

ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

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PUBLIC MEETING

Massachusetts State House
Room A-1, 1st Floor
Boston, Massachusetts

Friday, March 24, 1995

The above-entitled meeting commenced, pursuant to
notice, at 10:02 a.m.

ATTENDEES:

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JOHN R. TUNHEIM, Chair; Minnesota Chief Deputy
Attorney General

DAVID MARWELL, Executive Director

DR. KERMIT L. HALL; Dean, College of Humanities,
and Professor of History at The Ohio State
University

DR. WILLIAM L. JOYCE; Associates University
Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections
at Princeton University

DR. ANNA K. NELSON; Adjunct Professor of History
at American University

WITNESSES:

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GEORGE MICHAEL EVICA

PHILIP H. MELANSON; Political Science Professor at
the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth and
the author of *Spy Saga: Lee Harvey Oswald and
U.S. Intelligence*, published in 1990

EDGAR TATRO

PRISCILLA JOHNSON McMILLAN; History Professor at
the Harvard Russian Research Center and the
author of *Marina and Lee*, published in 1977

DICK RUSSELL

RICHARD TRASK; Author of *Pictures of the Pain:
Photography and the Assassination of President
Kennedy*, published in 1994

STEVE TILLEY; National Archives

P R O C E E D I N G S

[10:02 a.m.]

1
2 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Call this meeting of the
3 Assassination Records Review Board to order.

4 We're glad to be here in Boston today. I'm going
5 to give a brief introductory statement, but first I'd like to
6 introduce the members of the board and staff who are up here
7 today with me.

8 To your left, far left, is Dr. William Joyce, board
9 member, and Dr. Anna Nelson, board member, and to your right,
10 your far right, Dr. Kermit Hall, who is a member of the board,
11 and David Marwell, who is the executive director of the staff
12 of the Assassination Records Review Board.

13 Dr. Henry Graff, who is a review board member, was
14 unable to join us in Boston today.

15 The Assassination Records Review Board was created
16 by Congress in October of 1992, signed into law by President
17 Bush. We were appointed by President Clinton and confirmed
18 by the Senate and sworn in about 11 months ago.

19 Much of our first year has been spent organizing the
20 staff, getting the group ready to go, but let me tell you a
21 little bit about our obligations under the law.

22 It's not the job of the Assassination Records Review
23 Board to solve the mysteries related to the assassination of
24 President Kennedy, but it is the job of the review board to
25

1 find all of the records that are available today that had never
2 been available before to the American public and share those
3 records with the American public.

4 We have decisions to make on some of the records as
5 to whether they can be released immediately or whether they
6 will have postponed release dates, and we are about to begin
7 that effort in the upcoming several months.

8 But first and foremost is our responsibility to find
9 records wherever they are at. Obviously, many records are still
10 housed within the agencies of the Federal Government, and many
11 of those records are in Washington.

12 We have been working closely with the agencies that
13 have records, providing guidance to them on what constitutes
14 an assassination record and how broad their search for records
15 should be today.

16 We are also engaged in a hunt for records in other
17 parts of the country. In Boston, we spent time yesterday at
18 the JFK Library, with the library staff. Obviously, there are
19 records there that are of great interest to us.

20 We had a very fruitful set of meetings yesterday with
21 library staff, were very cooperative with us, and we hope that,
22 in the months to come, there will be further releases coming
23 out through the library.

24 We are also interested in records that individuals
25 may have. There are individuals who were in government service

1 during the 1960s who still have records, and we're interested
2 in obtaining copies of those records for the collection.

3 I might add that records include more than simply
4 documents. It includes photographs. It includes any kind of
5 information that bears on the assassination of President Kennedy
6 in one way, shape, or form.

7 We are in the process of adopting a definition of
8 what an assassination record is. That definition will, of
9 necessity, be quite broad.

10 It is up to the review board, in the final instance,
11 to determine whether a record is an assassination record, and
12 so, it is incumbent on us to define the issue somewhat broadly
13 so that we can sweep in as many records as possible that have
14 some potential bearing on the assassination of President
15 Kennedy.

16 We are also looking for records in the hands of state
17 and local archives, state governments. We are also beginning
18 our effort to seek out the records of foreign governments that
19 may have information in them regarding the assassination of
20 President Kennedy.

21 This was a very tragic event in the history of our
22 country, a very tragic event, probably the crime of this century.

23 The fact that there are so many questions that are
24 still lingering in the minds of the American public is
25 significant to us, and we want to do our best to uncover records

1 that will help the public understand more fully what happened
2 both before, during, and after the assassination of the
3 President.

4 We have about two-and-a-half further years to
5 complete this effort. We are due to sunset on October 1 of
6 1997. We expect that we will be done with our effort by that
7 time. I don't think the American public wants a many-years
8 effort to try to further uncover records on the assassination
9 of President Kennedy. So, we will be quick with our work.

10 We have held a number of public hearings in our effort
11 to reach out to the American public. The Congress was very
12 clear to us in passage of this act and during our confirmation
13 proceedings that they wanted this board to be a public board,
14 a board that reached out to the public to gather information,
15 to share with the public what we were doing.

16 Many of the prior official actions that have been
17 taken by our government related to the assassination of
18 President Kennedy have been very secretive, and Congress wanted
19 to change that, and we are very mindful of that fact, and that's
20 one of the reasons why we are trying to hold some of our meetings
21 outside of Washington, make them available to interested members
22 of the public, as we are here today in Boston.

23 I want to thank the Senate President and the House
24 Speaker for allowing us to have our public meeting today in
25 the State House, very helpful to us to be able to use this very

1 fine public facility, and we thank them very much.

2 We have also recently moved into our new offices in
3 Washington at 600 E Street, Northwest. The address will be
4 available to any of you, and our telephone numbers, if you wish
5 to communicate any information to us, to our staff. We
6 encourage you to do so.

7 If you have information or have ideas, particularly
8 on where there are records that we should be hunting for, we'd
9 like to hear about that, and please let us know, and you can
10 pick up our address and our telephone number here today.

11 The board really has now virtually completed its
12 organizational effort. We have a staff in place. Many of the
13 staff now have the necessary security clearances so that we
14 can move forward with review of Federal records, and so, that
15 process is about to begin.

16 It's taken a while to get organized, but it certainly
17 takes a while to organize a new independent Federal agency,
18 and let me emphasize that we are independent. We are not part
19 of any other agency of the Federal Government.

20 We are an independent Federal agency within the
21 Executive Branch, appointed by the President but with Senate
22 confirmation, so that we are not subject to any kind of oversight
23 by any of the existing Federal agencies, and I think that's
24 important to the independence of this effort.

25 I mentioned we spent time at the JFK Library

1 yesterday. We have also spent time at the Johnson Library in
2 Austin, Texas. We held a public hearing in Dallas in November,
3 which was very interesting and brought forth a good deal of
4 information.

5 We've held five public hearings -- or public hearings
6 and meetings in Washington, and this is our second public hearing
7 outside of the Nation's Capital here today in Boston.

8 As I said, our focus today is to gather input on where
9 assassination records are.

10 We have a group of witnesses that we have asked to
11 testify today and are prepared to help provide us with advice,
12 witnesses who are researchers, who have worked in the field,
13 and have written about the assassination of President Kennedy.

14 So, we're very much looking forward to hearing from them.

15 I'd like to ask if any of the other board members
16 have any preliminary statements to make before we go ahead with
17 the meeting.

18 [No response.]

19 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: We would like to hear first this
20 morning from Steve Tilley, who is the liaison to the board from
21 the National Archives and the person who is the person in charge
22 of the JFK collection within the National Archives.

23 He is going to provide us with an update on the records
24 that are currently in the collection and what is expected in
25 the near future.

Mr. Tilley, welcome.

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2 MR. TILLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's always
3 a pleasure to appear before the board and provide information
4 on the collection and how it stands.

5 For the record, I will just identify myself. I'm
6 Steven Tilley, and I am employed with the National Archives
7 and Records Administration, and I am the person in charge of
8 the JFK collection at the National Archives.

9 My duties also include, however, being the liaison
10 to the review board for the National Archives and also being
11 the liaison to the other Federal agencies that are involved
12 in processing records under the act.

13 When the President John F. Kennedy Assassination
14 Records Collection Act of 1992 was passed and signed into law
15 by President Bush, the National Archives already had many years
16 of experience in dealing with the issue of the Kennedy
17 assassination.

18 The National Archives has had custody of the records
19 of the Warren Commission since the transfer of those documents
20 in November of 1964, and over the course of the years since
21 that transfer, we have provided access to the open records of
22 the Commission to the public, we have conducted periodic records
23 of the closed records, 10-year reviews of the closed records,
24 which are required under instructions promulgated by the
25 Department of Justice, and we also respond to the Freedom of

1 Information Act requests for the records of the Warren
2 Commission.

3 The records of the Warren Commission were opened in
4 the years following the transfer, primarily in the interest
5 of dealing with the initial criticism that was surfaced after
6 the publication of the Warren report in September of 1964.

7 The Justice Department put together an interagency
8 task force which reviewed the documents of the Commission and
9 released approximately 65 percent -- and that's a rough
10 estimate, obviously; I wasn't there then -- of the records were
11 made available at that time in an attempt to provide the public
12 with an understanding of what the Warren Commission report was
13 based on.

14 Unfortunately, I guess, or perhaps fortunately for
15 our purpose here today, the criticism of the Warren Commission
16 report was not stilled, as we all know, and there has been
17 continuing controversy over the assassination in the years that
18 have followed that, and that continued controversy has, of
19 course, led to the existence of other investigative panels that
20 were established in order to try to come to grips with the vexing
21 questions of the assassination.

22 The first of those investigations was the Clark panel,
23 named after Attorney General Ramsey Clark, which was impaneled
24 in the late '60s in order to -- primarily, their mission was
25 to examine the medical evidence that pertained to the

1 assassination and their job was to see if, in fact, the Warren
2 Commission's conclusions were correct on that issue.

3 Later, after the revelations of Watergate, additional
4 investigative panels were established to look into certain
5 aspects of the assassination, and one of the things that came
6 out of the Watergate inquiry was the fact that it appeared that
7 the Central Intelligence Agency had perhaps been involved in
8 some activities that was outside its charter, and in order to
9 address those issues, in 1975, President Ford established the
10 Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States, which
11 has become known, of course, as the Rockefeller Commission,
12 after Vice President Rockefeller, who chaired it.

13 But those same allegations that had led to the
14 impaneling of the Rockefeller Commission also led the Congress
15 to get involved in the controversy, and in 1976, the Senate
16 established the Select Committee to Study Governmental
17 Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities.

18 That long name is known to most people who research
19 this issue as the Church Committee, headed by Senator Frank
20 Church, and a parallel investigation occurred in the House of
21 Representatives at that time. The House Select Committee on
22 Intelligence, chaired by Representative Otis Pike, also delved
23 into certain aspects of the assassination.

24 Now, these three groups were primarily investigating
25 the possibility of CIA involvement in the assassination, and

1 their focus was somewhat narrower than the Warren Commission,
2 but they still had played a major role in extending the
3 information available on the assassination.

4 These efforts finally culminated in 1978 with the
5 establishment of the House Select Committee on Assassinations,
6 the purpose of which, of course, was to look into both the
7 assassination -- not only the assassination of President Kennedy
8 but also the assassination of Martin Luther King.

9 Now, I just give that history as a background, because
10 I think it is important for everyone to know that all of the
11 records that I have just described, the records of these
12 entities, are now part of the JFK collection, and now, I would
13 like just to tell how some of those records came into our
14 possession and what the status of those documents are.

15 First, let me say that the Kennedy act, as it was
16 passed by the Congress, provided the National Archives with
17 seven responsibilities. For the purpose of our discussion
18 today, though, I think I'll limit myself to three which deal
19 directly with the access to the collection itself.

20 The first requirement that the National Archives had
21 under the act was that, within 45 days of the statute being
22 signed, the archives was required to prepare and make available
23 standard identification forms for use by all government offices
24 in describing assassination records prior to the transfer of
25 those records to the National Archives.

1 Furthermore, we were required to ensure the creation
2 of a database of these assassination records forms to serve
3 as an electronic finding aid to the collection, and let me just
4 say here that the database that has been established, which
5 was established on December the 10th of 1992 by the archives,
6 consists of the forms that were created by the agencies during
7 their review of closed documents, documents that were closed
8 at that time.

9 The database does not contain the full text of any
10 documents themselves. The database just consists of the forms
11 that were created.

12 Also, the database does not contain any forms about
13 any records that were open for research and in the possession
14 of the National Archives on the day the law was signed, October
15 26, 1992.

16 Therefore, all open Warren Commission records at that
17 time are not in the database, and other documents that were
18 in the possession of National Archives at that time and open
19 for research are not in the database.

20 We do have standard archival finding aids that we
21 have created over the years which do allow us to search those
22 records and provide assistance on those documents.

23 So, it's not like there is a black hole here. We
24 can research these documents, as anyone who has dealt with us
25 knows, and we can provide assistance on those records, but the

1 database consists solely of records that were closed to the
2 public on the day the law was signed.

3 Now, when we established the database on the 10th
4 of December of '92, on the day we also distributed data
5 collection system information, such as a training program
6 showing agencies how to enter data into the database, data disks,
7 and other information to allow them to conduct the work necessary
8 to create the database.

9 At this time, the database contains approximately
10 120,000 documents, and of course, the creation of the database
11 has greatly facilitated the ability of the staff of the National
12 Archives to provide assistance to researchers in finding
13 documents -- and particularly in locating individual documents,
14 which is often the case, where researchers are trying to find
15 a single document or documents about a certain individual or
16 a certain event that might be interspersed throughout the
17 records of several different agencies.

18 Now, unfortunately, at the present time, the database
19 is only available at the National Archives building and
20 accessible only to the staff of the National Archives, but we
21 are working very hard on trying to make the database available
22 to the public both in our research room at the National Archives
23 and our new facility on College Park, Maryland, and also
24 eventually to have this available on-line over the Internet
25 or some other server across the country. So, that's something

we're eventually shooting for.

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2 Our second responsibility under the statute was to
3 establish the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records
4 Collection, and we did that on December 28, 1992, through a
5 notification in the Federal Register, and that announcement
6 also solicited open assassination from all Federal agencies,
7 asking them to transfer any records they may have had about
8 the assassination that were open to us for inclusion in the
9 collection.

10 Now, since we already had the custody of the majority
11 of the open records, the creation of the collection was largely
12 a technical act, if you will, and what it did was define the
13 following open records as the collection itself.

14 As I mentioned earlier, the records of the Warren
15 Commission -- by the time the collection was established on
16 that date, we estimate that only 2 percent of the records of
17 the Commission were closed on that date. The vast majority
18 of those closed documents were records of other agencies and
19 not records of the Commission itself.

20 We were, I believe, in our discussions with the board,
21 the board is aware that we were basically holding only four
22 or five documents that were Commission-originated documents
23 at the time the collection was established and none of them
24 in full, all in part.

25 The collection also included the records of the Secret

Service.

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2 Now, the Secret Service case file on the assassination
3 had been transferred to the archives in 1979, after the
4 completion of the work of the House Select Committee, and it
5 contains approximately 11,000 pages of documents.

6 Many of those documents are duplicates, records that
7 are among the records of the Warren Commission. Many of the
8 Secret Service-originated documents that are among that file
9 were made available to the Warren Commission and are
10 incorporated in the Warren Commission's files.

11 The third major set of records in the collection were
12 the criminal division of the Department of Justice case file
13 on the assassination, contained approximately 65,000 pages of
14 documents, and that file included official mail and interagency
15 correspondence with the Department of Justice, correspondence
16 from the public, and replies to those inquiries, and once again,
17 copies of a large number of FBI documents relating to the
18 assassination.

19 Fourthly -- and something that was actually, a major
20 addition to the collection, although it had come in before the
21 act was signed -- was the first portion of the Lee Harvey Oswald
22 201 Personality File of the Central Intelligence Agency.

23 The CIA had been processing this file for opening
24 under their openness program that had been announced by
25 then-Director Robert Gates in 1991 and had finished

1 approximately 22,000 pages of that file before the bill was
2 signed into law, and they transferred that information to us
3 in September of 1992.

4 Now, this portion of the file -- these documents do
5 not contain record identification forms, because they were open
6 at the time the law was signed.

7 However, documents from that portion of the file were
8 postponed by the CIA, and those documents, those postponed
9 documents, or the postponed documents which have portions
10 deleted, remain in the custody of the Central Intelligence
11 Agency, and those documents that had deletions or were postponed
12 in full will be part of the collection database in the future.

13 Finally, the fifth major grouping of records were
14 personal papers and donated historical materials that were in
15 the custody of our presidential libraries.

16 There was a good amount of material that was open
17 at that time, that was already available for research, in the
18 custody of our presidential libraries.

19 An example of that was all of John Connally's papers
20 at the Lyndon Johnson Library had been opened for research prior
21 to the signing of the law at Governor Connally's express
22 instructions.

23 Once it became obvious that there was going to be
24 a statute, he let it be known that he wanted all the records
25 in his files made available in full, and that was done.

1 So, we had a significant amount of material from our
2 libraries at the time the collection was established.

3 I might also say that President Ford had also done
4 the same thing and let it be known to his library that he also
5 wanted total cooperation under the statute, and we had a
6 significant amount of material from his Congressional files
7 related to his work on the Warren Commission, and we were also
8 able to open a portion of the Rockefeller Commission files,
9 not a large portion, but at least some documents from the
10 Rockefeller Commission were opened or we were able to open at
11 a later date, after we reviewed them, because they were all
12 closed at that time, but it was based on the President's
13 cooperation under the statute.

14 The third major requirement for NARA, along with all
15 other Federal Government offices holding assassination records,
16 was to identify, review, and make available to the public all
17 assassination records that could be disclosed within a 300-day
18 review period.

19 These were records that were closed at the time the
20 bill was signed into law, and these are the documents that were
21 required to be entered into the database under the statute,
22 and further requirement was that each document had to have its
23 record identification form attached to it to provide the
24 information for a researcher as to clearly identifying the
25 document, showing its status -- if it perhaps is released in

1 part, showing that status -- showing when it was reviewed last,
2 and this is to provide as much information as possible to the
3 researcher about that particular document.

4 At the end of the 300-day review period, which was
5 August the 23rd of 1993, the newly-opened records under the
6 statute were made available to the public at our building in
7 downtown Washington, D.C., and these newly-opened records
8 include the following.

9 The remainder of the CIA's 201 personality file on
10 Lee Oswald, a file which, incidentally, dated back to 1959.

11 In addition, we also made available CIA records
12 relating to other aspects of the assassination, which is known
13 as the segregated collection of CIA records, and without boring
14 anybody with too much detail, basically it had been segregated
15 by the CIA during the time of the work of the House Select
16 Committee, and as part of the agreement with the Committee,
17 it remained segregated at the CIA through the remainder of the
18 time after the Committee had finished.

19 It's considered to be records of the House Select
20 Committee on Assassinations and not CIA records, through some
21 court action, but it's still CIA-originated material.

22 Secondly, we received several records from several
23 components of the Department of Justice, from the criminal
24 division and the civil rights division, but none from the FBI
25 at that time.

1 Third, we opened the records of the House Select
2 Committee on that day -- of course, only the portions that
3 related to the assassination of President Kennedy, the Martin
4 Luther King records, of course, being outside the scope of the
5 act.

6 That was a significant opening. Those records had
7 never been available before. They were closed for research
8 under standard rules of the House of Representatives, and their
9 inclusion in this statute was a significant agreement by the
10 House to the openness under this law.

11 Fourth, we opened some previously-closed records of
12 the Warren Commission. This had been -- these were the 2 percent
13 that I mentioned earlier, and this resulted in only four
14 documents now being postponed at this time and part of
15 original -- of Warren Commission-originated documents.

16 And fifthly, we opened some records of the National
17 Archives itself, frankly some records we probably didn't know
18 we had at the time, that related to the assassination,
19 particularly some correspondence of the Archivist's office
20 dealing with transfers of records and work with the House Select
21 Committee, basically administrative records of the National
22 Archives.

23 Also, though, we also released more material from
24 the holdings of the three presidential libraries -- the Kennedy,
25 the Johnson, and the Ford libraries -- and as I mentioned

1 earlier, significant among that disclosure were some records
2 from the Rockefeller Commission.

3 Now, the opening on the 23rd of these newly-released
4 records drew over 130 individuals to the National Archives on
5 that day, a large number of whom were journalists, and the
6 opening on that day received worldwide attention.

7 The interest -- I guess I shouldn't say this,
8 considering -- the interest from the press did drop some in
9 the months ahead, but as we have continued to add records to
10 the collection, there has been significant interest in this
11 material.

12 What's even more interesting to me, having worked
13 with this material for a long time, is how the interest of the
14 public itself continues to grow.

15 I have a very small staff. We're known as the JFK
16 access staff, and there are only three of us, and last year,
17 we processed over 600 written inquiries for information about
18 the collection.

19 This does not include all the telephone calls and
20 all the walk-in researchers that we have handled, and that
21 doesn't include all the work that has been handled by our
22 non-textual division, which contains some material, the motion
23 pictures and the sound recordings that we have, but it looks
24 like, right now, for this fiscal year, we are on a pace to do
25 almost 900 written inquiries.

1 So, there's obviously a significant interest in the
2 assassination out there, and what's particularly striking to
3 me is the number of young people who seem to be interested in
4 the assassination, and I mentioned to one of the staff yesterday
5 that, later this year, we expect eight people from Harvard
6 University, who are working some sort of a group project, to
7 come down and spend some time with us.

8 So, there is a lot of interest among students, college
9 students and high school students, in the records of the
10 collection. Obviously, this interest has been generated by
11 the fact that there is so much new information available in
12 the collection.

13 After the opening in August, we had additional records
14 come open, pretty much on a periodic basis since that time.

15 In September of '93, the archives released
16 transcripts of telephone conversations of President Lyndon
17 Johnson for November and December of 1963.

18 The library had decided, in the interest of full
19 disclosure, that all telephone conversations of that period
20 would be assassination records and, therefore, released the
21 transcripts of all conversations of those two months.

22 And then, in November of 1993, additional records
23 were made available, including 350 pages of documents from the
24 Defense Intelligence Agency, approximately 8 cubic feet of
25 records, and cubic feet, of course, is an archival term. We

1 estimate approximately 2,500 pages of documents in a cubic foot
2 of records.

3 We have -- a hundred pages of National Security Agency
4 records were opened at that time, the records of the Executive
5 Office of U.S. Attorneys were opened, and then we also opened
6 the tape recordings of the transcripts that were made available
7 early in 1993.

8 We also opened the Secret Service records of the White
9 House gatepost logs that were provided by the Kennedy Library,
10 which had been reviewed and then opened for the collection.

11 The first release of FBI records took place in
12 December of 1993, and those records consisted of the FBI's
13 headquarters file on its investigation of Jack Ruby.

14 Significant releases of FBI records have taken place
15 in the months since then, and we have had, basically,
16 approximately 250 cubic feet of records now of FBI materials
17 available. That and the CIA are probably the largest body of
18 materials that we have.

19 The FBI has released their headquarters and field
20 office files relating to Lee Oswald, their headquarters and
21 field office files of its investigation into the assassination
22 itself, its work with the Warren Commission, with the House
23 Select Committee, with the Pike Committee, liaison with various
24 other investigative bodies, plus related files on individuals
25 such as Marina and Marguerite Oswald, David Ferry, and Clay

Shaw.

1 So, there is a wide variety of information there
2 that's now available from FBI files, and of course, additional
3 FBI files are under review as we speak today.

4 In September of '94, we had a significant increase
5 in the records of the CIA, when the CIA released another portion
6 of its segregated collection of files.

7 These documents had also been made available to the
8 House Select Committee but were on microfilm at that time, and
9 the review process had been slowed by the fact that the CIA
10 had to print the documents off onto paper before the review
11 could take place.

12 These records, I think, are significant in the fact
13 that, while some of them were duplicative of what had been
14 released earlier, they contain a significant amount of
15 information about the activities of Cuban exile groups and the
16 work of the Central Intelligence Agency with those groups, and
17 I will say that there has been a great deal of interest in that
18 particular set of records since they were made available in
19 September.

20 We have also added the records of the Church Committee
21 to the collection. The initial transfer took place in January
22 of 1994, and we have had increases in that over the previous
23 months since then. We now have 40 boxes of records,
24 approximately 40,000 pages of material.
25

1 There is still a small amount of material still being
2 reviewed by the Committee. It's the Senate Select Committee
3 on Intelligence which has the oversight of this material since,
4 of course, the Church Committee no longer exists, and the staff
5 there is still working on a small amount of material still to
6 be transferred.

7 I should also point out that we do not have the data
8 disks for the Church Committee records yet. They will be
9 transferred with the last bit of information that we receive.

10 But we have created a finding aid in order to help us search
11 those records that we make available to the researchers.

12 The significance of the Church Committee, I think,
13 is that it was the -- one of the first releases of any testimony
14 taken by the Intelligence Committee, and the transcripts of
15 the testimony that have been made available, which cover many
16 of the main players in some of these events, please like Edward
17 Lansdale and Robert McNamara and people like that -- these were
18 significant new documents that were made available for the first
19 time under the statute.

20 We also have the records of the Pike Committee. They
21 have just recently come in, and there's only three boxes of
22 the Pike Committee, and let me say right here, Mr. Chairman,
23 that I just wanted to make clear that, with the Church Committee
24 and the Pike Committee, we do not have all the records of those
25 committees.

1 Those committees looked at a number of different
2 issues that involved Central Intelligence Agency activities,
3 and the JFK aspect was only one portion of their investigation.

4 We only have the records that pertain to that part of their
5 investigation. We don't have all of the records of those
6 committees.

7 Now, once again, you have duplication, and one of
8 the prime factors that people must realize is that many records
9 are duplicated throughout the collection.

10 Each one of the investigative bodies went back to
11 the FBI and got copies of their documents, and they went to
12 the CIA and asked for documents, and of course, then they came
13 to the National Archives and asked for copies of Warren
14 Commission documents, and in doing so, they received copies
15 of some of the same documents they had received from the other
16 agencies.

