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Memorandum

To: Judge John Tunheim

From Tom Samoluk/ Eileen Sullivan

Date: November 13, 1996

Re: Suggested Talking Points for Conversation with Oprah Producer

I. Introduction

You are scheduled to call Elizabeth Coody (312) 633-1508 of the Oprah show at 4:00 p.m. (CST).

II. Personality

The purpose of the call is for Coody to determine whether or not you will fit into the format of the show. As you are aware, these shows are looking for animated and vigorous discussion. In other words, this is an audition, she is evaluating your personality, as well as what you would offer substantively. However, the reality is that she assumes you "know your stuff" because you are the Chairman. She has to be convinced that you can convey information about the Board in manner that is interesting to the audience. Ms. Coody will be trying to picture you on the stage with Oprah. I suggest that she will be thinking: Will he engage in discussion? Will he be appropriately aggressive?

III. Substance

Presented below are some basic questions that Ms. Coody has indicated would form the basis for your appearance. I have provided suggested responses that are meant to sound "catchy" to her.

1. Question: What does the Board do?

Answer: Basically, we are chasing history. Our job is to make the record of the assassination, probably the greatest tragedy and murder mystery of the 20th century, as complete as possible. We are not deciding "who dunnit?" That is for the American public to make their own judgments.

2. Question: Why does the Board exist?

Answer: The reality is that Congress created this Board because a third of a century after the assassination there continues to be unabated interest in the assassination -- around the world. There remains many unanswered questions in the minds of a lot of people. We'll answer some of them. We will create some questions through the release of certain records. But, the bottom line is that the record will be available for people to draw their own conclusions. Many records were being kept from the public; we're getting them out there.

3. Question: What are your thoughts on weighing public interest versus government secrecy?

Answer: With every document the Board members perform a balancing act. On one side is the public's right to know on the other side is legitimate reasons for the government to keep something secret. We have overwhelmingly decided in favor of public disclosure. Our law says there is a presumption that there will be public disclosure, but it provides a list of reasons why records could be kept closed: national security, someone's personal safety and privacy. We are making some tough

judgments that involve very weighty issues.