

August 26, 1997

Mr. Oliver Stone
Illusion Entertainment
201 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 625
Santa Monica, California 90401

Dear Mr. Stone:

Thank you for your letter of August 11, 1997, regarding certain documents contained in the J. Lee Rankin Collection that was acquired by the Assassination Records Review Board and recently became part of the JFK Collection at the National Archives.

We appreciate your interest in the work of the Review Board. In addition to the review and public release of assassination records held by federal agencies, the Board has made a priority of acquiring private records that enhance the historical record of the assassination. The pursuit and acquisition of the Rankin papers was an important part of that effort.

The interest in the documents that relate to former President Gerald Ford has been widespread, and opinions vary on the meaning and importance of his comments on the Warren Commission report draft. Regardless of one's views on these documents, it is clear that they enrich the historical record and give further insight into the inner workings of the Warren Commission.

As you are aware, the Congress did not authorize the Review Board to reinvestigate the assassination.

Our mandate is to make the record of the assassination of President Kennedy available to the American public. With the public release of the Rankin papers we have taken another step toward fulfilling that mandate. We are continuing to take several important steps to illuminate the historical record related to the autopsy and medical evidence, with the Rankin papers constituting only a part of that endeavor.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write and express your thoughts on the Ford papers contained in the Rankin collection. We appreciate your continuing interest in the work of the Review Board and assure you that we will continue to make every effort within our power to enrich the historical record of the assassination.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director