

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: THOM WILBORN
(202) 724-0088, EXT. 251

JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD RELEASES WARREN COMMISSION PAPERS

The Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal agency created to oversee the identification and release of all records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, 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, which relate to his Warren Commission work, were donated to the JFK Collection by his son, James Rankin, at the September 17, 1996 Review Board public hearing in Los Angeles.

The Warren Commission was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson shortly after the November 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.

Rankin's papers reveal a great deal about the organization and development of the Warren Commission report and they include memos and handwritten changes to the draft chapters recommended by Commission members, including Representative Gerald Ford (R-MI), John McCloy, and Allen Dulles. The documents also include the daily scheduling diary prepared by Mr. Rankin's secretary.

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.