

August 23, 1996

Mr. Alan Speck
National Editor
C-SPAN
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Speck :

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Ms. Maura Pierce.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to introduce you to the Assassination Records Review Board and inquire about your interest in our upcoming public hearing in Los Angeles on Tuesday, September 17, 1996 in the Board of Education Hearing Room located at 450 North Grand Avenue.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Review Board, an independent federal agency created by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL 102-526) to oversee the review and release of records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. President Bush signed the Act into law and President Clinton appointed the five members of the Board in April 1994. The Board is not re-investigating the assassination. Our task is to make the historical record as complete as possible and available to the American public at the National Archives. I have enclosed an information sheet on the Board for your review.

Second, as mentioned above, the Review Board is holding public hearing in Los Angeles on September 17, 1996. The Review Board has reached out to many knowledgeable parties and already heard testimony at public hearings conducted in Washington, Dallas, Boston and New Orleans. Consistent with the desires articulated by the United States Congress, the hearings have proven to be an important vehicle for the Review Board to gather information and allow the public to see the Board at work. I have enclosed a media advisory on our hearing for your information.

Third, I would be interested in knowing whether or not C-SPAN would want to provide coverage of the hearing. The hearings have typically gone from 10:00 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. I believe that we have our best witness list yet for this hearing, including: Oliver Stone, whose movie "JFK" helped create the Review Board; two former Warren Commission attorneys (UCLA Law

Professor Wesley Liebeler and David Belin, who also served as Executive Director of the Rockefeller Commission in the mid-1970's and has written two books on the assassination); a former House Select Committee on Assassinations attorney (Robert Tanenbaum); and two critics of the Warren Commission report (James DiEugenio and David Lifton, both of whom have authored books on the assassination). In addition, James Rankin, an attorney and son of the late J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel to the Warren Commission, will discuss his father's personal records on the Commission's work. The panel is balanced between Warren Commission supporters and critics. All will use their knowledge to assist the Board in enriching the historical record of the assassination.

Fourth, the room where we will conduct our hearing is wired for television coverage. In fact, the Los Angeles Board of Education has their own public television station (KLCS-TV, Channel 58) that covers their hearings and also airs other educational programming. Our public hearing in Boston was covered by a PBS station and was favorably received by their viewing audience.

Fifth, given the fact that the Review Board will expire on September 30, 1997 and is very likely the last government initiative focused on the Kennedy assassination, this hearing could be the last time a government agency hears testimony in a public forum on the assassination.

Finally, the members of the Review Board appreciate your consideration and hope that you will be interested in covering the hearing on September 17th. If you would like to call me, I can be reached at (202) 724-0088, ext. 227. I look forward to talking to you about this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk
Associate Director

enclosure