

August 12, 1996

Mr. John Sobotka
University of Mississippi Law Center
University of Mississippi
Oxford, MS 38677

Re: Eastland Papers and the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994) (JFK Act)

Dear Mr. Sobotka:

I am writing on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board relative to the possible existence of records concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy among the papers of Senator James Eastland.

The Review Board is an independent federal agency charged with the collection and processing of records relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. For your information, I have enclosed some information about our agency and the statute that created it.

At the time of President Kennedy's assassination, Senator Eastland chaired the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. As you are probably aware, this Subcommittee initiated a preliminary investigation into the assassination within hours of the event. In fact, the Subcommittee's inquiry was one of several quickly initiated or announced investigations that prompted President Lyndon Johnson to appoint the Warren Commission as a means of heading off what could have turned into a plethora of independent and competing efforts. This early inquiry by the Committee generated records which are currently being reviewed under the JFK Act at the Center for Legislative Archives of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

It is our belief that there may also be assassination-related records in the personal papers of Senator Eastland. Moreover, it is our understanding that the collection at the University of Mississippi may also contain some Subcommittee records from the relevant period (we also understand that some or all of these Subcommittee records may have been returned to the U.S. Senate, though we are unclear as to whether the originals of these records reside at the University or in Washington). Any assassination records in either Senator Eastland's personal papers, or in his Subcommittee's files, need to be processed under the JFK Act and forwarded to the JFK Collection at NARA II in College Park, Maryland.

We request your assistance in identifying any assassination records that may exist among the Eastland Papers. Toward that end, we would appreciate any information you can send us regarding the relevant holdings of your collection (indexes, finding aids, current status of availability to the

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public, etc). After reviewing this information, we may wish to arrange a mutually convenient time for one or more of our staff members to visit Oxford for the purpose of examining any potentially relevant records.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call T. Jeremy Gunn, our General Counsel and Director of Research and Analysis, at (202) 724-0088.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures