

Assassination Records Review Board

600 E Street NW ▪ 2nd Floor ▪ Washington, DC 20530

(2) Pages by Fax

May 23, 1995

Mr. Dennis Lee Effle
Vice chairman/CTKA
2139 N. Vine Street
Hollywood, CA 90068

Dear Mr. Effle:

Thank you for the letter which you faxed to me on May 22, 1995. There are several matters in your letter that I would like to address. However, as a follow-up to my letter to you dated May 17, 1995, there is another serious issue related to the March 22, 1995 issue of Probe which I would like to discuss first.

Board member Dr. Henry Graff would like to make the following response for publication to an article in the March 22, 1995 issue of Probe entitled "Henry Graff: Write or Wrong?":

Probe and Mr. Lifton are surely not serious in suggesting that I misled the Senate oversight committee at the time of my confirmation hearing. I gave a commonsensical response to the question of whether I had made any public statements

regarding the assassination of President Kennedy. And I stand by that response. The segment Probe and Mr. Lifton quote from my book, *The Modern Researcher* -- a segment, incidentally, written not by me but by my senior collaborator, Jacques Barzun -- deals plainly with the difficult problem of historical evidence and not with the Kennedy assassination in the full meaning of the subject that the committee was inquiring about. Nor do the two earlier passing references to the assassination that Probe and Mr. Lifton have ferreted out of the book.

May I point out also that it did not seem relevant to the committee's inquiry, either, for me to say that as an historian who was a professor in the Columbia History Department for almost half a century I must have mentioned the Kennedy assassination countless times in classroom

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lectures and in public talks outside the University. My widely-used American history textbooks, needless to note, describe the Kennedy assassination. How could they not? I am confident that the committee was well aware that no historian qualified to serve on the Assassination Records Review Board has been literally dumb forever on the great, tragic theme of the Board's work. (end of response from Dr. Graff)

I would like to express my personal disappointment and dismay that

the article was printed in the first place without a request for a comment or explanation from Dr. Graff. This approach certainly would have been consistent with common journalistic practices. In addition, given the cooperative relationship that I believe we have developed, I know you are aware that I would have responded promptly to any request for a comment on this matter.

I appreciate and accept your apologies for my being misquoted in Probe on the matter of Mr. Tunheim's expected nomination to be a federal judge. For the record, despite what your sources claimed to have heard from me, I never stated to anyone that Mr. Tunheim would turn the offer down. It was clear from the beginning that he accepted the offer and that he intended to remain as Chair of the Review Board.

Per your request, transcripts for the March 24, 1995 public meeting in Boston and the May 3, 1995 public meeting in Washington, D.C. will be sent in the mail. We ask that you request individual transcripts after each public meeting or public hearing. This process will ensure that you receive the transcript promptly.

Again, thank you for your letter. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Samoluk, Esq.
Press and Public Affairs Officer

