

FAX TRANSMISSION

ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

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To: Jim DiEugenio **Date:** July 12, 2017
Fax #: **Pages:** 3, including this cover sheet.
From: Thomas E. Samoluk
Subject: Interview Request

Dear Jim:

I have discussed with David Marwell your latest fax requesting an interview with Jeremy Gunn. I would like to take this opportunity to share our thoughts with you.

First, we are both in agreement that the individual personalities and personal views of the staff are not important. It is the work of the Board and the staff, on the behalf of the Board and the American people, that is important. Frankly, we do not want to focus on individual staff members. We want to focus on the work of the Board.

Second, no one individual on the staff is the “best” person to answer the sample questions that you have provided. We are dealing with such a large volume of different records, involving complex issues, and a precedent setting statute, a comprehensive staff effort is required.

Third, I would disagree that there has been very little contact between the actual researchers and Jeremy Gunn. He is in contact with researchers every day, discussing leads and “picking their brains” relative to our search and review of records.

Fourth, I do not believe that there is any one staff member, Jeremy or anyone else, who has read every document with which we have dealt. The volume is too simply too great, and growing with every meeting.

Fifth, I would like to give you a sense of our position on the sample of questions that you faxed.

1. What were some of the difficulties in getting started and how long did it take to actually get into a routine?

As Executive Director, David Marwell would be the best one to answer this question.

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2. Did you have any opinion coming into the case?

Because it is not our job to have opinions or draw any conclusions, but rather it is our job to make the record as complete as possible, this question is irrelevant for all of us and thus we would decline to answer that.

3. Who were some of the helpful researchers at the start?

We would not want to get into answering a question such as this one. The dangers are obvious: you cannot win. Someone will be offended because they were left out and too much will be read into the names that were mentioned and those that were not mentioned.

4. Did the experts conference help?

All information the Board and staff receives is helpful. The experts meeting was just one vehicle of many to receive input from researchers and experts.

5. Have you gotten indexes from all agencies or are you still discovering files?

The Annual Report that we filed with the Congress would be the best starting point for answering this question. It should also be noted that we are dealing with a "moving target;" things are constantly changing.

6. Do you think you will be able to fulfill the mandate at the present pace?

Clearly, we have a lot to do, and the pace must continue to pick up, but our plan is to complete our task in the mandated time.

7. Have you been able to follow file numbers through and organize methodical searches from those files? Or will you interview former agency staffers to help in that process?

Ours is a work in progress. In answer to the first question, in some instances we have had more success than in others. We have, when appropriate interviewed former agency staffers, and will most likely do more of that in the future.

8. In Newman's book, he mentioned 3 FBI files on Oswald that are not in the Archives. Have you located them?

I would consult with the head of our FBI team on this one.

9. Have all the cables between Mexico City and CIA HQ at the time of the Oswald visit been discovered?

I would consult with the head of our CIA team on this one. I should note that this is the type of question with which the best one can do is say, "Yes, to the best of our knowledge," but I would check on it before giving an answer.

10. Who do you plan on deposing in the future? Anne Goodpasture? John T. Masen? James Hosty?

Because we have already deposed Anne Goodpasture, I am able to confirm that fact. However, as a matter of policy and to ensure the integrity of our investigation, we do not announce in advance who we plan to depose in the future.

I suggest that the most efficient way for us to give the most informative answers is for you to provide us with a complete list of questions in writing. Then, we would have the opportunity to consult with the appropriate staff people who have the most expertise in the relevant area. After providing you with the answers, we could talk about any follow-up. Given the complex nature of our work, we see that as the best way to proceed.

Give me a call (or a fax) after you have had an opportunity to read the above response. Thanks for your continued interest and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Tom