

October 30, 1996

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Marvin  
715 Hector Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Marvin:

I received your letter dated September 10, 1996. I regret that you found my earlier response disappointing.

You have a story about the assassination of President Kennedy that you want to tell. I invited you to tape that account onto an audiocassette and send it, together with any documents or other materials you consider relevant, to us for inclusion in the JFK Assassination Collection at the National Archives. You apparently decided not to do that for the reason that an audiocassette doesn't strike you as good enough. Formal depositions (which require the presence of a court reporter and the preparation of an official transcript, plus travel costs either for the witness or ARRB staff) are extraordinarily expensive, and the ARRB's budget cannot support doing that except in extremely rare cases. In any event, whether audiotapes carry less probative weight than a formal sworn deposition does not matter. We are not collecting evidence for use in a court of law nor, for that matter, are we even conducting an investigation. Rather, our charter calls for us to seek out and assemble assassination-related materials for the National Archives. We are aggressively trying to do that, in many venues and with many people.

Audiotapes are a convenient and relatively inexpensive way to capture personal reminiscences, and one we have already used to good effect with several other individuals. Our offer to you still stands: we'll be happy to convey your audiocassette and any other materials to the Archives. If you think that what you have to say is important to round out the historical understanding of President Kennedy's assassination, then you should accept this.

I encourage you to reconsider your earlier decision and send the ARRB an audiotape for inclusion in the Archives.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Wray  
Chief Analyst for Military Records

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