

February 20, 1998

BY COURIER

Ms. Celia Winter
FOIA/ Privacy Officer
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20420

Re: Department of Veteran Affairs Equities in the Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Subject To *The John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992*, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

Dear Ms. Winter:

The staff of the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board has identified a number of FBI documents that we intend to present to the Review Board for review of postponements at the Review Board meeting on April 13, 1998. Among the documents we identified are documents in the **"Robert Lee Studebaker"** file in which your agency has equities.

We are identifying these documents to you now so that you can decide whether you wish to postpone release of the information in question. Please keep in mind the provisions of the JFK Act which anticipate that information will be withheld from public release only in "the rarest cases" and only pursuant to one of the provisions of Section 6 of the Act. The FBI is sending the documents at issue directly to Donald Neilson of your Department, who has routinely handled Department of Veterans Affairs equities in the FBI's assassination records.

So that we may adequately prepare our presentation to the Review Board with the benefit of any submission you may wish to make, you must submit evidence or arguments in support of any postponements you choose to assert in writing **no later than March 31, 1998**. **If you do not respond to this letter by the above deadline, we will assume that your agency intends to release in full its equities in the FBI record at issue, and we will recommend that the Review Board vote to release in full your agency's equities in the record.**

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In many of the FBI documents with third agency equities, we believe that the third agencies could, consistent with their current guidelines for JFK assassination-related information, consent to full release of the information at issue.

If you have any questions regarding the documents identified on the enclosed forms, please call Carol Keeley or Debbie Beatty of the JFK Task Force at the FBI at (202) 324-0571 or Laura Denk or Kevin Tiernan of the Review Board staff at (202) 724-0088. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Donald Neilson
Records Management Service
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420