Chapter 7
Pursuit of Records and Information from Non-Federal Sources

I firmly believe that the Board has an obligation to seek out assassination records from all sources; public and private. The goal of Congress in passing S. 3006 was to ensure broadest possible disclosure of the records relating to the assassination. The fact that a document exists only in private hands should not deter the Board in any way from seeking to compel its transmission to the National Archives.
--Judge Tunheim at the Review Board Nomination Hearings.

Through fair and impartial application of the criteria developed by the Review Board and keeping in mind always the express purposes of the enabling legislation, I believe that the Review Board should be as aggressive as it needs to be to achieve disclosure of relevant records. That also applies to records held by private citizens, if such records are within the purview of the legislation.
--William Joyce at the Review Board Nomination Hearings.

A. Pursuit of Records and Papers from Private Citizens and Organizations

The Review Board encouraged a number of private citizens and organizations who possessed assassination records to donate them to the JFK Collection in its effort to make the Collection as historically rich as possible. The Review Board received records and papers from private citizens. Private citizens donated, often is in the form of a Deed of Gift, their materials to the JFK Collection for the benefit of historians, researchers, and students of the assassination. The Review Board also received countless essays, interview transcripts, and copies of books written by members of the public, most often not accompanied by a Deed of Gift, and these materials will become part of the JFK Collection through the Collection's inclusion of the Review Board's records.

1. Gary Aguilar: Interviews with Drs. Humes and Boswell

Dr. Gary Aguilar of San Francisco provided the Review Board with an audiotape of his 1994 telephonic interviews with Dr. James J. Humes and Dr. "J" Thornton Boswell, the two Navy prosectors at President Kennedy's autopsy.

2. Richard Barnes: AP wire copy

Richard Barnes, a former Associated Press (AP) reporter, donated to the JFK Collection a copy of the AP wire copy for the dates November 22 through November 26, 1963. The material chronicles the first AP news reports of the shooting of President Kennedy, the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald, the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby, and the funeral of President Kennedy. Barnes, a San Francisco-based AP reporter in 1963, obtained permission from his editor to keep the wire copy, which would have otherwise been thrown away.

3. Dr. George Burkley

The Review Board staff contacted the children of deceased Vice-Admiral George G. Burkley, former military White House physician to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, in an attempt to find out whether their late father had deposited his papers at any institution, or whether they themselves were in possession of any assassination records. They said that they did not have any assassination records and that their father did not deposit his papers at any institution.

According to HSCA records, Dr. Burkley's personal attorney apparently approached the HSCA and said that his client believed that there was a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy. Burkley's attorney, Mr. Illig, is now deceased, but the Review Board staff requested Dr. Burkley's daughter, the executrix of his estate, to sign a waiver allowing the Review Board access to papers in the possession of Dr. Burkley's personal attorney's law firm, but Dr. Burkley's daughter refused.

4. Edward Scannell Butler: Information Council of the Americas (INCA) Materials

Chapter 6 of this Report discusses the Review Board's attempts to locate government records on Edward Scannell Butler and his organization, the Information Council of the Americas, or INCA. Although that chapter fully describes Mr. Butler, it bears repeating here that INCA is a New Orleans-based clearinghouse for anti-communist information, and particularly for anti-Castro Cuban information.

The Review Board learned that Mr. Butler's organization, INCA, had records that may be relevant to the JFK Collection. In an effort to learn more about the INCA Collection, Review Board staff members made contact with Mr. Butler to request any records or information he had that might enhance the JFK Collection. The Review Board staff spoke to Mr. Butler by telephone several times, and Mr. Butler allowed the Review Board staff to view the INCA files in storage in New Orleans. Mr. Butler had moved the INCA Collection a number of times and it was not catalogued when Review Board staff reviewed it. Mr. Butler stated that he could
not donate even copies of the INCA Collection to the JFK Collection until he had an opportunity to catalogue the material. Mr. Butler declined the Review Board's offer to send its staff members to New Orleans to sift through the material to determine which of the INCA records would be of value to the JFK Collection.

5. Mrs. Marion Ebersole: Records of Dr. John J. Ebersole

The Review Board staff contacted the widow of Dr. John J. Ebersole, the Navy radiologist who, although not board-certified at the time, was on duty the night of President Kennedy's autopsy at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, and served as consulting radiologist during that procedure. Mrs. Ebersole said she did not have any of Dr. Ebersole's personal papers or any assassination records.

6. President Gerald Ford: Desk Diaries

President Gerald Ford donated to the JFK Collection his desk diaries (calendars) from 1963 and 1964 during the period that he served a member of the Warren Commission.

7. Justice Abe Fortas

Former Supreme Court Justice and advisor to President Johnson Abe Fortas kept papers that include, *inter alia*, drafts of President Johnson's and Mrs. Johnson's written statements to the Warren Commission and documents that rebut passages from William Manchester's *The Death of a President*. Justice Fortas donated his papers to Yale University, but the Review Board secured the donation of the assassination-related material in his papers for the JFK Collection. NARA will open Justice Fortas' assassination-related papers in January 2001, which is the same date that Yale will open the remainder of his papers.

8. Captain J.W. "Will" Fritz

Dallas Police Department Captain J.W. "Will" Fritz was the chief of the DPD's Homicide and Robbery Bureau, and, as such, he served as the primary interrogator of Lee Harvey Oswald while Oswald was in the custody of the DPD from the afternoon of November 22 until the morning of November 24, 1963. In November 1997, the Review Board acquired and released handwritten notes that Captain Fritz took during his interviews of Lee Harvey Oswald.

9. Jim Garrison

Jim Garrison is, of course, the former New Orleans District Attorney who prosecuted Clay Shaw for conspiracy to assassinate the president and the hero of Oliver Stone's *JFK*. Garrison is now deceased but the Review Board approached his family and asked whether they would be willing to donate any of his papers. Garrison's family donated 15,000 pages of Garrison's records on the assassination that Garrison had kept at his home. Garrison's collection includes records from his investigation and prosecution of Clay Shaw, as well as other files on individuals or subjects that Garrison believed to be connected to the assassination.

10. Georgetown University: FBI Freedom of Information Act Release

In the 1970s, the FBI released to the public redacted copies of its "core and related" files on the assassination (defined in Chapter 5 of this Report) pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Georgetown University acquired a complete copy of the FBI's 90,000 page FOIA release for the Georgetown Library, but Library users rarely accessed the records and Georgetown donated the records to the Review Board for its reference use, and ultimately to the JFK Collection.

11. James P. Hosty, Jr.

In November 1996, the Review Board deposed James P. Hosty, Jr., the former FBI agent responsible for covering the Lee Harvey and Marina Oswald cases when the Oswalds lived in Dallas. Hosty was present during some of Lee Harvey Oswald's interrogation at the Dallas Police Department and took handwritten notes during the questioning. At the time of his interview, Mr. Hosty agreed to donate the notes and some other materials that he possessed relating to the assassinnation and to the FBI's investigation Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina Oswald.

12. Wesley Liebeler

Mr. Wesley Liebeler, former Assistant Counsel to the Warren Commission, testified before the Review Board at the Board's Los Angeles public hearing in September 1996. At the time of his testimony, Mr. Liebeler provided to the Review Board copies of six chapters of a book on the assassination that he had not completed. In addition, Mr. Liebeler provided the Review Board with a report on the Zapruder film written by UCLA Physics professor Brian Jones. Liebeler apparently requested that Jones examine the Zapruder film and prepare the report.

13. David Lifton: Medical Evidence

David Lifton, author of *Best Evidence: Disguise and Deception is in the Assassination of John F. Kennedy*, testified before the Review Board at its public hearing in Los Angeles in September 1996. During his testimony, Mr. Lifton announced that he would donate to the JFK Collection his 35mm "interpositive" print of the Zapruder film. The interpositive print is valuable to researchers because interpositive prints, made directly from internegative prints, which are in turn made from the camera original film, provide denser colors and greater contrast than do regular positive prints. Lifton also stated during his testimony that he would donate to the JFK Collection audiocassette copies of interviews he conducted with medical witnesses at both Parkland Hospital in Dallas and at Bethesda Medical Center. Some of Mr. Lifton's medical interviews date from 1966. Mr. Lifton's donations are now part of the JFK Collection.

14. Holland McCombs

Mr. Holland McCombs, now deceased, was a Life Magazine correspondent in Dallas at the time of the assassination. A private citizen alerted the Review Board to the presence of assassination records in Mr. McComb's papers, housed at the Paul Meek Library of the University of Tennessee at Martin. In July 1996, a Review Board staff member reviewed hundreds of boxes of Mr. McComb's papers and located seven boxes relating to Mr. McCombs' interest in the assassination. The Review Board staff marked approximately 600 records and transferred photocopies of those records to the JFK Collection.

15. Metropolitan Crime Commission

The MCC is a private, anti-crime organization which, since the 1950s, has investigated public corruption and organized crime in the New Orleans area. HSCA staffers Patricia Orr and Ann Taylor reviewed the MCC's records on the organized crime figures such as Carlos Marcello and MCC records on the Garrison investigation. The Review Board staff believed that the MCC records involving organized crime figures in the New Orleans area were of particular interest and the staff requested and received permission from the MCC to review the records. Review Board staff members identified 12 boxes of MCC records that they believed would enhance the JFK Collection.

