

August 20, 1996

James Lee Rankin, Esq.
331 Soquel Avenue, Suite 201
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Dear Mr. Rankin:

On behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to testify before the Board at a public hearing in Los Angeles on Tuesday, September 17, 1996. The hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at the Los Angeles Board of Education Hearing Room, H-160, located on the first floor at 450 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles. To ensure that the hearing starts on time, we ask that you arrive by 9:45 a.m.

As I know you are aware, the Review Board is an independent federal agency created to oversee the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Board is not re-investigating the assassination. The law gives the Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available to the American public all records related the assassination of President Kennedy at the National Archives. For additional background, I have enclosed an information packet on the Board.

My understanding of your conversation with Mr. Jeremy Gunn, General Counsel for the Review Board, is that your testimony will relate to your late father's records from his Warren Commission service and that you will advise the Board that you and your family have agreed to donate the records to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives. The Board has set aside 10 to 15 minutes for the testimony of each witness. It would be beneficial if you could provide the staff with prepared written remarks by Friday, September 6, 1996.

I will follow-up this letter with a telephone call to schedule a convenient time to discuss your testimony. In addition, Tracy Shycoff of our staff will be in touch with you regarding travel arrangements.

Again, thank you for agreeing to join the Board at its public meeting in Los Angeles on Tuesday, September 17th and for graciously agreeing to donate your father's records to the National Archives. They will prove to be an invaluable addition to the record of the assassination. Please do not hesitate to me at (202) 724-0088, ext. 227, if you have any comments or questions. We look forward to seeing you and appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk
Associate Director

enclosure