17 So, there is a lot of duplication of material, but
18 what is new here is that there are some unique documents among
19 each of these collections, and of course, what's really unique
20 is the documents created by the investigative panel itself.

21 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Mr. Tilley, I wanted to ask you
22 a question.

23 At our last public hearing in Washington, the
24 testimony from the FBI was that a release was imminent of
25 additional materials, House Select Committee materials that

1 they had been reviewing. Can you provide us with an update
2 on that?

3 MR. TILLEY: Mr. Chairman, what I can tell you is
4 that we were expecting that transfer, and it's sort of been
5 on again and off again over the last few days, and we are hoping
6 that there may be something in the next week or so where that
7 transfer will take place, but at this time we don't really have
8 anything hard and firm on that.

9 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: And how much material do you
10 expect from that transfer?

11 MR. TILLEY: Well, my understanding is that there
12 are about 149 or 150 pages from the Lee Harvey Oswald file and
13 approximately 16 boxes of records relating to some organized
14 crime figures. Those records were made available to the House
15 Select Committee.

16 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Can we expect this release
17 sometime within the next week?

18 MR. TILLEY: I hope so, yes. That's my
19 understanding. It may take place next week.

20 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Do members have questions for Mr.
21 Tilley?

22 DR. NELSON: I have one question, Mr. Tilley, and
23 that is, with this vast amount of material coming into the
24 archives, is it your sense that the agencies continue to answer
25 the Freedom of Information requests, or are they relying on

the documents simply coming out in a body?

1 Is the archives answering any Freedom of Information
2 requests?

3 MR. TILLEY: Oh, yes, yes.

4 We have received many, many Freedom of Information
5 Act requests, and we are responding to them as we can, but for
6 the most part, the documents that are being requested from us
7 are records of other agencies or are already open, and under
8 the Kennedy act and under the FOIA, we have no --we don't have
9 the authority to open the records of those committees.

10 So, what I have done is I've tried to ask people to
11 be patient and let the board -- in some instances let the board's
12 work go forward, and once the board has finished its work, maybe
13 the documents will be available, because the FOIA process is
14 such a long, complicated process with so many people, and there
15 may be a quicker resolution through the work of this board.

16 MR. MARWELL: Mr. Tilley, you mentioned the imminent
17 release of some FBI records. Can you tell us what's on the
18 horizon with other agencies? Are there any other major releases
19 that you expect in the next period of time?

20 MR. TILLEY: No, I don't.

21 I mean I do know that there are additional files of
22 the FBI that are being reviewed that deal with the issue of
23 organized crime and other issues that have been raised with
24 the FBI by the House Select Committee. Other than the one we
25

1 just discussed, there is nothing imminent from them.

2 I am getting records that had been out on coordination
3 from other agencies, and they have been coming in an a periodic
4 basis, and we are dealing with those as they come in, but at
5 this time, there are no major groups of records that are pending
6 in the near future to be transferred from any agencies.

7 DR. HALL: Mr. Tilley, I'd like to shift you, if I
8 may, away from the question of what's come in and what's there
9 and move you to a somewhat more policy-based and philosophical,
10 perhaps, issue, and I am wondering if you can help me and perhaps
11 help the other members of the board by explaining to us the
12 basis upon which the National Archives and presidential
13 libraries hold and maintain materials, and here I have special
14 interest in the nature of deposit agreements, donations, deeds
15 of books, how they operate, and maybe you can also address the
16 issue of the relative responsibilities of these entities, the
17 archives and the presidential libraries, for holding those
18 materials and perhaps returning them to those who have given
19 them to the library or archives, and finally, whether you have
20 within your knowledge any instance in which material that might
21 be deemed an assassination record that has, in fact, been taken
22 from the archives or a presidential library and returned to
23 an individual.

24 MR. TILLEY: Well, the Office of Presidential
25 Libraries within the National Archives maintains the

1 presidential library system, and there is a statute which
2 governs -- that established the presidential library system.

3 I'm not sure what the title of it is, but there is
4 a statute which established that system, and the heart and soul
5 of that system was always the issue of donations of records.

6 Before the passage of the Presidential Records Act
7 in 1978, it was established policy that the records of a
8 president belonged to the president as his private property,
9 and every president prior to President Reagan took his papers
10 with him when he left office, and it was with the establishment
11 of the Roosevelt Library that the system -- the presidential
12 library sort of came into being, and basically -- very, very
13 basically, the way it worked is that the president would take
14 his papers with him at the end of the administration and then
15 he would deed those papers back to the United States under a
16 deed of gift, and that deed of gifts sets forth certain
17 provisions of access to those papers, as established by the
18 president, and at the same time, the president would help in
19 the building of a facility to house those materials, a foundation
20 would be established which would raise money and build a library
21 and/or museum that would then house the facilities, and that
22 facility would then be maintained by the National Archives.

23 Now, in addition to the papers of the presidents,
24 the staff of the libraries also have a regular program where
25 they solicit the papers of members of the administration in

1 order to fill out their holdings, to add to the historical record
2 that they can make available to the public, and those holdings
3 are also established and controlled under deeds of gift.

4 But this is a process where the archives has
5 some -- has guidance on it, and they provide guidance to their
6 staff on how this process should be handled, but it's often
7 a difficult process getting some of the donors to agree to sign
8 deeds at a certain particular time and et cetera, et cetera.

9 So, we often, in the interest of at least taking
10 possession of important collections of papers, we will agree
11 to deposit agreements or even courtesy storage in order to begin
12 the process, and I know that the libraries will say that -- even
13 though they don't like to begin with deposit agreements or
14 courtesy storage -- that they will do so in order to get
15 possession of a significant collection and then with the hope,
16 always, of getting a donor to sign a deed sometime in the future.

17 Now, when the JFK act was under consideration in the
18 Congress, the National Archives worked very closely with the
19 committees considering those bills in order to protect the
20 integrity of the donor system, and the archives feels very
21 strongly that we must continue to be able to provide donor
22 agreements to the people with private papers in order to obtain
23 their donations, and through doing that, we must allow them
24 some control over the access to these documents, although
25 eventually they become available for research at some time in

1 the future, and we worked very strongly with the committees
2 in order to try to protect that system, and there is a particular
3 section of the statute which -- Section 11(a) -- which does
4 address the issues of donated materials and donor agreements.

5 At the same time, the archives also is very, very
6 understanding of the need to cooperate with the work of this
7 board in order to see that assassination-related documents do
8 become available as soon as possible, and we have worked very
9 closely with our donors, the staffs of the three main libraries
10 involved in this effort have worked very closely with their
11 donors in order to try to get them to agree to the release of
12 documents and to agree that documents become part of the
13 collection and then become open for research by the public.

14 Obviously, this has not been a perfect situation.
15 There have been some rocky relationships and some problems,
16 but we are continuing to work very hard on getting this done.

17 In response to the last portion of your question,
18 we are aware of one particular instance where some records have
19 been returned to a donor. The records were simply covered by
20 a -- I don't even think there was a deposit agreement.

21 I think they were strictly in courtesy storage --I
22 may be wrong in that, but that's my recollection -- and the
23 donor came and asked for the materials to be returned, and we
24 have done so under our understanding of the way the system works.

25 But we have also made the board fully aware of the

1 issues surrounding that and how that has occurred, and of course,
2 we are willing to assist the board in anything the board deems
3 necessary to pursue that issue.

4 DR. JOYCE: Mr. Tilley, in the course of your
5 relations with the presidential library system, when materials
6 that you're aware of have been put in those libraries on the
7 basis of either a deposit agreement or courtesy storage, has
8 there been any effort made to review whether any of those records
9 might be Federal records and not the property of those who would
10 have deposited the records there or simply had them there on
11 the basis of courtesy storage?

12 MR. TILLEY: Well, that's a thornier issue, I think,
13 to a certain extent.

14 Obviously, there are some documents in donated
15 papers -- we're all aware of that, anybody who has done any
16 research in private papers over the years -- that sometimes
17 there are some papers that people create on government service
18 that get involved in their personal papers.

19 But we work very hard to try to make sure that it's
20 very clear what the issue of these documents are, whether in
21 fact they are private papers or whether or not there are any
22 Federal records that can be deemed to be Federal records and
23 should not be part of private papers.

24 But for the most part -- sometimes, I think, the
25 libraries try to deal with that when they actually get a deed

1 signed; at other times, I think it's not always as clear-cut
2 as that.

3 But we are aware that that is a concern of the board
4 and will continue to work with you on it.

5 DR. JOYCE: In that connection, do you think there
6 is any room here or leverage, perhaps, for the board to consider
7 some of these records, or are you aware that some of them seem
8 to be unambiguously Federal records in terms of any access
9 questions that may arise, that this would be a useful way for
10 us to approach the situation as a potential remedy of it?

11 MR. TILLEY: Well, I think it's certainly something
12 that's worth looking into.

13 I don't think -- the statute really doesn't address
14 that, I think, it doesn't go into detail on that issue, but
15 it's certainly something, I think, that the board maybe might
16 want to look into as a chance to perhaps alleviate some of these
17 more difficult questions concerning these donated materials.

18 DR. JOYCE: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you, Mr. Tilley. We
20 appreciate your report this morning, and I have enjoyed working
21 with you.

22 MR. TILLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Before we go on to our additional
24 witnesses, I just wanted to give you a brief update on what
25 you can expect from the review board in the upcoming several

months.

1
2 First of all, we do expect, soon, to issue our final
3 regulation on our guidance to agencies on what constitutes an
4 assassination record. As many of you know, the review board
5 and staff has been working on this issue for the past four or
6 five months.

7 We have published a draft regulation in the Federal
8 Register, and we have held a public hearing and gathered comments
9 through a comment period that ended about two weeks ago.

10 It's up to the board now to reach its final conclusion
11 on what is included in this definition of an assassination
12 record. It is guidance for Federal agencies and for others
13 in interpreting what the topic means. So, you can expect to
14 see that soon.

15 You can expect that the board will be having a public
16 hearing at some point, probably in Washington, a hearing at
17 which we will bring in people who were investigators with prior
18 investigations into the assassination of President Kennedy to
19 gather their input on what records we should be looking for.

20 We hope to organize that hearing relatively soon.

21 Our staff will be working within agencies to help
22 agencies go through records that they have. We expect that
23 process to be beginning very soon, and we expect that our own
24 review process of postponed records will start shortly. We
25 have already seen some records and started a preliminary review.

1 Staff has been reviewing records, particularly House
2 Select Committee records and Warren Commission records, but
3 we have what we estimate will probably be somewhere in the
4 neighborhood of 50,000 records that we will begin our review
5 process on very soon, and that review process will result in
6 an order from the board which will either be a release
7 order -- that release order, if an agency does not agree with
8 us, can be appealed to the President in, I think, a 30-day period.

9 Once that period of time is elapsed, then that record
10 will be fully available to the public if there has been no
11 decision to reverse the decision of the board.

12 There may well be postponement orders, as well.
13 Those orders, we expect, would identify a particular date in
14 the future by which the information in the record will be made
15 public, and we would provide substitute records to disclose
16 as much as possible about the information being withheld.

17 So, that process is about to begin, and you expect
18 to see action from the board soon in that regard.

19 I think, also, you will see, in coming months,
20 releases of information and materials, many releases coming
21 from agencies. That shows, I think, that the process is working
22 well.

23 Hopefully, not all material that has been identified
24 for keeping secret will have to come through us, that agencies
25 will reconsider their decisions, as they have been doing over

1 the past two or three years, and make a lot of that information
2 public.

3 That's, I think, important to demonstrate that this
4 process is working well, that we are overseeing the process,
5 that agencies themselves are making redeterminations on records
6 and the need for secrecy of records.

7 This is all part of the effort to open all of the
8 still-secret files related to the Kennedy assassination and,
9 I think, an indication that that process is working and the
10 agencies are rethinking the need for secrecy of many of these
11 records. So, we're looking forward to those releases in the
12 months to come.

13 I'd like to take this moment to call our first witness
14 to testify today, Mr. Philip H. Melanson.

15 Mr. Melanson is the author of *Spy Saga: Lee Harvey*
16 *Oswald and U.S. Intelligence*, which was published in 1990, and
17 we appreciate, Mr. Melanson, your willingness to testify and
18 provide us information today about what records we should be
19 seeking.

20 MR. MELANSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

21 Let me say that I am impressed that full disclosure
22 is not only the board's mandate but the spirit with which it's
23 approaching its work, and I think what I'm going to try to do
24 is make a few suggestions about achieving that goal, given that
25 there are some problems and impediments.

1 The first point I would urge is that your definition
2 of assassination-related records include all U.S. Government
3 files on Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination.

4 As the board is aware, I'm sure, and much of the
5 public, the enduring controversy of who Oswald really was, what
6 he was, is an inherent part of the historical truth of this
7 case. It's also been an area that's been subject to
8 governmental secrecy over the decades and to deception. So,
9 it's crucial that these be released as part of a record.

10 Oswald, as you know, is the most complex alleged or
11 real political assassin in American history. Let me refresh
12 our memories about that.

13 This is a young man who studied the Russian language
14 in the Marine Corps, subscribed to Pravda, had proximity to
15 a U-2 spy plane, defected to Russia, came back, and had
16 involvements with groups that looked both pro- and anti-Castro,
17 and corresponded with or joined some of the most
18 heavily-targeted domestic political groups of the era.

