

July 24, 1996

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 16, 1996 regarding the Review Board's release of records, which included some documents relating to Mark Lane. Although it appears that nothing the Review Board does will please or satisfy you, I would like to take this opportunity to make several points in response to your letter.

First, contrary to your assertion, the quote from Chairman Tunheim in our news release did not relate specifically to the Mark Lane documents. The statement was a general statement about this particular group of several hundred documents being released. Furthermore, the point is that although none of the documents in this particular group of records directly addressed the issue of who killed President Kennedy, they still rounded out the history surrounding the assassination.

Second, the Review Board did not "define all such records out." The Review Board has never said that. I am not quite sure what has led you to continue to make this erroneous point. However, the fact that the Board is releasing information previously closed in documents such as the ones dealing with Mark Lane demonstrates that the Board considers these assassination records and that they are important to the historical record.

Third, the release of additional information in the Mark Lane documents gives a more complete picture of the breadth of the FBI's informant network used to track Lane's public appearances during the Warren Commission.

Fourth, we are fully aware that these documents were publicly available with redactions in the past. It is the Board's job to review all of the redactions and open them up, if appropriate in its judgment. In these documents, and thousands of others, that is precisely what the Board has done. These documents cannot simply be ignored, even if your view is that they are not important; a view I might note that is not shared by all interested parties.

Fifth, the irony is that I suspect that you would be quick to criticize the Board if it failed to open up these type of redactions. In my view, based on your previous letters, it is precisely this information that should be made publicly available. Thus, I fail to understand your criticism.

Finally, the Review Board and staff will continue to release information that has previously been kept from the American public. It is a long process, and there are many more documents to be reviewed.

Perhaps at some future date, documents that interest you will be released by the Board. We look forward to any specific and substantive contribution you can make to our effort.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director