:

Thank you for returning my call to Robin Birstedt of your office. As I mentioned in our conversation yesterday, I was given her name by Professor Henry F. Graff, a member of our Board who is acquainted with the former General Counsel of Time Inc., Mr. E. Gabriel Perle. Mr. Perle suggested that we contact Ms. Birstedt about some questions we have about Time's archival holdings on the Kennedy assassination, particularly with respect to the famous "Zapruder film" that depicts the assassination of the President.

I am writing to request the assistance of Time Inc. (and its affiliates) to search its files and records to determine whether it possesses important documentation regarding the assassination of President Kennedy and the Zapruder film. We very much hope that Time Inc. would be willing to donate either originals or copies of some of its records to the JFK Collection at the National Archives.

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent federal agency that was created pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107. The principal mission of the Review Board is to place in the National Archives as much relevant information as possible about the assassination.

Although Time Inc. no doubt possesses many records that would be a useful contribution to the National Archives, there are three specific types of records in which we are particularly interested: early reproductions of frames from the Zapruder film, any additional documentation on the

chain-of-custody of the film, and information collected by LIFE in the course of an investigation that it apparently conducted during 1966 and 1967.

1. *Zapruder film reproductions.* We have been advised that during the autumn of 1966, LIFE and Bernard Geis Associates jointly retained Professor Josiah Thompson to conduct research related to the assassination. (LIFE subsequently published one major article on the subject in November 1966, and then suspended work on the collaborative effort with Professor Thompson.) On April 2, 1997, Mr. Thompson advised the Review Board that during his earlier work he had been shown 4x5" color positive transparencies of each frame of the Zapruder film that had been made directly from the original film and that they were of striking clarity. We have been advised that the Zapruders were not given these 4x5" transparencies at the time other materials were given to them in the 1970s. Accordingly, we would very much appreciate it if Time could search its records to determine whether it might be in possession of these color transparencies, or whether it may have any additional information about them.

2. *Documentation on the Zapruder film.* Although we have received some information regarding the transfer of the film from Abraham Zapruder to LIFE and then back to Mr. Zapruder, we would very much appreciate knowing whether you have any additional documentation on the chain-of-custody of the film.

3. *Information on LIFE's 1966-67 Inquiry.* It is our understanding that Mr. Holland McCombs, a LIFE employee who worked in Dallas, Texas, and other LIFE reporters, including Mr. Richard Billings, gathered a significant amount of information about the assassination in 1966-67. (Mr. McCombs, who died in 1991, donated many of his papers to the University of Tennessee-Martin. We have examined his papers at that location.) Does Time Inc. have any records related to this investigation?

I would be very pleased to discuss this matter further with you or other appropriate officials. We very much hope that Time Inc. might be able to make a public-spirited contribution to the National Archives of the types of records identified above and support our effort to place as much relevant material as possible in the public domain.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director and General Counsel

cc: E. Gabriel Perle, Esq.
Professor Henry F. Graff