

June 26, 1995

MEMORANDUM

To: David G. Marwell

From: Dennis J. Quinn

Subject: **Statutory Distinctions Between the Review Board and NARA**

**ARRB
NARA**

Establishment & Appointment

- Five Independent Citizens; Appointed By President, Confirmed by Senate. Can only be removed for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.

Duties:

- Consider and render Decisions on a determination by a Government office to seek to postpone the disclosure of assassination records;
- Determine whether a record constitutes an assassination record and whether an assassination record qualifies for postponement under the Act.

Powers:

- Direct Government offices to complete identification aids and organize assassination records;
- Direct Government offices to transmit

Establishment & Appointment

Archivist Appointed By President, Confirmed by Senate. Other NARA personnel are career civil servants.

Duties:

- Establish JFK Assassination Records Collection;
- Prepare and Publish a Guidebook and Index to the Collection;
- Create Identification Aids;
- Ensure the Security of Postponed records.

Powers:

- No powers are enumerated on the JFK Act.

- to the Archivist assassination records;
- Direct a Government office to make available to the Review Board additional information, records or testimony;
- Require any Government office to account in writing for the destruction of any records relating to the assassination.

Excerpts from the Legislative History

“The Review Board is independent. While I offer the assistance and support of the Committee, and of Congress, the citizen’s Review Board is intended to provide a forum for public access and advocacy, not to interpose another group of Government officials between the records and the American public.”

Senator John Glenn, February 1, 1994

“The Review Board will stand as the symbol and barometer of public confidence in the review and release of the government’s records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The independence of the Review Board will be rightfully judged at its inception.

Senate Report No. 102-328, page 30

“Remember, our intent is to establish a neutral body that gives legitimacy to our efforts. The very structure and appointment of the board is designed to accomplish this by dispelling any notion of prejudice by any political persuasions or improprieties of any manner. Thus it is imperative that the review board be an independent agency.”

Rep. Louis Stokes, testifying before the

Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs,

May 12, 1992

