

PRESS RELEASE

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APRIL XX, 1997

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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD RELEASES WARREN COMMISSION
PAPERS

The Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal agency, announced today that the personal files of J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel of the Warren Commission have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland.

Rankin's personal papers relate to his work for the Warren Commission and were donated to the JFK Collection by his son James Rankin during a Sept. 17, 1996 Review Board public hearing.

The Warren Commission was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson shortly after the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas. The commission determined that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin and that no conspiracy was involved in the death of President Kennedy.

The Commission report has been sharply criticized since it was first published in 1964.

Rankin's personal papers demonstrate the organization and development of the Warren Commission report. They include memos and handwritten changes to the draft chapters recommended by then Rep. Gerald Ford (R-MI), John McCloy, and Allen Dulles, all Commission members, and U.S.

Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren.

To be included in the collection are Rankin's diaries which provide a unique view of the workings of the Warren Commission and how it reached its conclusions. In addition, an original copy of the minutes of an important Sept. 18, 1964 Commission meeting, signed by Rankin, is included with the diaries.

The Rankin documents have been transferred to the National Archives and have been placed into The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection.

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.