Approximately half of the MCC records that the Review Board staff copied consisted of information concerning former District Attorney James Garrison's investigation into the assassination. The remaining half of the records consisted of files that formerly belonged to Guy Banister. The vast majority of the MCC's Banister material dates from the early 1950s when Banister worked for the New Orleans Police Department. A large number of the MCC's Banister records are N.O.P.D. "Internal Affairs" investigative files that detail small time corruption of N.O.P.D. police officers. Because the internal affairs investigative files were not relevant to the assassination of President Kennedy, Review Board staff members designated as assassination records only those documents that were *not* exclusively related to the internal affairs of the N.O.P.D. Ultimately, the Review Board added approximately 3000 pages of MCC records to the JFK Collection.

16. Gerald Posner

Gerald Posner, author of the book *Case Closed*, testified to Congress during its consideration of the *President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992* (JFK Act) that he had interviewed both Navy autopsy prosectors--Drs. Humes and Boswell. When asked by another witness whether he would donate his notes of those interviews to the JFK Collection and whether he had any audiotapes of those interviews, Mr. Posner responded, "I would be happy, Mr. Chairman, to ask Drs. Humes and Boswell if they would agree for their notes to be released to the National Archives." When the Review Board asked Mr. Posner if he would be willing to donate the above-referenced notes, he declined.

17. Frank Ragano

Mr. Frank Ragano, who passed away in 1998, was allegedly an organized crime attorney. He says that both Jimmy Hoffa and Santo Trafficante were his clients. In Mr. Ragano's 1994 book *Mob Lawyer*, Ragano claimed that Jimmy Hoffa used Ragano as a messenger to ask organized crime figures Trafficante and Carlos Marcello to arrange for the murder of President Kennedy. Mr. Ragano further wrote that Trafficante, in 1987, confessed to Ragano that he, Trafficante, had been involved in killing President Kennedy.

Ragano's book also stated that Ragano possessed original, contemporaneous notes regarding meetings with organized crime

figures. In an effort to determine whether Mr. Ragano's notes were relevant to the assassination, the Review Board subpoenaed the notes and deposed Mr. Ragano. Mr. Ragano produced several handwritten notes regarding the assassination, but he could not The Review Board submitted the original notes to the Secret Service to see if they could determine when Ragano created the notes, but the Secret Service was not able to provide a conclusive answer. Mr. Ragano's testimony to the Review Board is now available to the public in the JFK Collection as a transcript and as an audio recording. Mr. Ragano's notes are attached to his deposition transcript as exhibits.

18. J. Lee Rankin: Warren Commission papers

James Rankin, Jr., the son of the late J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel of the Warren Commission, testified at the Review Board's public hearing in Los Angeles and subsequently agreed to donate his father's papers to the JFK Collection. J. Lee Rankin's Warren Commission files include memos and handwritten changes to draft chapters of the Warren Commission Report report that that Commission members Gerald Ford, John McCloy, and Allen Dulles, among others, recommended.

19. Clay Shaw: Personal Papers and Diary

Clay Shaw, the New Orleans businessman that New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison prosecuted for conspiracy to murder President Kennedy, left personal papers in the possession of one of his friends. The Review Board acquired Shaw's personal papers from Shaw's friend for inclusion in the JFK Collection. The papers fill seven boxes and include
Shaw's diary from the time of the trial, records from Shaw's criminal case, Shaw's correspondence, business records, passports, personal records, and photographs.

20. Walter Sheridan

In its effort to comply with the JFK Act, the Kennedy Presidential Library reviewed its holdings for groups of records that could possibly contain assassination records. The records of Walter Sheridan, an investigator who worked for Robert F. Kennedy and later for NBC were on deposit with the Lirary. The Library identified file folders of material, primarily notes, related to Sheridan's work as an investigative reporter for NBC on the prosecution of Clay Shaw, a New Orleans businessman charged with conspiracy to assassinate the president. In 1967 Mr. Sheridan produced an hour-long special related to the assassination. The Library contacted Mr. Sheridan to inform him that his records would be processed and sent to the JFK Collection at NARA. Mr. Sheridan requested that the Library return the identified assassination records to him. The Library honored this request. Walter Sheridan died is in January 1995. NBC has claimed it owns the rights to the Sheridan papers, and the matter is now pending.

