

August 13, 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)

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Dear Mr. Sobotka:

The Assassination Records Review Board is an independent Federal agency created by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994) (JFK Act). I am enclosing some background material about our agency.

I am writing to you regarding the possible existence of records concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that may be among the papers of Senator James Eastland. 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. This early inquiry by the Committee generated records that 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).

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 public, etc).

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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