

May 14, 1997

Mr. Gary Hymel  
Hill and Knowlton, Inc.  
600 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
Suite 601  
Washington, DC 20037-2403

Dear Mr. Hymel:

The Assassination Records Review Board is the independent federal agency appointed by President Clinton to oversee the review and public release of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I would like to take this opportunity to seek your assistance on a specific matter of interest to the Review Board.

As part of the Review Board's mandate under The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, we have acquired various private materials that have enriched the historical record surrounding the assassination. Recently, it came to our attention that the late Congressman Hale Boggs may have kept a diary during his service on the Warren Commission. The possibility of a diary was raised by a December 19, 1963 letter from David Schoenbrun to Congressman Boggs. The letter is part of the Boggs papers at Tulane University. As you can see from the attached copy of the letter, Mr. Schoenbrun stated "The Editor of ESQUIRE, Harold Hayes, and the President of Atheneum Publishers, S. M. Bessie, are enthusiastic about the chances of publishing your diary." If a diary does exist, it is not part of the Boggs materials at Tulane.

Former Congresswoman Lindy Boggs recently suggested to me that you may be able to assist the Review Board in determining whether or not Congressman Boggs actually kept a diary while he served on the Warren Commission. Because you were a member of Congressman Boggs' staff, Mrs. Boggs thought you may have some knowledge relative to this matter. I should note that one historian who is researching the work of the Warren Commission believes there is a possibility that Congressman Boggs may have tape recorded his recollections. Any information that you have to offer would be helpful to the Board. The existence of a diary kept by Congressman Boggs would certainly enrich the historical record of the assassination of President Kennedy .

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. For your additional information, I have enclosed a brochure on the Review Board. I can be reached at (202) 724-0088, ext. 227, if you would like to contact me. I will follow up this letter with a telephone call to inquire whether or not you are able to offer the Review Board any assistance.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk  
Associate Director

enclosures