19 So, the files pre-assassination on Oswald are very
20 rich, and just as the Warren Commission created assassination
21 records out of Oswald's school transcripts, psychiatrist
22 reports, Marine Corps disciplinary records, those of us who
23 have a different view of Oswald want the full record of what
24 our government agencies knew about him to be released.

25 And those agencies, let me say, a list of agencies

1 that definitely have or should have had, given their mission,
2 pre-assassination files on Oswald, would include the Marine
3 Corps, the State Department, selective service, FBI, CIA,
4 probably National Security Agency, and Army and Navy
5 intelligence.

6 And I would also urge that as part of this outreach
7 in pre-assassination Oswald, that the files of the groups that
8 he joined or corresponded with be looked at carefully, as well,
9 because these were groups, as I said, that were heavily targeted
10 by U.S. intelligence, and the key to how they treated or thought
11 of Oswald may lie in those files -- the Fair Play for Cuba
12 Committee, the Communist Party USA, the Socialist Workers Party,
13 and the infamous American Civil Liberties Union.

14 I also urge the board to focus its disclosure
15 spotlight on some of those agencies that have remained
16 relatively in the shadows.

17 We're all aware of FBI and CIA and Secret Service,
18 but many of us in the research community would like to see special
19 attention paid to the National Security Agency and to Army
20 intelligence, which has a very poor history of responsiveness,
21 to be charitable, in this case, which indications are has
22 material presently on Oswald, claimed that it destroyed
23 routinely a file on Oswald.

24 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms is another agency.

25 So, these are things that need to be looked at and

will shed light on who Oswald was.

1
2 Let me get to the part of my suggestions that relate
3 to implementation, and if I am already reinforcing what the
4 board is already thinking, so be it, because some of Chairman
5 Tunheim's comments this morning parallel my suggestions.

6 I emphasize that the board should develop its own
7 expertise about the files, and I can't stress that enough.

8 I think it's commendable that you're talking with
9 assassination researchers who understand the case, many of whom
10 are also expert on the files, but I also point out that there
11 are experts who know little or nothing about the Kennedy
12 assassination who are exceedingly expert on the convoluted
13 filing indices of FBI and CIA, and I hope you will draw upon
14 these people at every stage.

15 Let me give you my own parallel example from another
16 case.

17 As the director of the Robert Kennedy assassination
18 archives at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, when
19 we began to pursue the FBI files on the Robert Kennedy case,
20 the Freedom of Information Act request was drafted in concert
21 with authors who had written on the FBI, ex-agents, scholars
22 knowledgeable in the field, and it was a six-page letter that
23 I was the signatory to, much of the jargon of which I couldn't
24 understand, but it produced 32,000 pages of records where
25 previously similar requests not so detailed, not so expert,

1 had produced one-tenth of that volume, and I think that's proof
2 that, if you are able to tell the agencies where to look, what
3 to look for, you're going to increase the yield tremendously.

4 I also urge -- and I think the chairman spoke to the
5 fact that this is occurring. There is no replacement for the
6 expertise of those who worked on the files contemporaneously,
7 the people who generated them, who use them, who knew what they
8 are about.

9 Present records custodians may not have that
10 knowledge, and this is important not only in broadening the
11 search but also, frankly, in overcoming the hide-and-seek games,
12 as I call them, which some intelligence agencies play some of
13 the time.

14 And I would refer to the examples that -- in the Robert
15 Kennedy case, for example, if it hadn't been for the affidavit
16 of a Los Angeles police officer, retired, we would not have
17 known about the super-secret department file on the case that
18 was stuck out at L.A. airport and not in the downtown files.

19 And similar things have happened in other cases,
20 agents who work, know the convoluted filing system and where
21 things might be hidden, as well as where they might be found.

22 The other payoff here is tracing documents from
23 documents and files from files, a very important activity that
24 really requires a detailed knowledge of cryptographs and
25 notations and filing numbers, and also what I call the

1 mirror-image principle, that you will find some state and local
2 agencies who have mandates that cause them to be in touch with
3 Federal agencies and who will have Federal paper in their files
4 that will lead to Federal agency files.

5 The example I would talk about here is the Dallas
6 police criminal intelligence unit.

7 Both pre- and post-assassination, that unit within
8 the police department definitely should have or would have had
9 contact with the Central Intelligence Agency, with Army
10 intelligence, with other agencies, and therefore, their files
11 provide a good clue, in mirror-image fashion, to what the Federal
12 agencies might hold.

13 I was very pleased to hear Chairman Tunheim talk this
14 morning about the search for private records and the broadening
15 of the search.

16 I applaud that tremendously, and I won't belabor it
17 except to say that the history of disclosure in all three of
18 the assassination cases -- Dr. King, Senator Kennedy, President
19 Kennedy -- shows us time and time again that some of the most
20 important materials, for varieties of reasons, are held in
21 private hands or are held in public venues beyond the record
22 custodian's purview, and may I remind us that, for example,
23 the acoustical tape so crucial to the House Assassinations
24 Committee work was brought to them from the home of a retired
25 Dallas intelligence officer.

1 My favorite example in this venue is, when we were
2 getting the District Attorney's files released in the Robert
3 Kennedy case, in a branch office distant from downtown Los
4 Angeles, an employee found a box in a storage closet marked
5 "Sirhan Sirhan case" and sent it downtown, because he had heard
6 on television that we were getting the files disclosed, and
7 that's one of the things that I think is so valuable about your
8 public hearings, your media contacts, and your taking this on
9 the road, so to speak, because it alerts people to what's going
10 on.

11 In that box happened to be the official filmed
12 re-enactments of Robert Kennedy's murder done by the officials
13 in 1968, an incredible trove of audiotapes of witness
14 interviews, and so, it's very important to keep up that notion
15 of outreach to not only private individuals and collections
16 but things that may be sort of lost in the closets.

17 I also urge the board -- I know it's not an
18 investigative body, I know it's got limited or scarce resources,
19 but when you're talking to the agencies who hold these files,
20 ask them the questions not only about what they can give you
21 now but about what they should have been giving over the decades
22 and what they should have preserved that they didn't preserve.

23 We're all about public disclosure, but also, in a
24 certain sense, even though it's not your mission, you're holding
25 these agencies accountable just by the questions you ask them

1 and by your asking them to release files, and over the decades
2 there has been an inexcusable refusal of the public right to
3 know, an unaccountability of certain materials, and I urge you
4 to ask.

5 Ask the CIA, when you're talking to them, about that
6 mysterious photo of Oswald that everybody has been chasing
7 that's so crucial.

8 If it's really Oswald in Mexico City, it makes the
9 Warren Commission supporters very happy. If it's an Oswald
10 imposter, it's a window onto conspiracy. Where did it go when
11 it left the private safe of the Mexico City station chief?

12 And please ask all these Federal agencies, just to
13 please me if you would, cathartically, does anybody have any
14 snippet of an audiotape recording of the 48 hours of
15 interrogation of Lee Harvey Oswald when he was in custody and
16 was talked to by revolving-door interviewers from state, local,
17 Federal agencies too numerous to mention, and yet, we have no
18 preserved record of that moment at which the alleged assassin
19 of our President, who had ties to Cuba and ties to Russia, was
20 being interrogated at the time of our peak national crisis.

21 So, I know you can't chase everything that's missing,
22 but I urge you to select a few items and try to hold these agencies
23 responsible.

24 My last point is to encourage you to reverse what
25 has been the trend in disclosure in the last several decades

for whatever disclosure we have had.

1
2 Agencies have taken the position, largely, that
3 assassination-related records should be withheld if they relate
4 to other secrets, ongoing operations, or intelligence sources
5 and methods.

6 I am asking the board to disentangle these things,
7 that when there are records held by the CIA or the FBI that
8 are clearly assassination-related, do not accept the response
9 that current operations preclude their release. They can and
10 should be disentangled, and let me give you my example of that.

11 I and other researchers have focused on this
12 anti-Castro Cuban group in Dallas, ALPHA-66, and without going
13 into theory, which I know is not the Commission's bailiwick,
14 let me just say about this group that it's a terrorist group
15 created by the CIA.

16 It detested President Kennedy, by its own statements.

17 It was in Dallas. It was illegally well-armed. CIA case
18 officers were meeting with the meetings there. The CIA failed
19 to report this group to the Secret Service, as protective
20 procedure required.

21 The head of this group was mistaken for Lee Harvey
22 Oswald in two incidents that we reported, one by the FBI, one
23 by the Dallas police.

24 The point is that -- I don't need to go further to
25 say that this is the subject of suspicion, if not intrigue.

1 The Rockefeller Commission asked the agency to
2 respond about this, and their response was, in part, that they
3 couldn't find such a book in the 1963 Dallas telephone book.

4 Their second response was that the street on which
5 the group held its meetings could not be found in a Dallas street
6 map, but that's sort of like saying that Beacon Street outside,
7 you know, can't be found in Boston.

8 My point is that the agency has been terribly
9 unresponsive to previous official investigations and that this
10 is an area of suspicion.

11 So, ALPHA-66 files in Dallas should be released.
12 The problem that we all face is as follows.

13 ALPHA-66 is still active, attempted an assassination
14 of Castro, by their own admission, in 1983, and still exists
15 in Miami, perhaps with agency sponsorship.

16 The fact that they are current and that their
17 operations are current should not preclude the 1963 records
18 from being released.

19 And finally, I think there is an extraordinary
20 opportunity here that I know the board is aware of.

21 Not only is it your daunting task to help repair 30
22 years of distrust and governmental secrecy that have so eroded
23 our democratic culture, but also, it's an extraordinary
24 opportunity for the public right to know.

25 The idea that, for the first time, citizens will be

1 the judge of the balance between government secrecy and what
2 we know, rather than the agencies themselves or the courts,
3 I think is extraordinary, and I just urge you that, at every
4 step along the way -- and I think you're doing this -- consult
5 with those rational, responsible, sober experts in all fields
6 who can help you do your job better and do it in a more timely
7 fashion, because you're aware and I'm aware the clock is running,
8 and the work has to be done, and I thank you very much for allowing
9 me to comment this morning.

10 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you very much, Mr. Melanson.

11 Questions, board members? Go ahead.

12 DR. JOYCE: Mr. Melanson, in the course of your own
13 research, have you made Freedom of Information requests of some
14 of the agencies you've mentioned this morning, especially the
15 CIA and the NSA, which you regarded as unresponsive, and whether,
16 in the course of your work, in making those requests, if you
17 have any leads that you would like to share with the board in
18 assisting our effort to discover more documents.

19 MR. MELANSON: Yes, I would.

20 I have made Freedom of Information Act requests in
21 the Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King assassination and
22 President Kennedy's assassination to NSA, the CIA, the FBI,
23 and Army intelligence, and what I would like to do is to prepare
24 a memorandum with insights from those experiences that might
25 be useful to the board and submit that to you, if that's your

1 pleasure.

2 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: We would very much appreciate
3 that.

4 DR. HALL: I'd like, Mr. Chairman, to echo that
5 question raised by my colleague and put it in a somewhat
6 different way.

7 One of the interesting parts of your testimony relates
8 to the assassination of Martin Luther King and the role of the
9 CIA relative to the surveillance of Dr. King, as well as military
10 intelligence.

11 You suggest that there are documents relating to the
12 assassination of Dr. King filed in the western hemisphere
13 division.

14 My question to you is twofold.

15 One, do you have comparable leads or suggestions for
16 us relative to the assassination of the President beyond the
17 materials associated with the 112th at Fort Sam Houston,
18 question number one, and question number two, do you have or
19 would you suggest any names to us of individuals coming out
20 of the military intelligence operation whose personnel files
21 and/or other military records may be of value to us to search?

22 MR. MELANSON: Yes. That's not something I'm
23 prepared to do this morning, but in fact, I do have queues to
24 other files, and I would like to prepare a list of individuals
25 that relate to those files that I could submit to the board.

1 I don't have any direct experience in requesting like
2 112th material from Army intelligence, but I do have other
3 requests that would be useful.

4 DR. HALL: I do think, if there are names of
5 individuals associated with military intelligence,
6 specifically the Army, it would be of great value to the board,
7 since names can provide one route by which to begin to hunt.

8 MR. MELANSON: Absolutely.

9 DR. HALL: Thank you.

10 DR. NELSON: Have you had the opportunity or do you
11 know of people who have had the opportunity to look at what
12 the CIA and the FBI have released in the archives since you
13 began your research, and have you found that a great deal of
14 useful information is there and peripheral information? How
15 do you assess that information that's come out so far?

16 MR. MELANSON: Come out so far? I think it's a
17 fascinating mix of the useless and the absolutely essential,
18 and that's what this is all about.

19 For all of the material on Oswald that's been released
20 that tells us so very little about him or about government's
21 relationship with him, the recent release indicated very clearly
22 that, in fact, Oswald was debriefed on his way back from the
23 Soviet Union, contrary to decades of denial of that event by
24 the agency, when it made so much sense to researchers that it
25 had to have occurred, is the kind of things that helps fill

1 in the picture and fill in the puzzle very clearly.

