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Subject: A.P. Story on ARRB Subpoena of Connick
Copyright 1996 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. All rights reserved. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS NEWS REPORT MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED, BROADCAST OR OTHERWISE DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. By MELISSA B. ROBINSON Associated Press Writer WASHINGTON (AP) -- An independent board compiling a public record of President Kennedy's assassination asked a federal court on Thursday to force New Orleans District Attorney Harry Connick to turn over documents. But Connick is determined to fight the Assassination Records Review Board. "He kind of feels they're not worth cooperating with," said his attorney, William Wessel. At issue are documents concerning an investigation into the Kennedy assassination by Connick's predecessor, Jim Garrison. Garrison's probe was depicted by Oliver Stone in the 1992 movie "JFK." After the film generated public concern that the government hasn't disclosed all it knows about Kennedy's assassination, the board was created to uncover new assassination-related materials and review any records that government agencies have kept secret. Connick has refused to comply with a subpoena issued by the board. On Thursday, the board asked the U.S. District Court in New Orleans to compel him to turn over the Garrison records. A hearing has been set for March 27. Wessel argued that the board has jurisdiction over federal records, but no right to any state or local materials, public or private. But Connick has also held out because he's angry that the board refused to return another batch of grand jury records provided by a former investigator for Garrison, Gary Raymond, who had stored them for 20 years. The board received the records after Raymond provided them to a New Orleans television reporter, Richard Angelico. "They were transferred up there by a local reporter and his snitch," Wessel said. "The review board knows they weren't entitled to those, but they decided to keep them. That, of course, has made for negative reaction in Mr. Connick's mind." The board maintains it has a right, under federal law, to all assassination-related materials. The records are being housed in a collection at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Md. John R. Tunheim, the board's chairman, said the court action was taken "to ensure that the public interest in these assassination records is protected." Meanwhile, the board is hanging onto the grand jury records until their legal status is clarified, probably through the courts. Its view is that federal law providing for the release of such materials takes precedence over state laws governing grand jury secrecy. Last month, a state court found Raymond and Angelico guilty of contempt. Connick had brought charges against the two, saying that the state's grand jury secrecy law had been violated when Raymond handed over the records and when Angelico aired the names of some of the witnesses in July. Raymond testified that he kept the transcripts after Connick ordered their destruction in 1974 because he felt they were of historical value.

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