FAX TRANSMISSION

ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

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To: Maura Pierce, C-SPAN **Date:** July 14, 2017

Fax #: Pages: , including this cover sheet.

From: Thomas E. Samoluk

Subject: Assassination Records Review Board Hearing in Los Angeles on Tuesday,

September 17, 1996

Per our telephone conversation, the following information about the Review Board's public hearing in Los Angeles is for your review:

Expected Highlights and Importance of Testimony

* James Rankin

Highlight

The son of the Warren Commission's top attorney will discuss his late father's personal records, which have been locked in a file cabinet for 32 years and never been seen publicly. It is expected that the son will donate these records to the National Archives through the Review Board.

Importance

These files will add significantly to the historical record because of the key senior staff position held by J. Lee Rankin and possible insight into the inner working and early positions of the Warren Commission on key issues.

* Eric Hamburg

Highlight

Oliver Stone's co-producer will reveal his private conversations with a high Cuban official about the assassination and advocate that the Board use it's law to acquire Cuban assassination records for the JFK Collection at the National Archives. He is also expected to make a plea on behalf of Marina Oswald Porter for the search and release of assassination records which she believes would vindicate her husband.

Importance

His insight could provide valuable information to the Board about how to most effectively acquire records from the Cuban government.

* Robert Tanenbaum

Highlight

The former Deputy Counsel of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) is expected to discuss a film having to do with Anti-Castro Cuban exiles that he recalls the HSCA obtained and considered very important evidence. The film has not been found by the Review Board.

Importance

The Board wants to find the film. It would enhance the historical record in an important area in relation to the assassination

* David Lifton

Highlight

A longtime researcher is expected to discuss and donate to the JFK Collection audio tapes of his interviews from the 1960's with witnesses never interviewed by the Warren Commission.

Importance

Lifton's interviews may be the only record of what some important witnesses said. These interview should be in the JFK Collection and saved for history.

Importance of the Holding the Public Hearing

- * Based on past experience with public hearings and the accompanying coverage, the Board receives information that results in additional assassination records in private hands being donated to the JFK Collection. Examples of this are the acquisition of records in New Orleans as a result of our public hearing held there in June 1995. As part of the hearing, the Board acquired records from the Garrison family and one of the defense attorneys of Clay Shaw. The press coverage also resulted in secret grand jury files, kept at home by a former DA investigator for more than 20 years, being donated to the Board. It is also worth noting that later press coverage in Dallas resulted in the acquisition of a long lost assassination film. (See attached clips.)
- * This could be the last time a federal government agency conducts a public hearing on the assassination of President Kennedy. The Board has one year left to its life and will devote most of that time to the review of federal records.
- * The witness list is diverse and reflects the many views of the assassination. The witnesses -- Warren Commission supports, Warren Commission critics and an HSCA senior staff member -- are in many instances longstanding adversaries and have never testified at the same public forum.