2 I also think that the material that you get to the
3 public will be the most interesting, by definition.

4 What has been released has been the minimalist
5 definition of what the agencies wanted to release or what we
6 knew to pursue, and I think our feeling in the research community
7 is that the really good stuff, the best of the stuff, is there
8 and is forthcoming, and while not denying that what's been
9 released so far has been crucial, and I say Spy Saga could not
10 have been written without these files, but I'm looking forward
11 to your releases making it look like a Cliff Notes version of
12 its thesis, and I think that's what will happen.

13 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: You hit on a topic earlier which
14 I think is a very important topic.

15 Obviously, we are working with people within agencies
16 today who know about the agencies and their files and their
17 records today, but perhaps they are not aware of filing systems
18 of 30 years ago or 25 years ago or task forces or compartments
19 or other entities within agencies.

20 You may not have thoughts to provide us today, but
21 if you have any thoughts on that issue, particularly how the
22 CIA and perhaps other agencies were organized back during this
23 era, we'd certainly appreciate that.

24 I think that will shed great light on who we should
25 be looking for and where we should be looking for it.

1 MR. MELANSON: Great. I'd be very happy to do that.

2 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Anything further?

3 DR. JOYCE: One thing.

4 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Go ahead.

5 DR. JOYCE: You also mentioned in your testimony the
6 importance of records in private hands, and again, if you have
7 leads on them, if you'd be willing to share them with us, as
8 well, that would be most helpful.

9 MR. MELANSON: Okay. I will confess that I don't
10 any leads in the JFK case to what's been in private hands.
11 I have examples from the other two cases, but I'm sure that
12 there are researchers who do.

13 DR. JOYCE: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you very much, Mr. Melanson.
15 We appreciate your sharing your expertise with us today.

16 Our next witness this morning is Priscilla Johnson
17 McMillan, history professor at the Harvard Russian Research
18 Center, and she is the author of *Marina and Lee*, which was
19 published in 1977.

20 Good morning.

21 MS. McMILLAN: I would like, first of all, to thank
22 this board for what it is doing for all of us.

23 I know that you are trying to redress the harm and
24 the wound that was done to the American spirit in 1963 and the
25 confusions that have arisen since so that we may -- the American

1 people may be free to move on to the current history, which
2 clamors for its attention.

3 I made a printed statement to the board earlier and
4 mentioned certain records, and my remarks today will not
5 duplicate that statement but are by way of amplification.

6 I forgot in my statement to mention some records that
7 I tried but failed to find when I was writing Marina and Lee.

8 One is the draft chapter for the Warren Commission
9 on Oswald's personality that was written by Wesley Liebler,
10 and in the National Archives, I was able to read Liebler's notes,
11 but I never did see his first draft, which I think the Commission
12 had decided not to use.

13 I never saw Oswald's Marine Corps record. You
14 probably have it, but I didn't see it.

15 Another item which I did mention in my earlier
16 statement to you is the Marine inquest record into the death
17 of Private Martin Schrand in the Philippines, which was of
18 interest to me because it might have helped to establish Oswald's
19 ability and propensity to kill prior to the episodes that
20 occurred later.

21 In my book, I tried to point to deficiencies in my
22 own research so that others could take it from there, but so
23 far as I know, those lapses have not been picked up, and I just
24 wanted to point them out to you.

25 I have been told by other researchers that some

1 materials that had not been made available by the presidential
2 library, the Kennedy Presidential Library, up here -- and I
3 know that you were there yesterday and that you doubtless know
4 more about those than I do, and so, I'm just going to give a
5 written summary of oral histories, but there were some facts
6 in the Robert Kennedy material, including his desk diaries -- the
7 year 1963 was missing -- telephone messages for '62 and '63
8 are missing but resume in '64, and logs of Robert Kennedy
9 telephone conversations. I have a feeling you know more about
10 this than I do.

11 I think the bulk of my remarks have to do, then, with
12 the Russian side, and since I wrote my statement earlier, it's
13 been announced that President Clinton is going to Moscow on
14 May 9th, and I would like to emphasize that that presents a
15 very unique opportunity for this board.

16 Some things in Russia haven't changed much since the
17 time of Ivan the Terrible, and that is that the personal
18 commitment of the leader is about the only thing that can make
19 certain things move, and I think if, in advance of Clinton's
20 visit, it is made known to President Yeltsin that the President
21 would very much appreciate cooperation with this board, it might
22 be critical in obtaining certain records there.

23 He has done this before in trips abroad, as he provided
24 the Poles with material on the Catin massacre. It costs you
25 nothing, and in the present situation of imbalance between the

1 two countries in the favor of the United States, it's something
2 he can do rather easily.

3 Also, I think the reports that the Chechen
4 intervention has weakened his hand are probably not correct
5 and that he is in charge.

6 I revert, then, to the importance of the presidential
7 archive, which would contain the most important documents that
8 were collected for Secretary General Nikita Khrushchev, and
9 the importance of that archive, both for material on Oswald
10 and material on Yuri Nosenko.

11 I have been told by fellow researchers that
12 intervention in that archive by Yeltsin's assistant has not
13 been helpful. It has to go to Yeltsin himself.

14 Similarly, with the Central Committee's Otdel
15 Administrativnikh Organov, files which are sealed right now,
16 and again, nothing would help except intervention by Yeltsin.

17 In general, the archival situation in Moscow has
18 tightened, and documents that were available in late '92 and
19 in 1993 are not available now.

20 I have been told that it's especially difficult to
21 get help there right now. There are two places to look in
22 Moscow, I think. One are the main KGB files in the old building.

23 The others are located outside Moscow at the headquarters of
24 the Foreign Intelligence Service.

25 I forgot in my printed statement to mention the files

1 of the military intelligence, the GRU, and I also forgot that
2 the present government Byeloruss might be helpful, because the
3 old Byelorussian Republic had a security service of its own
4 that presumably did track Oswald.

5 The Minsk office of the U.S. exchange organization
6 IREX could probably be helpful in locating archival sources
7 in Minsk.

8 In my earlier statement, I mentioned a former KGB
9 official named Yvegeny Petrovich Pitrovanov, and I repeat that.

10 There is a Russian in the United States who wrote
11 a book published in Moscow in the '70s on the Kennedy
12 assassination. He lives now in New Jersey, Tenafly, New Jersey.

13 His book was also published in the U.S. by a Russian language
14 publishing house, Hermitage. His name is Egar Yurfemoff, and
15 he may be knowledgeable about sources in the former Soviet Union.

16 There are a number of Americans whose names and
17 addresses and telephone numbers I will provide to you and some
18 Russians, emigres, one emigre, who is curator of the Andrei
19 Sakharov archive here at Brandeis University, and two Russians
20 who are here at the Russian Research Center, who are very
21 knowledgeable about Russian archives.

22 I think that the former KGB head, Bachatin, who came
23 to office after the August '91 coup and was not there very long,
24 would have seen everything in his brief time and should probably
25 be approached unofficially. I'm not sure how those things are

1 done, but it might be an embarrassment for him if it were too
2 official.

3 The last matter I wanted to bring up -- in my own
4 papers which I accumulated while writing my book, Marina and
5 Lee, I have 13 or 14 file boxes in my basement, and I have been
6 told by other assassination researchers that they are not very
7 safe there, which I was quite hurt by.

8 They would include between 700 and 800 pages of
9 interviews that I conducted with Marina Oswald in 1964 and '65.

10 They are not big pages but maybe five-by-eight pages, and I
11 have been translating mentally, and you know, I work some in
12 Russian but mostly English.

13 Then I have Warren Commission exhibits and other
14 materials that could cast light on the veracity of what I was
15 told or could reconcile, various versions.

16 Then there is my own earlier manuscripts, drafts,
17 which were cut for length and, in some cases, on the insistence
18 of the lawyers for my publisher for reasons of privacy or
19 defamation.

20 I wrote to the archives, perhaps in 1976, that out
21 of gratitude for the help of Mr. Marion Johnson, then the curator
22 for legislative, civil, and judicial archives, I wished to will
23 those, on my death, to the archives, and my will does leave
24 them to the archives, but should this board want those records
25 sooner, I could arrange to have them xeroxed to keep the xeroxes

1 for myself or whatever arrangement would be best for this board.

2 And that's all I had to say today, except that I have
3 these written notes, and I will give those to whomever.

4 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you, Ms. McMillan. We
5 appreciate your willingness to share your materials with us.

6 I think that would be very, very helpful for us. Maybe we
7 could ask you just a few questions.

8 You mentioned your interviews with Marina Oswald
9 Porter. Do you think she has information that should be added
10 to the JFK assassination collection?

11 MS. McMILLAN: All I can say is that she is a very
12 honest person when she's dealing with an official government
13 board, and if she has anything, she'll give it.

14 We used to discover things unwittingly, in cookbooks
15 and other unlikely places, and I am sure she would be
16 cooperative, but I can't think of anything.

17 DR. NELSON: I wonder how static the Russian
18 bureaucracy is, and I ask that question because we have discussed
19 earlier the fact that, in this country, the organization of
20 an agency 30 years ago may not be the same as the organization
21 now.

22 So, is it -- would it be more valuable to us to try
23 to reach people who are emigres and such, who have come here,
24 who know that period, as you did, that time, or to perhaps reach
25 the current researchers or just both?

1 I mean there are a great many people now trying to
2 do research in various Russian archives, and are they
3 knowledgeable enough about what happened 30 years ago to be
4 useful to us?

5 MS. McMILLAN: Are you speaking of the researchers
6 into those archives or the officials in charge?

7 DR. NELSON: Oh, I was thinking more about whether
8 the researchers could seek the information, 30-years-old
9 information, and be assured that the organization itself would
10 have been that static. Perhaps it had.

11 MS. McMILLAN: I hope my answer would be responsive
12 to your question. The researchers with whom I have talked seem
13 very, very knowledgeable about what documents are where. None
14 of them have ever worked on --

15 DR. NELSON: No, I understand.

16 MS. McMILLAN: -- Oswald, but they do seem to be very,
17 very knowledgeable about what is where.

18 On the other hand, if it's hard to get everything
19 in the U.S. Government, as my preceding witness, it would be
20 much harder there, of course.

21 I think that, if you touch the right button at the
22 top, you would get cooperation to the extent that those people
23 know.

24 As for whether the officials in the Russian and
25 Byelorussian bureaucracy know, I would think no. I would think

1 you would have to go to some older retired people, such as
2 Pitrovanov, to find out what might be where, and you would have
3 to have people with some imagination, would be my guess.

4 DR. NELSON: Is it your perception, in speaking to
5 the researchers, that the bureaucracy was so great in the Soviet
6 Union that nothing was thrown away, that things are there if
7 we could just find them?

8 MS. McMILLAN: I think the real danger is that there
9 are things that are there that they are not going to cough up,
10 that if they had something that pointed to Oswald's working
11 for any Soviet agency, it might not be handed over under any
12 circumstances, but it might by mistake, for one thing,
13 and -- what was the other part of your question?

14 DR. NELSON: Well, my question was whether they, in
15 fact, had such a bureaucracy that they didn't throw things away.

16 MS. McMILLAN: Oh, yes. They not only don't
17 throw -- I mean they do keep many copies, and a document which
18 ought to be in one place -- it may have been destroyed there,
19 but it will be somewhere else.

20 They are just drowning in paper, and they keep
21 multiple records, which is a fortunate thing.

22 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Any other questions?

23 DR. HALL: Yes.

24 Are you familiar with the forthcoming work by Norman
25 Mailer on Lee Oswald?

1 MS. McMILLAN: He has talked to me about it, but I
2 have not seen that, Mr. Hall.

3 MS. McMILLAN: Could you, in the course of those
4 conversations -- or did you, in the course of these
5 conversations, get any sense of the records that were made
6 available to him by the KGB or others?

7 MS. McMILLAN: I didn't get a sense of there being
8 Moscow KGB documents, but I may be totally ignorant about that,
9 but of Minsk, yes.

10 He said he talked -- I think what he told me was he
11 talked to 18 ex-KGB officials, he had recordings, and that he
12 maybe said he had reduced them down to two in the book, but
13 there had actually been 18.

14 But I am trying -- I did mention in my statement that
15 there might have been something else besides the KGB in Minsk,
16 and that would be the Byelorussian government --

17 DR. HALL: Right.

18 MS. McMILLAN: -- at that time.

19 DR. HALL: I think it's safe to say we should ask
20 that question of Mr. Mailer. Mr. Mailer came to you as someone
21 who is expert in --

22 MS. McMILLAN: I didn't see him. He called me to
23 say that he wished to pay me fair use for quotations -- just
24 two conversations with him.

25 But it does occur to me, with you asking that, that

1 Marina's uncle lived in a building, an apartment building that
2 was across the street from the residence of the secretary then
3 of the Byelorussian Communist Party, Akiral Masorloff, and I
4 don't know whether Masorloff is living -- I suppose he's
5 dead -- but I'm not sure that they wouldn't have kept quite
6 a close watch on that building and the comings and goings, and
7 there might even be photographs. That might be helpful.

8 I never did talk to Lee Oswald's friends in Minsk.

9 I thought that -- I couldn't get a visa, and I thought, even
10 if I could, that it would do me nothing but harm, but Mr. Mailer
11 certainly did talk to them, and most of our conversations had
12 to do with how were they, what were they like, did he think
13 they were truthful, that type of thing.

