

Assassination Records Review Board

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING IN NEW ORLEANS; ASKING PUBLIC FOR HELP IN LOCATING RECORDS

The Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal panel appointed by President Clinton to oversee the identification and release of all records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, is holding a public hearing today in New Orleans, Louisiana and asking the public for help in locating records.

"The City of New Orleans holds a key place in the history surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy and that is why we have come here in search of records," said John R. Tunheim, Board Chair. "Our obligation under the law is to provide a complete public record of the assassination. We are asking members of the public who may possess or know of the existence of records which relate to the assassination to contact us."

The Board will hear testimony on the identification and location of assassination records in the greater New Orleans area and receive an update by the National Archives on the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection.

The witnesses scheduled to testify at the Board's public hearing today are:

The Honorable Lindy Boggs; former Congresswoman and wife of the late Congressman Hale Boggs, who was a member of the Warren Commission.

The Honorable Harry F. Connick, Sr., District Attorney of New Orleans. His office possesses records from the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy and the prosecution of Clay Shaw which were conducted by former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison in the late 1960's.

Wayne Everard, Archivist, City of New Orleans Archives. He oversees records at the New Orleans Public Library that are from the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy conducted

by former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison.

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Dr. Michael L. Kurtz; Professor of History at Southeastern Louisiana and author of Crime of the Century, a 1982 book on the Kennedy assassination.

Stephen Tyler; producer and director of the 1992 documentary "*He Must Have Something: The Real Story of Jim Garrison's Investigation of the Assassination of JFK.*"

Cynthia Anne Wegmann, Esq.; daughter of the late Edward Wegmann, a member of the legal team which defended Clay Shaw at his 1969 assassination conspiracy trial.

In addition, **Steven D. Tilley**; the National Archives and Records Administration's JFK Assassination Records Collection Liaison will give an update on the Collection.

The Assassination Records Review Board was established by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, which was signed into law by President George Bush.

The five members of the Board were appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April 11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.

The Review Board consists of the following members:

John R. Tunheim, Chair; Minnesota Chief Deputy Attorney General.

Dr. Henry F. Graff; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.

Dr. Kermit L. Hall; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.

Dr. William L. Joyce; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.

Dr. Anna K. Nelson; Adjunct Professor of History at American University.

The Review Board has until October 1, 1996 to fulfill its mandate, plus an additional year at the Board's discretion to complete its responsibilities.