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**Subject:** FYI #2

Dear JFK researchers, As you know the ARRB is winding down. They will expire on September 31, 1998. They have recently held a presentation of "experts" at the original archives and this past Tuesday held an open meeting (their first in over a year!) to discuss the preparations for their final report. I attended both and will write an article for both. As that will take some time I wanted to let you know now that the Review Board will probably be seeking input from the public for their final report. This will be posted in the Federal Register (if they decide to do this at all) with a limited time period for the public to do so. As you might not otherwise be aware of this I'm telling you now. I would think comments should reflect how well or how poorly you think the Board did their job. What might be some recommendations they could make to Congress? What problems did they solve for you? What problems did they create? One problem I will bring up is the CIA's Oswald 201 file and the fact that most, if not all, of this material was released at a certain time so that the CIA and the Archives decided not to create Reader Identification Forms (RIF) for these documents. There was a time period in the JFK Act prior to the creation of the JFK Assassination Records Collection database that determined if a record was to have a RIF. See Public Law 102-526 Section 5 (d) (3) "Assassination records which are in the possession of the National Archives on the date of enactment of this Act, and which have been publicly available in their entirety without redaction, shall be made available in the Collection without any additional review by the Review Board or another authorized office under this Act, and shall not be required to have such an identification aid unless required by the Archivist." Now this material was just dumped into the Archives at the right time, so no RIF. However, the section states that the material was to have been "publicly available in their entirety", it was not, and "without redaction" which it is not. In my opinion, this was deliberately done to hinder access to and research of these documents. Peter Dale Scott points out to me that another problem for researchers, for which he has graciously asked for my help, is to determine what this file looked like prior to the idiotic decision by the CIA to include assassination records in it. It was surely a very different file prior to November 22, 1963. I have been concentrating on and acquiring the documents that are reviewed by the ARRB. The ARRB publishes these decisions on a document by document basis in The Federal Register. Each notice of a release has a list of documents. I refer to them as "batches". The Archives had the idea to create, separately, a copy of these documents in "ARRB release boxes". A good idea, originally, and helpful to researchers. But, they got it wrong. The second "batch", as published in The Federal Register, was appealed against release by the FBI. Meanwhile, a third batch had been voted on for release and was released.

**Body:** The Archives did not care and referred to the third "batch" which was the second one they received as the

**recstat:**

**DeliveryPriority:**

**DeliveryReport:**

**ReturnReceipt:**

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