

March 11, 1996

Letter to the Editor
The Times-Picayune
New Orleans, Louisiana

Letter to the Editor:

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent federal agency given the mandate by the United States Congress to compile as complete a record as possible of the assassination of President Kennedy. New Orleans District Attorney Harry Connick is recklessly stonewalling the Review Board and preventing the American public from seeing an extraordinary view of its history.

After initially agreeing to donate the remaining Garrison-era investigative files in his office on the assassination of President Kennedy to the National Archives, District Attorney Connick is now refusing to do so, while giving access to selected members of the media. His actions amount to a cynical and arrogant disregard for the rights of the American public and the law.

The Review Board does not make judgments about the records that go into the JFK Collection at the National Archives, the manner in which investigations were conducted or the conclusions which were reached by those investigations, including the Garrison investigation. That is not our job. The Board's task is to compile the record and allow the American public to make their own judgments and draw their own conclusions about the tragic death of the 35th President of the United States.

The Garrison investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy is an important historical chapter of this story. The law states that these records should be part of the JFK Collection. Instead, District Attorney Connick has decided to be "judge and jury" when it comes to deciding who should see the Garrison-era records. His repeated refusal to discuss the matter in a professional manner has unfortunately resulted in the resources of the Review Board and his office being tied up to resolve the matter in court. His actions are unfair to the American public and made more egregious by allowing access to the records for only those individuals he deems to be deserving.

The Records Review Board has a huge task ahead of it and a limited amount of time in which to accomplish it. We hope that District Attorney Connick will abandon his present course and join us

in shedding light on the history surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director