14 DR. HALL: Thank you very much.

15 DR. JOYCE: Ms. McMillan, there have been several
16 statements to the effect that you might have had a connection
17 to the Central Intelligence Agency.

18 I was wondering if you could elucidate the nature
19 of them and whether you might have had any conversations with
20 the CIA concerning Oswald in connection with the Soviet Union
21 or Cuba.

22 MS. McMILLAN: Thank you for asking, Mr. Joyce.

23 My government service was 30 days as a translator
24 in Moscow in the winter of -- early 1956, when I was a translator
25 for the Joint Press Reading Service -- American, British,

Canadian -- I think there was a fourth country.

1
2 It was an English-language translating service, and
3 my boss there asked for my continued employment but was refused,
4 because I did not have a security clearance from the U.S.
5 Government.

6 My conversations with CIA officials about Oswald came
7 only following the assassination. I think it was the FBI who
8 came to see me over the weekend of November 22nd-23rd. I'm
9 not sure if I ever did talk to CIA people about Oswald after
10 the assassination. I talked to State Department, Warren
11 Commission.

12 I did have a conversation once in Grand Central
13 Station with a CIA official, and until recently, I couldn't
14 remember why I had that conversation, but I think I do remember
15 now that it was in 1959, before I was returning to the Soviet
16 Union after covering Khrushchev's visit to President Eisenhower
17 in the fall of '59.

18 I had been under a good deal of pressure from the
19 KGB to be an informer when I was a reporter, and I was frightened
20 in going back, and I thought somebody -- the American ambassador
21 was aware of my difficulties, but I was afraid that something
22 could happen to me, and I wanted someone on the outside to know,
23 and that was the fall of '59.

24 His name was Gary Coite, and I believe I was asked
25 about that by the House Assassinations Subcommittee, but I am

1 not sure whether I remembered at that time why I spoke with
2 him, and then, in the autumn of '62, Mr. Donald Jamenson, who
3 I thought was named Mr. James McDonald, came to see me in
4 Cambridge, and I spoke to him about my observations on a visit
5 I had just made for The Reporter magazine about the intellectual
6 atmosphere.

7 I was writing about Soviet painters and writers, and
8 my notes had been confiscated when I left Leningrad airport,
9 18 notebooks, and President Kennedy had helped me with that
10 matter. That is, Carl Kazen -- he had had Kazen speak to me.

11 So, I felt that I should speak to Mr. Jamenson, and
12 I did not -- my effort then -- I assumed that anything one
13 intelligence service knew, the other intelligence service knew
14 and that their files were either penetrated --and of course,
15 my concern was for my Soviet friends.

16 So, I didn't name names except of, I think, Yveta
17 Chenko, people who were so well-known in the west that I couldn't
18 hurt them, but otherwise I gave -- I don't think I mentioned
19 names of anyone I thought could be hurt.

20 And those were the extent of my living contacts with
21 the -- I, of course, knew people in the American embassy, the
22 British embassy, the French embassy, and the Israeli embassy,
23 but I only saw them -- contacts about things I was particularly
24 interested in, like the British had someone who knew a lot about
25 the parasite laws passed by Khrushchev in 1959, but the Israelis

1 knew a lot about intellectual circles and so did the French,
2 more than the Americans did, and the Americans I would go to
3 for agriculture and economy.

4 But if I thought somebody was in the intelligence
5 of either side, I avoided them. It was just -- and I avoided
6 them, but of course, I would have talked to people that I didn't
7 know, and in that situation, the only thing that saved you and
8 made you able to write and have any spontaneity in your life
9 is to be a somewhat open person, and so, I tried to be like
10 that, but of course, you don't know everything you're doing
11 there, and it was a rapidly-changing situation.

12 DR. JOYCE: You mentioned in your written statement
13 that you submitted to the board that you thought it would be
14 wise for us to seek out records of the U.S. Communist Party
15 concerning Oswald and also the records of John Apt.

16 Do you have any leads for us about where we might
17 find these records?

18 MS. McMILLAN: I wish I did. No. But I thought that
19 Oswald's choice of Apt for a lawyer was very telling, and I
20 assume the Communist Party was very upset and that Apt purposely
21 disappeared because it would be embarrassing to the party, but
22 your guess is just as good as mine.

23 But I was really glad that the previous speaker spoke
24 about Oswald's prison interrogation, because again, the various
25 notes have been made remarkably confluent but tantalizingly

incomplete.

1
2 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Ms. McMillan, your information
3 and thoughts on how we should seek former Soviet records are
4 very helpful, and we really appreciate that.

5 Let me ask you one final question. You interviewed
6 Lee Harvey Oswald in 1959 in the Soviet Union. Would you just
7 take a moment to give us your sense of the man, your thoughts,
8 impressions of him based on that interview?

9 MS. McMILLAN: Well, he was stunningly young. He
10 looked like a very young boy, and I felt very sorry for him.
11 He seemed to be at sea and not to know what he was dealing
12 with.

13 He told me proudly that he had been to Get Schemer,
14 a children's department store that was only a block from our
15 hotel, and they had bought an ice cream cone there, and he seemed
16 so proud that he had been -- he didn't know the language very
17 well.

18 I just made him tea during that time. I just felt
19 really sorry for him, and I felt somewhat a sense of
20 identification, because I had weak press credentials and was
21 a lone individual trying to remain as a reporter, you know,
22 of the Soviet bureaucracy, and I did speak the language, I had
23 studied the country, and I had a Master's degree, and I think
24 I was 31, whereas he had just turned 20, and he seemed younger,
25 and we were both lone individuals up against the bureaucracy,

1 and so, I felt quite a sense of sympathy for him, and I liked
2 him.

3 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you very much.

4 MS. McMILLAN: Thank you.

5 MR. TATRO: Mr. Chairman, can I ask another question
6 about Apt?

7 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Let's proceed with the hearing
8 first, and we'll take care of it before the end of the day.

9 Thank you very much.

10 Our next witness is Mr. Richard Trask, who is the
11 author of Pictures of the Pain: Photography and the
12 Assassination of President Kennedy. It was published in 1994,
13 an exhaustive study on the history of the photographic record
14 surrounding the assassination.

15 Mr. Trask, welcome. Thank you for coming.

16 MR. TRASK: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I want to
17 thank the board for the invitation and the opportunity to address
18 you this morning.

19 As you are all well aware, yours is an important but
20 difficult task whose scope can become extremely open-ended,
21 and no one from within the research community would recommend
22 that you narrowly define your scope.

23 Indeed, there is at least one point which unites the
24 diverse research community, composed of historians, lawyers,
25 physicians, authors, and tens of thousands of other interested

citizens.

1 That point is the desire for your pursuit the broadest
2 definition of full and complete disclosure of any and all records
3 relating to the assassination of President Kennedy.

4 I do not fool myself into believing that the outcome
5 of your efforts will be universally praised as absolutely
6 accomplishing your mandate or that the released records will
7 bring forth a final and conclusive truth to the matter of who
8 killed the President and why.

9 For generations beyond ours, these released materials
10 will also be the grist for new theories and some wild
11 speculation.

12 Yet, in spite of all the potential hype, profiteering,
13 misuse, and misinterpretation of this new information, full
14 disclosure should still be aggressively pursued by you and
15 should, in many cases, lay to rest old controversies and
16 eventually clarify much of the truth.

17 Most importantly, your board's conscientious pursuit
18 will turn around for the first time in almost 30 years the
19 previously lackadaisical government performance as regards open
20 access.

21 Past official inquiries into the President's
22 assassination obfuscated and kept hidden large amounts of
23 information.

24 Government officials, bureaucrats, archivists, and
25

1 others having their hand in the creation and custody of these
2 records, often due to potential agency embarrassment,
3 incompetence, inertia, prejudice, or possessiveness, kept many
4 of their records out of the public domain.

5 The research community, many of whom began their quest
6 due to the perception of their government's purposefully
7 withholding vital information, has convinced the majority of
8 the public that this withholding is a sinister and purposeful
9 hiding of a conspiracy to kill a president of the United States.

10 This belief has been virtually seared into the
11 national psyche.

12 The only option for rightfully restoring and renewing
13 the public trust in its government is by countermanding a history
14 of political constraints and past prejudices in assassination
15 inquiries through an active and massive declassification of
16 all records relating directly and indirectly to the President's
17 assassination, and the time and opportunity is obviously now.

18 I have personally become interested in the events
19 of November 22, 1963, since they occurred, being a 16-year-old
20 who was drawn in emotionally to the trauma of the shooting.

21 For many years, I believed that there was a large
22 and masterful conspiracy that must have been responsible for
23 taking the life of the President.

24 By the 1970s, I wasn't so sure about an intricate
25 plot and began to feel manipulated by writers and critics, as

well as by the government.

1
2 There have appeared so many facts, perceived facts,
3 hard truths, innuendos, self-serving statements, and lies to
4 make a pursuit of the truth, especially in light of the
5 nondisclosure of so many government records, almost impossible.

6 Not wanting to add to the cacophony, yet desiring
7 to contribute something to the historical record, I decided
8 to focus on the previously understudied area of the photography
9 of the event.

10 Though history is defined through historical
11 photography, as the use of photographic images capable of
12 supporting the study and interpretation of history, photography
13 has limitations for use as historical evidence and may exhibit
14 only partial truths, biases, and distortions of reality. It
15 can never tell the whole story of an event. Yet, for all its
16 potential shortcomings, it is closer to being a trace of reality
17 than any other documentation.

18 In very broad strokes, let me comment about these
19 photographic materials relating to the assassination and how
20 they may be included within your review of records which should
21 be released or sought.

22 Following the assassination, the FBI began a process
23 of attempting to gather photographs as potential evidence,
24 though after about a week of this process was less vigorously
25 pursued.

1 Meanwhile, the news media used their own photographic
2 sources, as well as those they obtained from amateurs who had
3 been on the scene.

4 During the assassination, a minimum of 19 spectators
5 in Dealey Plaza recorded some of that event, while at least
6 14 professional photographers took scenes from the motorcade
7 or after exiting their vehicles.

8 Within a short time of the assassination, over a score
9 more photographers were in the plaza recording all sorts of
10 activity.

11 Those photographic materials which were collected,
12 utilized, and kept by the FBI and subsequent Warren Commission
13 investigation are quite scanty.

14 There are copies of some photographs, though most
15 are dramatically cropped and multi-generational.

16 A number of photos, films, and videotapes possibly
17 part of the original Commission record often do not show up
18 in archival or Freedom of Information search requests.

19 There is little evidence that this class of source
20 material, with the exception of the Zapruder film, was ever
21 actively examined.

22 The professionals and their images, such as White
23 House photographers Cecil Stotan and Thomas Atkins, were
24 virtually ignored, as were many amateurs who had made photos
25 at the plaza.

1 Though the later House Select Committee on
2 Assassinations was serious in its pursuit of potential
3 photographic sources, when it ceased operations in 1979, with
4 the exception of those photos and documents published within
5 its report and hearings, their materials, contact reports, and
6 subcommittee photographic studies were sealed to public access.

7 A full disclosure of photos and films, studies of
8 these materials as prepared by the government or subcontractors,
9 and all supporting documentation in the way of FBI and Secret
10 Service field and lab reports should be released.

11 Also to be sought should be the National Photographic
12 Interpretation Center and CIA records relating to the study
13 of the Zapruder and possible other films and photos, as well
14 as records relating to the Justice Department's pursuit or lack
15 thereof in regards to the Charles Bronson film which the House
16 Select Committee on Assassinations had requested they further
17 study.

18 All other records relating to photographs and
19 photography acquired or generated by the Warren Commission,
20 Rockefeller Commission, Church Committee, and House Select
21 Committee should be obtained.

22 Also to be searched out should be any and all records
23 and photos relating to several persons whose films or photos
24 are not now available or for which information about them is
25 quite incomplete.

1 This includes the so-called babushka lady, Norman
2 Similus, James Hanken, Gary Field, Jack Weaver, and James
3 Powell. In Powell's case, files from the Army Intelligence
4 Corps should be examined relating to his activities in and around
5 the Texas School Book Depository.

6 I firmly believe that the President Kennedy
7 assassination material should not only be sought for the object
8 of a partial restoration in trust in regards to government
9 disclosure and for the potential of learning more about the
10 event as a criminal offense but also for gathering a complete
11 record and preserving these materials for the sake of history.

12 With that in mind, I would urge as full a collection
13 of photographic materials of the events of November 22nd as
14 possible.

15 The study of this type of photo evidence by myself
16 and others has shown it to be of some assistance in the
17 explanation of previous points of controversy.

18 For example, a man believed by some to be Jack Ruby
19 is seen in one photo which is taken near the book depository
20 entrance shortly after the assassination. I uncovered a
21 separate photo taken by someone else at about the same time
22 in which it is clear that that man is obviously not Ruby.

23 The John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson libraries
24 contain important November 22nd photographic resources created
25 by the official White House photographers, as well as through

photo and film gifts of individuals and organizations.

1
2 The maintenance of these visual materials is carried
3 out in a highly professional manner, with fine conservation
4 storage areas but with budget constraints on processing new
5 material for public access.

6 This visual material should, if not specifically
7 copied for inclusion in the National Archives assassination
8 collection, be noted in any master listing of
9 assassination-related materials available to the public.

10 Likewise, important photographic documentation is
11 in the possession of the State of Texas, the Western New England
12 College Archives of Springfield, Massachusetts, and the Dallas
13 Municipal Archives and Records Center, particularly the
14 original Dallas police department photo negatives made of the
15 book depository building.

16 Through cooperative arrangement, possibly
17 first-generation prints far better than those within the Warren
18 Commission files could be made available to the National
19 Archives collection.

20 The bulk of the important photographic sources,
21 however, are still in private hands.

22 Although the board obviously cannot compel this
23 material to be given to the national archives, it might be
24 possible to come to an arrangement with these photographers
25 or their families whereby the materials could be made a part

of the permanent assassination collections.

1 Some important photographic sources have never been
2 viewed by the government or the public.

3 Former presidential assistant David Powers is known
4 to have taken film from aboard the follow-up car in the Dallas
5 motorcade, while former Dallas motorcycle officer W. George
6 Lumpkin at one time had possession of a Polaroid photo taken
7 of him in the motorcade and with the book depository building
8 in the background.

9 Another large category of original photo materials
10 relating to the assassination are those created by print and
11 television cameramen. An effort to obtain copies and an
12 agreement for use should be attempted.

13 This material includes collections from the original
14 news-gathering agencies and individual photographers who may
15 possess originals. This category is extremely unrepresented
16 in official government files.

17 Among these sources are the four television stations
18 active in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 1963, the NBC and CBS
19 television networks, and the Sherman Greenberg Film Library.

20 CBS also is reputed to have film out-takes of some
21 potentially significant interviews filmed in 1967 in
22 preparation for their documentary series "The Warren Report."

23 Some of the November 22nd coverage, including film
24 by Don Cooke of KTTV and Tom Allia of WFAA, is also possibly
25

1 available, having been saved by the cameramen or possibly in
2 other private hands.

3 Newspaper coverage included large numbers of
4 negatives being generated by the Dallas Morning News, Dallas
5 Times-Herald, and Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Some of the Dallas
6 Times-Herald collection is now on deposit at the Dallas Public
7 Library.

8 Various photographers or their families may also
9 possess original materials not now represented within the
10 newspaper libraries.

11 The Sixth-Floor Museum archives also has some
12 important photos and negatives, including many made by William
13 Allen and several others.

14 Time-Warner, Inc., has in its photo archives original
15 coverage by staff photographer Art Richaby, as well as collected
16 film and prints made by several amateurs.

17 The wire services were likewise represented by their
18 own photo staff and through the preparing of spot news photos
19 and films.

20 United Press International was represented by staff
21 photographers Frank Cancelare and William Allen, while UPI news
22 film division originally purchased amateur films by Nicks and
23 Munchmore. UPI Betman News Photo now has possession of some
24 of these resources.

25 Associated Press coverage included photos by James

1 Atkins and Henry Burroughs, AP Wide World now possessing some
2 of these important original negatives, particularly those made
3 by Jim Atkins.

4 Multi-generation copies of photos not now extant
5 elsewhere are also possibly among collections of assassination
6 researchers.

7 To indicate its determination for an inclusive
8 collection of photographic resources, the Assassination Record
9 Review Board or National Archives itself should publicly request
10 and actively seek out still unknown photographic resources which
11 have thus far not come to light.

12 Though possibly beyond the original scope of your
13 board, the active solicitation of these known and unknown visual
14 prime resources to history are so important to collect and
15 preserve, being among the most important and useful documents
16 of what really occurred on November 22, 1963.

17 The sticking point is obviously how many of these
18 privately and corporately owned artifacts can be acquired and
19 made available to the public if the owners are reluctant to
20 give up their originals or right to use of copies of the
21 originals.

22 I, for one, believe that if an institution such as
23 the National Archives is firmly committed and able to properly
24 store and conserve these materials, that with effort an amicable
25 agreement may be worked out for the deposit, purchase, or gift

1 of significant amounts of these materials which will benefit
2 the potentials donors, the public interest, and especially the
3 historic record.

4 Though they did not know it would be the case at the
5 time, those photographers who were recording a presidential
6 visit to Dallas some 32 years ago incidentally recorded one
7 of the most significant watershed events of the 20th century.

8 The importance of their documentation of that event
9 transcends monetary or personal considerations. These images
10 must be preserved as part of the collection as being significant,
11 more so than any past government record. We owe it to history.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you.

14 Any questions for Mr. Trask?

15 DR. HALL: Yes.

16 Mr. Trask, thank you very much. I found your
17 statement very interesting and very revealing, and you certainly
18 have captured an important part of this particular piece of
19 assassination history. We really don't have this kind of
20 evidence for other events.

21 I'd like to ask you, though, a series of questions
22 that really have to do with the question -- to do with the issue
23 of forgeries of photographic records.

24 Do you think the board has any responsibility with
25 regard to determining whether any photographs or films are

forgeries?

1
2 MR. TRASK: Yes. I would like the board to be able
3 to push the envelope for as much responsibility as possible
4 in looking into the primary sources.

5 As you are probably aware, there has been much in
6 the critical literature in the past year or two concerning the
7 Zapruder film, what happened to the copies that were sent to
8 Washington, what happened with their being examined through
9 the CIA laboratory, and many people have suggested that, within
10 a very short period of time, that film was tampered with.

11 I, myself, do not believe that to be the case, but
12 I think it's important, because this factor is coming up in
13 the literature so much, that it would, I believe, be relatively
14 simple to find out if the original Zapruder film and the three
15 first-generation prints were, in fact, tampered with.

16 DR. HALL: Do you have any other suggestions for us
17 in this regard, beyond the Zapruder film? Do you personally
18 know of any photographs or films that may be suspect as
19 forgeries?

20 MR. TRASK: Well, one area in which I'm not very
21 conversant are the Oswald outdoor photographs, and there has
22 been much controversy about that for many, many years.

23 The House Select Committee on Assassinations
24 photograph panel looked into those photographs, and I, for one,
25 believe they very much decided that they were, in fact, not

1 forgeries.

2 When we're speaking of those photos that were taken
3 or films that were taken in the Dealey Plaza area at the time
4 of the assassination, I think one of the reasons for trying
5 to obtain the original copies of films or first-generation
6 prints is to make sure -- as well as negatives -- is to make
7 sure that no tampering has taken place.

8 I'm not aware of much in the way of controversy that
9 has arisen concerning the Dealey Plaza photographs and possible
10 fooling around with those.

11 DR. HALL: Recognizing it's a world of scarce
12 resources and short time, if you were giving us a set of
13 priorities to pursue, what would be at the top of your list,
14 photographically, for this board to do?

15 MR. TRASK: I would be very interested to find out
16 more about James Powell, who was a special agent for the Army
17 Intelligence Corps who, when the assassination was over, was
18 interviewed by both the FBI and the Secret Service and came
19 up with two different versions of what he saw and what happened
20 at the assassination scene.

21 He was, within a very short period of time, on the
22 corner facing the southeast corner of the school book depository
23 and took one photograph of it. I want to know why there's only
24 one photograph, where he was.

25 He claims in one of the statements that he was a

1 half-block away. Why did he have a camera, did he take more
2 pictures, and so forth. He was also active, apparently, in
3 the searching of the building itself.

4 It could be that there is simply a very easy answer
5 to that, but it was a red flag that stuck up at me when I was
6 looking at the information about the Dealey Plaza photographers.

7 DR. HALL: Thank you very much.

8 DR. NELSON: Mr. Trask, I wonder if you can give us
9 some clues about finding people who have these photographs.
10 You mentioned that is something we should do, but is there a
11 central source? Is there some organization? How would you
12 suggest we go about that?

13 MR. TRASK: That's one of the problems with
14 photographic materials, is that the bulk of the materials that
15 were generated photographically during the assassination were
16 in private hands, and with the exception of some material that
17 got into the official record, which are always bad copies and
18 not very well framed and so forth, you really don't have an
19 awful lot of material within the public record.

20 That's why -- I think your board is the first board
21 that has looked into the resources of the assassination which
22 doesn't have some kind of a linkage to the government which
23 would be able to -- because of your built-up good integrity
24 right now -- would be able to request of many of these
25 individuals, many of these businesses which have this film and

photographic material, to please allow them to be released.

1
2 DR. NELSON: So, basically, you're saying that we'd
3 have to go to each individual person who might have been there.

4 MR. TRASK: I can follow up my written materials with
5 more specific information about where they are available. When
6 I was putting my book together, I kind of had to find out those
7 sources. It's amazing how much material is still out there.

8 The local newspapers have literally hundreds of
9 negatives, many of which have never even been printed before,
10 which might relate in one way or another to Dealey Plaza, to
11 events that happened shortly after the assassination, and I
12 would think that a business such as a newspaper or some of the
13 TV coverage in Dallas would be willing, within limitations,
14 to make this available to the board and, hopefully, to the
15 American public.

16 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Mr. Trask, there have been
17 allegations that this board has heard that the FBI seized
18 photographs or film at the time of the assassination. Do you
19 believe that, or do you have any opinions on that subject?

20 MR. TRASK: Unfortunately, I believe the FBI was not
21 as at-speed as was the media. The media was there in force,
22 and most of the materials that were acquired were acquired by
23 the media.

24 As a matter of fact, it's a sad commentary that, in
25 many cases, materials that came to the attention of the Warren

1 Commission had to be requested through the FBI to contact the
2 individual media which first came up with these.

3 The FBI did make an attempt sometime probably
4 beginning Saturday morning to acquire any kinds of materials
5 that would have been processed through the local processing
6 houses, Kodak, and so forth, but this was a bit late and not
7 very dramatically done.

8 Once Oswald was shot, my impression is that the
9 investigators were not interested in photographic materials
10 anymore.

11 MR. MARWELL: I was intrigued in your written
12 statement and your remarks earlier that former presidential
13 assistant David Powers had a movie camera in the follow-up car
14 and that this film has never been seen, apparently. Do you
15 know anything about it? Do you know whether it covered the
16 critical period of the motorcade?

17 MR. TRASK: I do not believe it covered the critical
18 period of the Dealey Plaza area.

19 My remarks are talking to the historic record as a
20 whole, and I believe that something as significant as a film
21 being done even of the vehicle prior to its entering Dealey
22 Plaza would be of benefit to researchers.

23 One very minor item of controversy has always been
24 whether or not a bullet, in fact, hit -- or a fragment of a
25 bullet hit the area around the windshield and made a dent in

1 the chrome. We have not been able to find, to this point, any
2 evidence for or against this dent having occurred.

3 The Secret Service had indicated that this dent had
4 occurred prior to November 22nd. Pictures taken prior to Dealey
5 Plaza would help find out if that, in fact, were true.

6 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you very much. We
7 appreciate your sharing your expertise with us today.

8 Next, the board would like to hear from Dick Russell.
9 Mr. Russell is the author of the 1992 book The Man Who Knew
10 Too Much.

11 Mr. Russell, we appreciate your joining us today.

12 MR. RUSSELL: Thank you, Mr. Tunheim.

13 I guess I would like to address my remarks primarily
14 about the board's power to subpoena witnesses which I understand
15 you have and also to obtain records that might otherwise be
16 unavailable about very important individuals under the privacy
17 act provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, which I believe
18 should be pursued.

19 As you said, I'm the author of The Man Who Knew Too
20 Much, which is an 824-page book about the assassination. I
21 am a long-time investigative journalist.

22 The book was the product of some 17 years of research
23 and led me to inescapable conclusion that a conspiracy existed
24 that went beyond the alleged assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, and
25 his own slayer, Jack Ruby.

1 The primary subject of this book is a man named Richard
2 Case Nagall, a former military intelligence officer and CIA
3 contract agent who was involved with Oswald when both were
4 stationed in Japan in 1957 and '58 and later during the 1962
5 and '63 period in Dallas, New Orleans, Mexico City, and perhaps
6 elsewhere.

7 There is ample documentation on Mr. Nagall's
8 intelligence career to convince me that, as far as he has been
9 willing to reveal himself, he has told the truth and that,
10 indeed, he may be the most important living witness to the events
11 leading up to the tragedy of November 22, 1963.

12 In brief, Mr. Nagall maintains that he sought to warn
13 both the FBI, in the form of a registered letter to Director
14 Hoover on September 17, 1963, and the CIA, specifically Desmond
15 Fitzgerald's office of the special affairs staff of the CIA,
16 of an assassination plot involving Oswald and two Cuban exile
17 associates who used the code names of Angel and Leopoldo.

18 At the time, Mr. Nagall was working as a double-agent
19 and had connections to the Soviet KGB and/or GRU intelligence
20 services, as well as Cuban intelligence, possibly Japanese
21 intelligence, and the CIA.

22 The intent of the conspirators, according to Mr.
23 Nagall, was to pin the blame on Castro's Cuba and spark an
24 invasion of the island, and he has stated that Oswald was falsely
25 convinced that he was working on Castro's behalf.

1 Now, here, for example, is an FBI document that
2 already exists concerning Mr. Nagall, dated December 20, 1963,
3 where he states that he met Oswald in Mexico City and in Texas.

