

**DRAFT**  
**ON DOJ LETTERHEAD**

June 21, 1996

BY TELECOPIER AND U.S. MAIL

William F. Wessel, Esq.  
Wessel & Associates  
127 Camp Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-2507

Dear Bill:

I am writing pursuant to Judge Livaudais bench ruling and our subsequent discussion[s] on June 17 [and June 21]. [Because you have not responded to my offer on June 17, I am writing to memorialize the offer and to attempt to resolve the issue.]

As you know, Judge Livaudais ordered me to draft an order incorporating his ruling and then to submit it to you and forward to him for signing. I am enclosing for your review two draft orders. The first consists of my understanding of the Judge's bench ruling. The second, in our opinion, fully complies with the intent of the bench ruling -- but contains some technical revisions to that ruling that will make the order easier to implement.

The problem, as I have raised with you on June 17, is the potential technical difficulty of making copies of the audio tapes at Mr. Connick's office. To the extent that you or the District Attorney has the audio equipment that would make the copying possible, we are very willing to perform the labor and supply the tapes. It is my understanding, however, that the audio equipment may not be available in the District Attorney's office -- which could make on-site reproductions impossible.

As a way of avoiding troubling the Judge with this technical issue, I would like to urge you to consider seriously the second draft order, which provides that the original tapes will be transferred to the National Archives facilities in Washington so that the highest quality audio reproduction can be made. We would then promptly give you the copies, as provided in the Judge's ruling. To the extent that you -- or anyone else in Mr. Connick's office -- would like to maintain physical possession of the tapes and accompany them to Washington during the reproduction, that would be perfectly acceptable to us. Again, we are not asking to be given possession of the tapes until a copy is made available to Mr. Connick. It is just that the reproduction can be accomplished more professionally in Washington.

I truly hope that we can resolve this issue in a sensible way and that we will not need to go back to Judge Livaudais for what is, in our judgment, a simple problem that can easily be addressed.

Please get back to me by Monday, June 24. (Judge Livaudais had requested that we resolve the draft order by this week.) I look forward to receiving your proposed revisions on the drafts.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur R. Goldberg  
Assistant Branch Director  
Federal Programs Branch, Civil Division

cc: T. Jeremy Gunn  
General Counsel  
Assassination Records Review Board