

(3) Page Fax

Memorandum

To: Jack Tunheim

From: Tom Samoluk

Date: May 4, 1995

Re: Suggested Talking Points for KWHN Interview; Fri., May 5th, 9-10 am (EST)

I. Introduction

You are scheduled to be interviewed on KWHN-AM Radio, Fort Smith, Arkansas, on Friday, May 5, 1995, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. (EST). You will be a live telephone guest on "The Morning Meeting" hosted by Susan Edens. There will be calls from listeners. The station is scheduled to call you here at the ARRB offices at 9:00 a.m. Our contact is Edens at (501) 782-8888.

I have included most of the talking points which I have suggested in the past, with some updates and additions. I thought we should add that the Board members have actually reviewed FBI and CIA documents, analysts are now reviewing documents everyday, the definition guidance has been finalized and the Board plans to hold a public hearing in New Orleans on June 28th. I also added to (2) of Section II the cost of maintaining the federal governments secrets each year.

II. Basic Talking Points

1. The ARRB is an independent federal panel, consisting of five private citizens .
2. The Board's mandate is to identify and secure the Kennedy assassination records.
3. It is up to the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.
4. The purpose of the law and the Board's work is to provide a full record to the American public, make it available at the National Archives, and allow interested parties to draw their own conclusions about what happened in Dallas 31 years ago.
5. The Board is not re-investigating the assassination of President Kennedy. Its focus is collecting the assassination records.

III. Other Key Talking Points for Interviews

1. The Congress created the Board to have an independent, cost-effective and accountable process for the review and release of these documents.
2. The reality is that there continues to be an intense, unabated interest in the assassination, as reflected in the number of books and documentaries that are still being done. Requests from the public for federal records were showing no sign of slowing and federal agencies were continuing to devote enormous resources to the task of responding to these requests and litigating many of the requests. That costs money. It also costs money to unnecessarily keep records classified. In fact, The Washington Post reported just this week that the federal government spends an estimated \$16 billion a year to maintain a system of secrecy. The Review Board will get as many records out in the public domain as possible in the next couple of years. In the long run, the Review Board will have saved a lot of money and resources.
3. The Review Board has begun the review of assassination records which the FBI and the CIA want to keep secret.
4. The Review Board's analysts are reviewing CIA and FBI documents everyday now. The Board members will then will decide which records should be released and which ones need to remain closed.
5. The Board has also reviewed some Warren Commission documents that have not been made public and are not currently being reviewed by any other federal agency.
6. This week at a public meeting the Board voted on final guidance regulations on the definition of an "assassination record." The regulations will be published in the Federal Register. The vote followed a lot of input from the public and government agencies. Our goal is to frame a definition which allows the American public to have as complete a record of the assassination as possible.
7. The Board has also met with officials from the FBI, the CIA, the Secret Service and the National Security Agency . The purpose of our meetings was to establish a relationship with federal agencies which hold assassination records and ensure that they are in compliance with the law.
8. The Board plans to hold a public hearing on identifying and locating assassination records in New Orleans on June 28th. The Board has previously held hearings in Washington, Dallas and Boston to allow for public input and assist the Board in fulfilling its mandate.

IV. "Broader Implication" Talking Points

1. The Act which created the Review Board has given the American public an extraordinary and unprecedented opportunity to gain insight into its government and recent history.

2. The Board has the opportunity not only to make publicly available records that may clarify the facts surrounding the assassination, but also, along the way, the opportunity to redefine the meaning of, and need for, secrecy in government.

3. The unprecedented powers given to an independent panel of private citizens will also hopefully help to restore a measure of confidence in government.

4. The controversy surrounding the Kennedy assassination is unlikely to disappear even after the Board's work is completed, But, the American public will know that no information about the assassination is being hidden by the government. Perhaps we will see a way for government business to be conducted more effectively -- and more openly -- in the future.