

March 11, 1996

The Editor
The Times-Picayune
New Orleans, Louisiana

To the Editor:

I read with interest David Snyder's article, *Garrison: Documents reveal wild speculations* (March 10, 1996), and was surprised to learn that District Attorney Harry Connick has again made the Garrison-era investigative records under his control available to a representative of the media while continuing to deny them to the American public.

Last June, Connick told the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal agency with the mandate to compile as complete a record as possible of the assassination of President Kennedy, that he would give up the Garrison records so that they could be placed in the National Archives and be freely available to anyone who was interested. Since then, Mr. Connick has not only refused to live up to this commitment, but has acted as sole arbiter in decisions concerning access to the records. He has, in effect, substituted his judgment for who should have access to these records for that of the US Congress which has mandated that they be available to all.

The Garrison investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy represents an important chapter in the history of the assassination of President Kennedy and its aftermath. The law states that the records of this investigation should be part of the JFK Assassination Collection at the National Archives where they will be cataloged, cared for, and made accessible to all by professional archivists. Instead, District Attorney Connick believes that he should be the one to decide who should see them. His repeated refusal to discuss the matter has unfortunately resulted in the Review Board and the office of the District Attorney devoting valuable resources to resolve the matter in court.

The Records Review Board faces a huge task and has limited resources 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