21. Martin Underwood

Martin Underwood, a former advance man for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, was a member of President Kennedy's advance team in Texas in November 1963. A researcher who worked with Seymour Hersh on his book *The Dark Side of Camelot* informed the Review Board that Underwood The researcher provided the Review Board with copies of handwritten notes, on White House stationery, ostensibly documenting Underwood's meeting with Scott. The handwritten notes state that Scott confided in Underwood that the CIA "blew it" in Dallas in November 1963, because on the morning of November 22, 1963, CIA possessed information that a plane had arrived in Mexico City from Havana. One passenger debarked the plane and boarded another plane headed for Dallas. Underwood's notes state that Scott said that CIA identified the passenger as Fabian Escalante.

The researcher also told the Review Board that someone instructed Underwood to follow Judith Campbell Exner on her 1960 train ride between Washington, D.C. and Chicago during which she is alleged to have carried a satchel of money between President Kennedy and organized crime boss Sam Giancana.

The Review Board staff informally interviewed Mr. Underwood. Underwood confirmed that he traveled to Mexico City in 1966, but said that he went to advance President Johnson's trip and not to look into circumstances surrounding President Kennedy's assassination. While in Mexico City, Underwood met with Scott concerning the details of President Johnson's trip. During Underwood's meeting with Scott, they did discuss President Kennedy's assassination and that Scott told him the story that the researcher relayed to the Review Board. When Review Board staff asked Mr. Underwood about any notes he may have taken, he initially claimed to have no memory of such notes. Upon viewing copies of the notes that the researcher provided to the Review Board, Underwood said that he had written the notes in 1992 or 1993 for the researcher to use in research for Hersh's book. Underwood explained that the notes are on White House stationery because he has a lot of extra White House stationery left over from his work with President Johnson. Underwood could not remember whether he had contemporaneous notes from his meeting with Scott. With regard to the story about Judith Exner Campbell, Underwood said that he did not follow Ms. Exner on any train rides and that he had no knowledge about her alleged role as a courier between the President and Sam Giancana.

After the informal interview, Underwood forwarded to the Review Board a set of claimed that President Johnson sent Underwood to Mexico City in 1966 or 1967 to see what he could learn about the Kennedy assassination. Underwood then allegedly traveled to Mexico City and met with Win Scott, former CIA Chief of Station in Mexico City, several years after the assassination.

typed notes from his 1966 trip to Mexico City and meeting with Scott. The typed notes documented Underwood's activities in Mexico City and briefly mentioned his meeting with Scott. The notes do not mention Underwood's conversation with Scott about the Kennedy assassination. Instead, the notes state that Underwood sought Scott's in staging a big welcome for Edward Wegmann was a New Orleans lawyers who assisted in defending Clay Shaw, the New Orleans businessman that District Attorney Jim Garrison prosecuted for conspiracy to murder the President. Mr. Wegmann is now deceased, but his family agreed to donate his assassination-related papers to the JFK Collection. Wegmann's collection includes some documents from Garrison's office files that Wegmann and his collegues obtained from former Garrison investigator William Gurvich. While he was working for Garrison, Gurvich became disenchanted with the investigation and as he was making plans to quit, he made copies of Garrison's memoranda and witness inteviews. Gurvich turned over his copies to Clay Shaw's attorneys. The Wegmann papers contain approximately 6,000 pages.

23. Dallas Sixth Floor Museum records

The Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas, Texas is a museum dedicated to providing information to the public on President Kennedy's assassination, and it contains an archives section that holds original films and documents relating to the assassination. The Museum is located on the sixth floor of the former Texas School Book Depository from which Oswald shot President Kennedy. The President Johnson. The Review Board subsequently requested Mr. Underwood to testify under oath, but due to health problems, Mr. Underwood was not available. Mr. Underwood's notes are now part of the JFK Collection.

22. Edward Wegmann

Review Board sought to identify any significant records held by the Museum that, in its determination, should be part of the JFK Collection. After deposing Sixth Floor Museum officials, and thereafter negotiating with the Museum, the Review Board secured for the JFK Collection the Museum's donation of copies of: Parkland Hospital records regarding medical treatment of President Kennedy, autopsy records for Oswald, Ruby, and police officer Tippit, court papers regarding the criminal trial of Jack Ruby, papers of Parkland physician Dr. Charles J. Carrico, and various home movies depicting the Presidential motorcade in Dallas.

B. Pursuit of Audio-Visual Material from Private Citizens and Organizations

The Review Board was able to acquire audio-visual material from private citizens and entities that enhanced the historical record surrounding the assassination.

1. Tom Alyea: Film from inside the Texas School Book Depository

Tom Alyea, a former WFAA-TV (Dallas) cameraman who was trapped in the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD) after President Kennedy was shot and after the

building was sealed by the Dallas Police Department, filmed events that occurred in the TSBD during that period. Included in Mr. Alyea's film is footage of the sixth floor sniper's nest. The Review Board. In May 1996, Review Board staff met with Mr. Alyea during which he agreed, in writing, to donate his original 16mm film to the JFK Collection. Mr. Alyea gave his film to the JFK Collection at that time, and as agreed, the Review Board sent Mr. Alyea 16mm "positive" copy and a 16mm "negative" copy of the film. Mr. Alyea later decided that he wanted the Review Board to return the film to him. Unfortunately, the Review Board did not have the discretion to return the film since, by then, the film was in the possession of NARA, a Federal government agency, and was therefore covered by section 5 of the JFK Act which requires agencies to place all assassination records in their possession in the JFK Collection. The exact terms of Mr. Alyea's donation to the JFK Collection are, as of this writing (August 1998), unclear.

2. Charles Bronson: Film of Dealey Plaza

The Review Board approached the family of the late Charles Bronson, a private citizen who filmed the scene in Dealey Plaza shortly before President Kennedy's assassination, and requested that they consider donating Mr. Bronson's fiom. Mr. Bronson's family stated that they were not prepared to donate the historical materials.

3. CBS outtakes

The Review Board approached executives at CBS Television, the network holding the largest volume of television coverage of the assassination and subsequent specials about the assassination, to request that CBS consider donating its outtakes to the JFK Collection. CBS owns rare interview outtakes with individuals such as Marina Oswald Porter. CBS agreed to donate its outtakes from its television specials to the JFK Collection. As of this writing (August 1998), the logistics of the Review Board's examination of CBS' outtakes and the transfer of CBS' materials are evolving. The Review Board anticipates that CBS' valuable records will soon become part of the JFK Collection.

4. Robert Groden

Mr. Robert Groden is a photo-optics technician who was the first person to show the public the famous Zapruder film as a motion picture and who subsequently served as an unpaid photographic consultant for the HSCA. Groden's collection of assassination photos and films is renowned throughout the assassination research community, and many believe that Groden made unauthorized copies of the HSCA's photos and films during the time that he worked with the Committee. A few researchers believe that Mr. Groden kept the original photos and films that the HSCA used and returned copies to the HSCA's custody.

One particular researcher believed that Mr. Groden may have had a photograph from President Kennedy's autopsy that was not in the possession of NARA. This researcher recalled that he had seen an autopsy photograph of President Kennedy at Mr.

Groden's home in 1980 that Groden told him was not part of NARA's official collection. The researcher believed that the Review Board should attempt to find this "extra" photograph.

In an effort to determine whether Groden possessed original or first-generation copies of photos and films, the Review Board subpoenaed all original and first-generation assassination films in Groden's possession, and deposed Mr. Groden. Under oath, Mr. Groden claimed that he did not possess any original or first-generation assassination films or images of any kind. With the help of NARA, the Review Board collected Mr. Groden's materials, studied the provenance of ther materials, and returned the materials to Mr. Groden in July 1998. The Review Board's study did determine that Groden did not turn over to the Review Board any autopsy photographs that are not already part of NARA's official collection.

5. Lt. Everett Kay: audio surveillance tape

Lt. Everett Kay (Ret.), a private citizen, donated to the JFK Collection an audio surveillance tape of a November 9, 1963 meeting between Miami police informant William Somersett and Joseph Milteer, who alleged that President Kennedy would be killed by a rifle that was shot from an office window.

6. David Lifton: materials from interviews with Bethesda autopsy participants

At the request of the Review Board staff, David Lifton provided audiotapes, videotapes, and transcripts of his previous interviews of Bethesda autopsy participants John Stringer, Floyd Riebe, Jerrol Custer, Edward Reed, and James Sibert.

7. Vincent Palamara: interviews with Secret Service personnel

Mr. Vincent Palamara conducted extensive interviews of former Secret Service personnel. Mr. Palamara donated three audiocassettes containing these interviews to the JFK Collection.

8. David Powers: film of motorcade

David Powers, former aide to President Kennedy, was riding in the Presidential motorcade through Dealey Plaza behind President Kennedy on November 22, 1963. Although Powers ran out of film in his camera minutes before the motorcade entered into Dealey Plaza, he did film the motorcade prior to that point. The Kennedy Presidential Library holds the original film, but a copy is now in the JFK Collection.

10. David Taplin: November 24, 1963 coverage of Dallas Police Department

Gerald Nathan Taplin, Sr., filmed the exterior of the Dallas Police Department (DPD) building on the morning that the DPD scheduled its transfer of Lee Harvey Oswald to the county jail. On that morning, of course, Jack Ruby shot Oswald inside the

DPD building. The Taplin film contains images of the arrival of the armored car that the DPD intended to use to move Oswald, as well as footage of other film crews covering the event, and scenes on the street. David Taplin, Gerald Taplin, Sr.'s grandson, donated a copy of his grandfather's film to the JFK Collection.

