

(1) page via fax to: 60 Minutes

October 22, 1997

60 Minutes
555 West 57th Street
CBS News
New York, NY 10019

Re: 60 Minutes Segment Entitled "They've Got A Secret"
Aired on Sunday, October 19, 1997

Dear 60 Minutes:

The 60 Minutes segment entitled "They've Got a Secret" on over-classification of government records sheds much-needed light on a practice that costs taxpayers billions of dollars each year. However, 60 Minutes kept viewers in the dark on a substantial effort the government is making to address one problem raised in the segment: secret records on the assassination of President Kennedy.

The JFK Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal agency, is charged with reviewing and releasing all government records on the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board was created by a unanimous vote in both houses of Congress and was signed into law by President Bush. Members of the Board were nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate. Since 1995, the JFK Board has overseen the declassification and public release of approximately 20,000 previously secret assassination records. Without this special initiative, these records might never have seen the light of day.

Although the JFK Board's focus is records related to the Kennedy assassination, its work could serve as a model for future government initiatives to disclose more of its unnecessarily classified secrets with the American people, many of which should have been opened long ago.

Sincerely,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director