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Subject: Kennedy Auction
Dear Miss Sullivan I have been sent an article from the Washington Post about the forthcoming auction of JFK memorabilia previously in the possession of Evelyn Lincoln, President Kennedy's former secretary, which I am forwarding to you. I am sure that the ARRB is aware of this auction and I was wondering whether any of these items, particularly any documents, could be subpoenaed. I have heard that documents relating to JFK's funeral may be among these items, and it would be wrong, I think, if any such items, or any others of historical interest, should end up in private hands. Is there anything, do you know, that could come under the heading of Assassination Records and which would therefore be within the remit of the ARRB? Does the ARRB have any views about the question of whether Evelyn Lincoln had rightful ownership of these items? Does the ARRB know what will be included in the auction? Do you have any plans to subpoena any items? I, and I'm sure many others, are concerned that things which should rightly become part of the historical record may be lost to the general public, and we look to the ARRB to ensure that they are not, especially after the decision with regard to the Zapruder film, which was a great and perhaps ground breaking decision. Thanking you for your attention and hoping you can shed some light on the issue. Yours sincerely Melanie Swift-----

-----Kennedy Loyalists Question Ownership of Items Set for Auction
By Lloyd Grove Washington Post Staff Writer Thursday, January 1, 1998; Page B08A
New York auction house's right to stage a much-ballyhooed sale of dozens of artifacts collected by John F. Kennedy's longtime personal secretary was questioned this week by Kennedy family loyalists. Boston lawyer Paul Kirk, chairman of the family-controlled Kennedy Library Foundation, suggested that the secretary, the late Evelyn F. Lincoln, might not have been the rightful owner of many of the items she amassed during her 12 years as Kennedy's secretary in Congress and the White House. "You can be sure that serious questions will be raised in appropriate venues by appropriate parties and authorities regarding the provenance of these items," Kirk said Tuesday in a statement left on a reporter's voice mail. Kirk, a longtime Kennedy political operative, did not specify whether these questions would be raised in a lawsuit or some other form. Kirk said he learned about the auction only last week from newspaper accounts. His remarks were made before the death of Michael Kennedy in a Colorado skiing accident late yesterday, and Kirk did not return telephone calls seeking elaboration. Arlan Ettinger, president of Guernsey's auction house, which is staging the sale, stoutly defended the items being offered as "absolutely appropriate and correct." The most noteworthy articles are then-Rep. Kennedy's two handwritten diaries describing his 1951 fact-finding trip to Eastern Europe. Ettinger said he didn't know how many of the auction items -- some 600 in all, expected to bring at least \$3 million -- originated

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