11. Stephen Tyler

In 1992, Stephen Tyler produced a 90 minute television documentary titled *He Must Have Something* about Jim Garrison's In November 1995, the Review Board launched a special initiative in Dallas, appealing to members of the public to consider donating any film or photographs they may have relating to the assassination. As a result of its appeal, the Review Board acquired important KTVT televisions outtakes from Janet Veazey. Veazey had possession of the film because her father's friend, Roy Cooper, Jr., was a photographer from KTVT television in Dallas. Mr. Cooper retrieved the outtakes from the KTVT trash and spliced them together, creating a 45 minute silent film. The original 45-minute, 16mm film contains scenes of President and Mrs. Kennedy in Dallas as well as footage of the aftermath of the assassination. The original outtakes are now part of the JFK Collection.

13. Moses Weitzman

Moses Weitzman is a special effects film expert who employed Mr. Robert Groden (*see* above) as a trainee and junior level staffer is in the late 1960s. Mr. Weitzman

investigation into President Kennedy's assassination. Tyler testified at the Review Board's public hearing in New Orleans, and announced that he would donate a copy of his documentary, along with the outtakes of approximately 30 interviews that he conducted for the documentary, to the JFK Collection. Among those interviewed for Tyler's documentary are former District Attorney Jim Garrison, New Orleans witness Perry Russo, and Warren Commission critic Mark Lane.

12. Janet Veazey: KTVT outtakes

worked for his customer, Time-Life, on the original Zapruder film in the late 1960s and, in that capacity, he was the first to directly blow up 8 mm motion pictures to 35 mm motion pictures.

Although Mr. Weitzman told the Review Board he gave his best Zapruder film work products to Time-Life, he admitted that he retained some imperfect 35 mm internegatives that he made directly from the Zapruder original film. Mr. Weitzman used the internegatives to demonstrate his technical ability to enlarge 8 mm films directly to 35 mm format. It was these imperfect internegatives that Mr. Weitzman allowed Robert Groden to have access to during the late 1960s, and it seems likely that Weitzman's products are the source for the Zapruder film public showings that Groden made in the mid-1970s. Mr. Weitzman donated to the JFK Collection a 16mm copy of the Zapruder film stified about the importance of the Zapruder film to history at the Review Board's April 1997 public hearing on the subject.

14. Robert White: Evelyn Lincon materials

In January, 1997, the Review Board began to contact the beneficiaries of the wills of Evelyn and Harold Lincoln, in an effort to determine whether Evelyn Lincoln, President Kennedy's personal secretary, had accumulated assassination-related items.

One of the beneficiaries of the Lincoln's wills was Mr. Robert White, a Baltimore The Review Board wrote to Mr. White, who upon receiving the Review Board's letter, contacted an attorney. In a February 1997 letter, the attorney stated that Mr. White "did not receive nor was he is in possession of any assassination-related artifacts and/or memorabilia originating from the Lincolns or from any source." Mr. White agreed to speak with Review Board staff on April 10, 1997. At this meeting, Mr. White provided a brief, handwritten list of the items he had received under Ms. Lincoln's will. Mr. White also briefly described his involvement with inventorying and appraising the items in the Lincoln's estates. White reiterated that his inventory of the estate did not reveal any items related to the assassination, other than the diaries and appointment books that had been bequeathed to the Kennedy Library.

After meeting with Mr. White, the Review Board continued to receive information that Mr. White possessed assassination-related items. The Review Board also learned that Mr. White planned to auction items from his collection at Guernsey's auction house in New York City, on March 18 and 19, 1998. The Review Board, with the help of the collector of Kennedy memorabilia who the Review Board understood had over 100,000 items in his collection. Mr. White had been personal friends with the Lincolns for more than twenty years. The Review Board further understood that Mr. White obtained many items from Ms. Lincoln, including an entire file cabinet and "Kennedy memorabilia such as briefcase, signing table, rocker and stereo."

Justice Department, subpoenaed White, requiring him to produce all objects and/or records that related to the assassination of President Kennedy, all records that pertained to the administrations of both President Kennedy and President Johnson administrations on such subjects as Cuba, the FBI, the CIA, and organized crime. The subpoena also sought inventories of Mr. White's collection and a list of items that Mr. White had received as a beneficiary of the Lincolns' wills.

The Review Board staff deposed Mr. Robert White in March of 1998. During the deposition, Mr. White described his friendship with Evelyn Lincoln and discussed the various Kennedy-related objects that she had given to him. In certain cases, Mr. White relayed Ms. Lincoln's comments or documentation about the provenance of various objects. Among the records that Mr. White produced for the Review Board's inspection were Texas trip advance sheets, Secret Service White House Detail photograph book, memoranda authored by President Kennedy, and twenty-three White House Dictabelt tapes.

