

February 7, 1997

Ms. Audrey Bell
2812 Wheeler Street
Vernon, Texas 76384

Dear Ms. Bell:

I am writing you on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal Agency established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). The Review Board, whose members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is charged with the responsibility of collecting records and information related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board is not seeking to reach any conclusions regarding the assassination, and has no vested interest in either supporting or refuting the findings of the Warren Commission, the Rockefeller Commission, the Church Committee, or the House Select Committee on Assassinations; rather, we are primarily concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating, and making available assassination records. I am enclosing some explanatory material about the Review Board and its mandate.

It is our understanding that you held the position of Supervisor of Operating and Recovery Rooms at Parkland Hospital on November 22, 1963, and that you had an opportunity to observe President Kennedy's wounds, and were subsequently present during surgery on Governor John B. Connally. It is also our understanding that the Warren Commission did not interview you or take your testimony, and that the House Select Committee on Assassinations interviewed you, but only in regard to some questions about Governor Connally's surgery. As part of our ongoing attempt to complete the record of President Kennedy's assassination, we would like to interview you in Vernon, Texas (or some other convenient location). If you possess any contemporaneous personal records of the events of 11/22/63, such as personal journal or diary entries, or any memoranda you may have written which recorded your recollections of events at that time, we would be very interested in reviewing those records as well.

Some persons with whom we have spoken have requested that we issue subpoenas (which we are

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empowered to issue under Federal law). Although we generally prefer not doing so, we will be happy to, if you so request.

In the near future, one of the members of my staff who will be conducting these interviews in Texas, either Dr. Jeremy Gunn, or Mr. Doug Horne, will be calling you to arrange a date and time for an interview that is convenient for you. Should you have any questions before then, please feel free to call us collect, at (202) 724-0088, and ask for either Dr. Gunn, or Mr. Horne. We look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosures