

N E W S R E L E A S E

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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD RELEASES SECRET SERVICE
DOCUMENTS ON RICHARD CASE NAGELL

The Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal agency, announced today that it is releasing the Secret Service file on Richard Case Nagell, a former Army intelligence officer who claimed to have knowledge of a conspiracy in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

“This individual’s name has been mentioned in connection with the story of the assassination of President Kennedy,” said Judge John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. “As a result of the Review Board’s action, additional information will now be available to the public on this part of the history surrounding the assassination.”

The documents include a report on Nagell’s 1964 interview with the Secret Service while incarcerated in the El Paso, Texas jail and his psychiatric file while a patient at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Missouri. The documents show that Nagell told the Secret Service that he had no knowledge of the assassination and feared being involved in the investigation.

Nagell’s alleged connections to the Kennedy assassination were described in the 1992 Richard Russell book “The Man Who Knew Too Much.” Nagell claimed to have known Lee Harvey Oswald and to have had prior knowledge of plans to assassinate President Kennedy.

Nagell was arrested on federal bank robbery charges on September 20, 1963, convicted, and sentenced to ten years in prison. The conviction was overturned in 1968 and he was released. He died in November 1995.

The Review Board voted to release the Secret Service documents during its March 13-14, 1997 meeting, despite privacy objections by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The Board determined that the public's right to know outweighed the Bureau's privacy concerns. The Review Board redacted only two Social Security numbers in the file.

The original documents released today have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in The John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection, which is housed at the National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland.

Copies of selected documents from the Nagell Secret Service file are available from the Assassination Records Review Board, 600 E Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20530; telephone number: (202) 724-0088.

The Review Board was established by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate and sworn in on April 11, 1994.

The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.

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