Four of the memoranda that were authored by President Kennedy contained classified, national security information, and were ultimately forwarded by the Review Board to the Information Security Oversight Office for their review.

On the last day of his deposition, Mr. White informed the Review Board that he had just donated the Dictabelts to the Kennedy Presidential Library. The Dictabelts contain telephone conversations, dictations and discussions involving President Kennedy and other individuals. Specific topics on the Dictabelts include dictation by President Kennedy during the week of November 4, 1963, discussions of the Berlin Crisis, conversations regarding the Cuban Missile Crisis, and thoughts dictated by President Kennedy on November 12, 1963.

C. Pursuit of State and Local Government Records

> An *assassination record* . . . includes, without limitation: All records collected by or segregated by all Federal, state , and local government agencies in conjunction with any investigation or analysis of or inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy. . . .[i]

1. New Orleans District Attorney files

At the Review Board's New Orleans Public Hearing in June 1995, the Honorable Honorable Harry F. Connick, Sr., former District Attorney of New Orleans Parish, testified before the Review Board. During his testimony, Mr. Connick stated that, as District Attorney, he was in possession of former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigative files. During his testimony, he stated his intent to donate the investigative files to the JFK Collection. The Review Board was pleased that Mr. Connick had agreed to donate these important records and looked forward to their inclusion in the JFK Collection.

Several days after the Review Board staff returned to Washington, D.C., a package arrived in the Review Board's offices from New Orleans. The package contained what appeared to be very old grand jury transcripts from the grand jury that Jim Garrison convened during his investigation of Clay Shaw. The grand jury records had been sent to the Review Board by a former Connick investigator who claimed that Connick was cleaning out the District Attorney's office and, in that process, ordered the investigator to dispose of these old grand jury transcripts. The investigator did not, however, follow Mr. Connick's instructions, opting instead to take the historical materials home and store them in his basement. When the investigator became aware of the Review Board's effort to collect information related to the assassination of President Kennedy, he felt compelled to send the transcripts to Washington.

When Connick learned that the Review Board accepted delivery of the old grand jury transcripts, he demanded that the Review Board return the records to the District Attorney's office. He stated that the records were the property of the State of Louisiana and that they were grand jury records subject to the seal of the Louisiana state courts, thus the Review Board should return the records. Connick further stated that, unless the Review Board returned the grand jury records to his custory, he would refuse to donate the Garrison investigative records as he had promised at the Board's public hearing. The Review Board believed that it was compelled by its enabling legislation, the JFK Act, to review, organize, and process the records for inclusion since they were clearly assassination records in the possession of a government office -- the Review Board.

On November 22, 1963, immediately after President Kennedy was shot, a motorcycle policeman (possibly David Burros or David Burroughs) found a piece of bone on Elm Street in Dealey Plaza. The policeman turned the bone piece over to Deputy Constable Seymour Weitzman, who presumably turned the bone piece over to the Secret Service. The Secret Service then sent the fragment to the White House physician, Rear Admiral Burkley. The Secret Service placed medical materials from the autopsy in the Secret Service safe of the Chief of the Protective Research Section Robert Bouck. However, the April 26, 1965, inventory of Bouck's safe does not list the bone piece.

The Review Board staff wrote to the Dallas County Records Management Officer and to the Dallas City Archivist in an attempt to find out whether any existing photographs, x-rays, or other records in their files regarding the above-referenced bone fragment. Neither archive located records related to the fragment.

District Attorney Connick subpoenaed the Review Board for the grand jury records, and the Review Board subpoenaed Connick for the investigative records. With the help of the Department of Justice, the Review Board was able to successfully take the position that the State of Louisiana could not subpoena a Federal agency for return of the records. Connick was not as successful in his efforts to beat the Review Board's subpoena for the Garrison investigative records. Litigation over the Review Board's subpoena ensued and the Review Board ultimately prevailed. Both the investigative records and the grand jury transcripts now reside in the JFK Collection.

2. Dallas City and County records

D. Pursuit of Records from Foreign Governments

> Assassination records and additional records and information may be located at, or under the control of, without limitation . . . Foreign governments.[ii]

1. Russia and Belarussia

The Review Board made extensive attempts to secure Soviet Government records,

including KGB files, maintained on Lee and Marina Oswald during the 1959 to 1962 time period. These records relate to KGB surveillance of Oswald while he lived in the Soviet Union. In his book *Oswald's Tale*, Norman Mailer relies on some KGB surveillance records which he obtained that apparently reflect Oswald's activities and conversations during his two-year stay in the Soviet Union. The Warren Commission did not see or use the KGB records nor did any Congressional investigation into Kennedy's assassination see or use the records. The KGB records are unquestionably of historical importance. In fact, Congress specifically recognized this by including in the JFK Act its sense that the State Department should attempt to secure from Russia all Soviet Government records relating to the assassination.

