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CopyTo:
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From: CN=David Marwell/O=ARRB
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DisplayDate: 11/26/1996
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Subject:

Dear Mr. Stewart: Professor Henry Graff has passed your letter of November 22, 1996 on to me. I am both surprised and distressed by the tone and substance of your message. You assert that the Review Boards release of the Dave Powers film was an outrageous act somehow linked with the Oliver Stones of the world and the pursuit of nutty conspiracy theories. You suggest that our motives included self-aggrandizement and catering to the base interests of the public. You allege that we are somehow running wild, are out of touch with what our real goals should be, and are perpetuating the myths of the Kennedy assassination. Beyond being insulted by what are serious charges indeed, I am appalled that anyone (especially someone with your experience) could so misread and so mischaracterize our actions. Congress established the Review Board to identify, seek out, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. In the case of the Powers film, that is precisely what we did. At every stage of the process, we consulted with Mr. Powers, the owner of the film, and we acted pursuant to his wishes. Our actions resulted in the public having access to a film that had previously been thought lost (the JFK Library could not locate the film for years) and that had been the subject of speculation concerning its content for years. Your cynical comments about the timing of the release prompt me to respond that the film could have been released long ago had it not been lost. The Board understandably took advantage of the great public interest in the anniversary of the assassination to get our message out that there are still important records, films, and photographs that need to be released. At no time did anyone associated with the Board link the Powers film to any theory of the assassination. Indeed, in my own public comments, I emphasized that the film was a record of the remarkable attraction that President Kennedy held for the American people as witnessed by the crowds that enveloped his limosine in San Antonio and Dallas. Finally, should you be able to provide me with any examples of how the Board is running wild, please do. Sincerely, David G. Marwell

Body:
recstat: Record
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
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Categories: