

NEWS RELEASE

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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD SUBPOENAS  
GARRISON RECORDS FROM NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Assassination Records Review Board *today subpoenaed records from the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy conducted by former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. The records are held by current New Orleans District Attorney Harry Connick.*

*“The Review Board has taken this step to ensure that the public interest in these assassination records is protected,” said the Honorable John R. Tunheim, Chair of the Review Board. “It is still our hope and desire to resolve this matter without lengthy legal proceedings so these records can be added to the JFK Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives and be made available to the American public.”*

*The subpoena requires the District Attorney to produce “all documents and records in your possession, custody or control relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, including but not limited to handwritten notes, memoranda, drawings, photographs, tape recordings, and correspondence*

*that relate to the investigation and prosecution of Mr. Clay Shaw by former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, with the exception of any grand jury materials still extant in the possession of the District Attorney's Office."*

*District Attorney Connick testified at a Review Board public hearing in New Orleans on June 28, 1995 that he would donate the files from Garrison's assassination investigation that remain in his office for inclusion in the JFK Assassination Records Collection. The subpoena was issued today after the District Attorney had failed to forward the records to the Review Board during the last seven months.*

*Another matter related to the Garrison assassination investigation records is pending between the Review Board and District Attorney Connick. In July 1995, the Board received an unsolicited shipment of Grand Jury transcripts from the Clay Shaw*

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*investigation. These records have not been made public by the Board, pending resolution of their legal status. Because these transcripts were created during an investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy and are now in the possession of the Review Board they are defined as "assassination records" within the meaning of the Board's governing statute, The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (JFK Act). Under the JFK Act, the Board is required to preserve assassination records in its possession for inclusion in the JFK Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives. District Attorney Connick has*

sought the return of these records. The Review Board has not returned the records, citing its legal obligation under the JFK Act, but has repeatedly offered to seek a resolution of the matter with the District Attorney.

The Assassination Records 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.

The Review Board consists of the following members:

*The Honorable John R. Tunheim, Chair; United States District Court Judge, District of Minnesota.*

*Dr. Henry F. Graff; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.*

*Dr. Kermit L. Hall; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.*

*Dr. William L. Joyce; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.*

*Dr. Anna K. Nelson; Adjunct Professor of History at American University.*

*The Review Board has until October 1, 1996 to fulfill its mandate, plus an additional year at the Board's discretion to complete its responsibilities.*