

Question

How many of you believe Lee Harvey Oswald acting alone killed President Kennedy?

How many believed that there was a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy?

Introduction

"All government records concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy should carry a presumption of immediate disclosure."

That's what the law says that created the

Review Board.

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent federal agency created to oversee the identification and release of records related to the assassination of President Kennedy.

We are not conducting an investigation into who killed the President. We are trying to preserve as a complete a record of the assassination as possible.

Reason for Our Existence

As I said, we are not conducting an

investigation into who killed the President.
So the question may be: Why do we exist?

First, the Congress wanted there to be an independent body to oversee the review and release of documents.

Second, the Congress said that after 30 years, only in the rarest cases is there a reason for a record not to be disclosed to the American public.

Third, hopefully having the Board to oversee the release of the records will be cost-effective. If all of the records are released in the next two years, then government agencies won't have to be

processing requests and fighting in court for years to come. The records will either be opened or they will be put on a schedule to be periodically reviewed, with everything opened up by the year 2017.

Organization

The Board consists of five private citizens.

They are historians, an archivist and a lawyer.

They are supported by a staff of 22.

The Board will operate at the latest until October of 1997.

Main Powers

Review the records of government agencies which they want do not want to publicly disclose.

Find additional assassination records which should be part of the collection housed at the National Archives.

What we Have Done So Far

Definition Guidance on What an Assassination Record is

Public Meetings

Public Hearings in Washington, Dallas, Boston and New Orleans

That is very important. The Congress made clear that they wanted the Board to communicate with the public and make use of the many researchers who have studied the assassination for many years.

Met with Federal Agencies -- CIA, FBI

Review of Records Has Begun and Hopefully first vote on records release will be in two weeks.

Conclusion

As you know, and as Steve certainly knows, there remains enormous interest in the assassination.

Many new books every year.

In the end, the goal is to have a complete record of the assassination available to the American public.

Those who are interested will be able to draw their own conclusions about what happened.

If we do our job well, hopefully along the way

we will have restored some confidence in government.

People won't be able to say that the government is keeping secrets about the assassination.

It will all be public for everyone to see and decided for themselves.

Thank you.

Are there any questions?