Subsequently, Mr. Schiller agreed to talk to Review Board members about attempting to make his copies of at least some of the KGB records available. Mr. Schiller informed the Review Board that he had spent approximately 18 months in the former Soviet Union attempting to secure all of the former KGB records, but that he had only been able to obtain some of the records. He told Review Board members that he would be willing to donate his copies of KGB records to the JFK Collection provided their full release could be delayed for seven and one-half years (at the request of his KGB contact.)

Mr. Schiller stated that he would be willing to make himself available for deposition. As of the writing of this Report (August 1998), the Review Board had not yet deposed Mr. Schiller, nor had it finalized the terms of Mr. Schiller's gift to the JFK Collection. The Review Board intended to complete both of these items before it terminated its operations on September 30, 1998.

In conjunction with the Department of State, the Review Board met with representatives of the Governments of Belarus and Russia and requested the KGB records, but the request was denied. The Review Board then approached the writers of *Oswald's Tale*--Mr. Mailer and Lawrence Schiller--to ask that they donate their copies of these KGB records. They, too, initially denied the Review Board's request. The Review Board then asked the Department of Justice to subpoena the KGB records from Mr. Schiller on the grounds that the Review Board could not obtain the records from the Russian or Belarussian Governments and that, to the Review Board's knowledge, Mr. Schiller held the only copy of at least some of these records within the U.S. The Department of Justice reluctantly issued the subpoena to Mr. Schiller.

The Review Board also strongly recommends that the U.S. Government in general and the State Department in particular should pursue with the Russian and Belarussian governments the release of KGB records on Lee Harvey and Marina Oswald.

2. Cuba

In an effort to determine whether Fidel Castro's Cuban government maintains any records that are relevant to the assassination, the Review Board developed a dialogue with

Cubans who are stationed in the Cuban Interest Section in the Embassy of Switzerland. The Chief of the Cuban Interest Section started an effort within Cuba to locate records related to the assassination, as he agreed with the Review Board that release of Cuban records might be beneficial both to Cuba and to the U.S. He did inform the Review Board, however, that recordkeeping in Cuba was spotty in the years immediately following Castro's rise to power, and as such, the Review Board members might obtain more information if they interviewed Cuban officials who recalled the situation in Cuba in the wake of the assassination . As of the writing of this Report (August 1998), the Review Board was still actively working with officials in the Cuban Interest Section to determine what, if any, information exist in Cuba relative to the assassination.

3. Mexico

Since the Mexican government conducted an investigation into the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald, and the Mexican DFS conducted the interrogations of Silvia Duran (*see* Chapter 6, infra), the Review Board sought the cooperation of Mexico in its search for additional records. At the behest of the Review Board, the State Department requested the Mexican government to search its files for possible records relevant to the assassination. To date, the only records the Mexican government made available to the JFK Collection were copies of the same diplomatic correspondence between the Mexican Foreign Ministry and the State Department that it submitted to the Warren Commission. Copies of these communications were already placed in the JFK Collection.

E. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the JFK Act provided a unique vehicle, for the first time since the assassination of President Kennedy, for a single government entity to search for, identify, and assemble donations from individual citizens and local government bodies---and then place them in one central location for access by all interested citizens.

It was often research leads related to records received *from private citizens* that resulted in Review Board staff efforts to locate the records of either individuals or local governments. Not all attempts were successful (such as attempts to obtain the cooperation of the Burkley family executor in waiving attorney-client privilege, attempts to obtain donations of various assassination or assassination-related films from individuals known to possess them, and the fruitless search for local records pertaining to the "Weitzman" bone fragment), but the Review Board hopes that the mere fact that it made the searches that it did, and in an open and documented fashion, will help to restore trust in government's desire and ability to be responsive to the concerns of citizens. Public hearings held in several cities by the Review Board, and independent researcher "expert's conferences" and working luncheons held with Review Board staff and Board Members, were instrumental in providing leads that proved most useful to the search for records; all citizens who participated in such events are commended for their sincere interest and their efforts.

CHAPTER 7: PURSUIT OF RECORDS AND INFORMATION FROM NON-FEDERAL SOURCES

CHAPTER 7
ENDNOTES

i. 44 C.F.R. § 1400.1.

ii. 44 C.F.R. § 1400.3(i).