4 This is a Secret Service document that was withheld
5 for many, many years -- finally, it was released, I guess, in
6 the 1970s -- which states that one of the Secret Service agents
7 interviewed Marina Oswald for approximately two hours on January
8 18, 1964, concerning Richard Case Nagall.

9 I don't believe that the transcript or any notes on
10 that interview have ever been made publicly available, and I
11 think that they should be.

12 I just want to read very briefly from one of the other
13 statements which would led you to perhaps seeking out these
14 documents.

15 This is an affidavit that Richard Nagall swore in
16 1975 which states that, in September 1963, the exact date of
17 which he was capable of verifying, he dispatched a letter via
18 registered mail to J. Edgar Hoover, with a return address in
19 Mexico, mailed within the United States.

20 The letter was neatly typewritten and composed in
21 the style and format used by operational personnel of the CIA
22 in writing their reports.

23 In this letter, he states that he advised Mr. Hoover
24 of a conspiracy, although he did not use that word, to
25 assassinate the President of the United States involving Lee

1 Harvey Oswald, indicating the attempt would take place in the
2 latter part of September 1963, originally.

3 He said I furnished a complete and accurate physical
4 description of Mr. Oswald, listing his true name, two of his
5 aliases, his residence address, and other pertinent facts about
6 him.

7 I disclosed sufficient data about the conspiracy,
8 citing an over act which constituted a violation of Federal
9 law, to warrant an immediate investigation if not the arrest
10 of Mr. Oswald.

11 I signed the letter with the name Joseph Kramer, an
12 alias of a known Communist or Soviet agent then residing in
13 Canada and also an alias that I had used during my meetings
14 with two FBI agents in January of 1963 in Miami.

15 I am willing to undergo a polygraph examination
16 relative to any and all statements made herein.

17 I am aware that substantial government files exist
18 pertaining to Mr. Nagall and his activities with the CIA, the
19 FBI, the State Department, Secret Service, U.S. Passport Office,
20 and at the Army Records Intelligence Repository Center in Fort
21 Holabird, Maryland.

22 Mr. Nagall has previously obtained his lengthy CIA
23 and FBI files under the Freedom of Information Act, and since
24 he has been quoted publicly in books, magazine articles, and
25 newspapers that he was cognizant of Oswald and an assassination

1 plot, I believe it is in the public interest to waive any privacy
2 act restrictions and review for release the records maintained
3 on him by these agencies.

4 I think it would also be important, as has been pointed
5 out by Ms. McMillan, to request of representatives of the KGB
6 and/or the GRU any files they have retained on Mr. Nagall, as
7 he also says that he wrote and signed a confession while
8 incarcerated by Soviet authorities during the summer of 1968.

9 Files on him may also exist with Cuban intelligence
10 and Japanese intelligence, which was known at the time as the
11 Cabinet Research Office.

12 He stated that Oswald, while a Marine in Japan, met
13 with a Colonel Nikolai Eroshkin, whom it has been verified was,
14 indeed, at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo as an intelligence agent
15 at the time, and with Professor Chikao Fujisawa.

16 These people, too, I believe, should be sought
17 information about through the files.

18 I listed, and I won't read them here, but that any
19 file search into him should also involve researching his various
20 aliases, and I think that's something that should be done with
21 other witnesses, as well, who have used pseudonyms, because
22 files may exist under those names.

23 It should be noted that he himself has said that he
24 used the aliases of Alec Hidell, which was the alias that Oswald
25 used, indicating that that was an alias used by more than one

1 person as part of some kind of intelligence operation.

2 I have listed other files in my testimony that I've
3 submitted to you that I won't read here but indicating where
4 he has said they would be available, and I would say about him,
5 too, that although a concerted effort was made by various
6 government agencies to portray him in a light that would cast
7 doubt upon his veracity, a thorough search of these records
8 would indicate otherwise and that any release of material
9 pertinent to the assassination would not be complete, in my
10 opinion, without the Nagall material.

11 He is still alive. He lives in the Los Angeles area.

12 He has indicated to me in the past that, if he was ever
13 subpoenaed by a government agency, he would be willing to
14 testify.

15 Even though the Warren Commission knew about him,
16 as well as the House Committee on Assassinations, for reasons
17 best known to those members, he was never called.

18 I would urge the review board to use its powers of
19 subpoena to call Mr. Nagall for testimony.

20 It would also be pertinent to examine records for
21 information on Oswald's alleged associates, Angel and Leopoldo,
22 both of whom were also identified by Sylvia Odio as visitors
23 to her apartment in September of 1963.

24 These two individuals were reportedly associated with
25 the Cuban exile group ALPHA-66 in Mexico City and elsewhere,

1 as well as JURE and the MRP, or Movimiento Revolucionario del
2 Pueblo.

3 Mr. Nagall referred on several occasions to the late
4 Antonio or Tony Cuesta, a Cuban exile leader, as an individual
5 who may have had association with these conspirators.

6 I believe I have mentioned to you before, and I hope
7 this came up at the Kennedy Library yesterday, that there is
8 a file there on Cuban exiles which has never been released to
9 the public, and I feel it would be very pertinent to your
10 investigation.

11 Since the first assassination plot against the
12 President originated in Mexico City at the time of the Cuban
13 missile crisis, CIA files originating there might contain
14 information about this.

15 Pertinent here would be CIA material on the Hotel
16 Luna, its proprietor, and in particular, a head waiter named
17 Franz Waehauf.

18 I would urge the review board to obtain the complete
19 autobiographical manuscript of former CIA station chief Winston
20 Scott, which was taken out of Mexico City shortly after his
21 death in 1969 by the CIA's counterintelligence chief, James
22 Angleton.

23 I think pertinent here, too, and something that should
24 be looked at is the possibility that there was an intelligence
25 operation surrounding Oswald that may have had nothing to do

1 with the assassination itself but may have concerned CIA
2 interests in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and also CIA
3 interests in the possibility that they had been penetrated by
4 an agent of the other side and that they were observing Oswald,
5 monitoring his contacts to see if this so-called mole search
6 would turn up anything. It's a vast area. Obviously, James
7 Angleton's files would contain a great deal about it.

8 I named other individuals here that are rather obscure
9 that I won't go into again, but Mr. Nagall has stated that a
10 young Trotskyite from the San Antonio area named Harry L. Power
11 left behind a Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, much like Oswald's,
12 in an Indiana hotel room immediately after the assassination.

13 This has been verified from other sources. There
14 have even been newspaper articles about this fellow, and files
15 on Harry Power should be scrutinized.

16 I also think that records pertaining to far-right
17 extremists should be examined closely, and I will mention
18 specifically the H.L. Hunt oil family in Texas. Mr. Hunt, of
19 course, is no longer alive, but his sons are.

20 I was told by two different employees of the Hunt
21 oil family -- one of them told me that the first copy of the
22 Zapruder film was, in fact, purchased not by Life magazine but
23 by the Hunt oil family, and I think they should be questioned
24 about what happened to it, because it may have contained
25 different footage than we have ever seen.

1 I was told by another employee of the Hunt oil family
2 that Mr. Hunt asked him directly to check out the security around
3 Oswald in the Dallas jail on the Saturday after the
4 assassination, that he did so, reported back to Mr. Hunt that
5 there was very little security, in fact one could get close
6 to Oswald, and of course, the next day, Jack Ruby, who had visited
7 the Hunt oil offices on the 17th of November, shot Lee Harvey
8 Oswald.

9 I would be willing to turn over to the Committee a
10 collection of private papers from the H.L. Hunt family, which
11 I obviously could not say how I obtained but which reveal that
12 they conducted an ongoing investigation into what Jim Garrison
13 was doing in 1967.

14 In other words, they were doing a private
15 investigation at the time, trying to see if the Garrison
16 investigation would point to them.

17 There are other individuals whose files should be
18 looked at and who should be called.

19 John Thomas Mason, I believe, is still alive in the
20 Dallas area. I did an article in the Village Voice a number
21 of years ago which recounted the story of an Alcohol, Tobacco,
22 and Firearms agent named Frank Elsworth, who told me of arresting
23 Mason shortly before the assassination.

24 He was an arms dealer, a member of the Minute Men
25 close to the Hunt oil family and Cuban exiles and, in fact,

1 looked so much like Oswald that, when Frank Elsworth was called
2 into the police station on the afternoon of the assassination,
3 he thought that he had arrested and then he released Mason before
4 the assassination, the man who had shot the President.

5 Larry Schmidt is another individual who should be
6 looked at. He was very close to General Walker, his brother
7 worked for Walker, and I was told on very good authority --in
8 fact, General Walker himself told me before he died that he
9 suspected that the Schmidt brothers, who were very right-wing,
10 may have been involved with Oswald in the shooting attempt
11 against him.

12 I also think, finally, that -- and I don't know how
13 you go about this exactly, because it's a vast field, and many
14 of the files have been destroyed -- but there is a possibility
15 that Oswald could have been under some kind of hypnotic control,
16 as far out as that may seem.

17 We know of the existence of a CIA program called
18 MK-Ultra and of military intelligence programs along the same
19 line, where efforts were made to control and manipulate human
20 behavior.

21 When I took passages from Ms. McMillan's book about
22 Oswald's behavior patterns in, particularly, February before
23 he shot Walker or attempted to shoot Walker, apparently, and
24 in July of '63, one of the leading experts on hypnosis in this
25 country told me that the description in that book is a classic

example of what is called a hypnotic abreaction.

1
2 Oswald was stationed then at Otsugi, of course, in
3 Japan, where LSD work was known to be going on.

4 There have been all kinds of rumors about this over
5 the years, and I've researched this rather extensively and feel
6 there is, indeed, a possibility that something like this could
7 have been employed with Oswald.

8 Bo Alexander, who was the Assistant DA in Dallas at
9 the time, told me that he believed that "the Manchurian
10 Candidate" theory was a viable one almost immediately after
11 the assassination.

12 I would, finally, just like to thank you for your
13 consideration of these requests in order that the American
14 people might finally come to know the truth about what happened
15 in Dallas, because I believe that, until this happens, we will
16 remain unable to reclaim the heritage that made this Nation
17 what it was.

18 This great trauma of modern American history has
19 affected all aspects of our political and social life. Our
20 democracy has never really recovered from the assassination
21 and the terrible events that followed in the '60s, including
22 the assassinations of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Bobby
23 Kennedy.

24 John F. Kennedy once foresaw, prophetically, that
25 "We shall have to test anew whether a nation organized and

1 governed such as ours can endure. The outcome is by no means
2 certain."

3 Today, I am afraid we live in a nation far removed
4 from the new frontier that President Kennedy envisioned. We
5 see racism, poverty, homelessness, drugs, and violence
6 permeating our republic and the seeds of a government completely
7 removed from the real concerns of the people, with control
8 concentrated in the hands of a powerful few, I believe, were
9 planted on the day of the Kennedy assassination.

10 The assassination remains a gaping wound in our
11 national psyche. Tens of thousands of documents are still being
12 withheld by various Federal agencies, and I would simply call,
13 finally, for full disclosure.

14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you, Mr. Russell.

16 Questions?

17 DR. HALL: Mr. Russell, would you know the scope and
18 character of the records that Mr. Nagall has in his personal
19 possession?

20 MR. RUSSELL: I have never seen most of the records
21 that he has in his personal possession. I know that, in the
22 1980s, he fought for a long time to get his CIA files and finally
23 did, and then his FBI files.

24 He did tell me, in 1984, which was the last time I
25 saw him in person, that these files of the FBI contained what

1 he called false information linking him to Sam Giancana and
2 John Roselli, two of the mobsters who were involved in the
3 anti-Castro plots with the CIA.

4 I don't know exactly why he told me that, whether
5 it's true or false. He said he did know Roselli, and he had
6 met Giancana once.

7 And I know that -- Army intelligence, I believe,
8 has -- I have a lawyer in Washington who has been seeking some
9 of those files, and apparently some 900 pages of Army
10 intelligence files about him have been found and could be,
11 certainly, releasable.

12 DR. HALL: Can you better inform on those, those
13 materials? Is this something with which we are familiar, the
14 900 pages?

15 MR. RUSSELL: I haven't seen them yet. I have simply
16 been told that they have responded to this attorney to the effect
17 that these records exist and that one would be charged X amount
18 per page for them.

19 They did do another release earlier this year of some
20 records about him, and there have been a few items coming out
21 in the new releases from the CIA and the FBI.

22 I will certainly be glad to inform you of anything
23 further when I find out about it.

24 DR. HALL: That would be very helpful.

25 Mr. Chairman, I just have one other question.

CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Go ahead.

1
2 DR. HALL: I must say the State of Massachusetts
3 currently either has short legislators or it has a very powerful
4 chiropractic lobby here. These chairs, I think, were designed
5 for others, other than human beings.

6 The thrust of my question to you about Nagall and
7 the materials he has is not so much the materials that were
8 created on him which he has now gained possession of but whether
9 he has any governmental materials in his possession that relate
10 to matters other than -- and especially anything that would
11 relate to MK-Ultra or to the operations of the CIA outside the
12 United States.

13 MR. RUSSELL: I doubt that he would have anything
14 on MK-Ultra, but I would think that he would information relating
15 to activities outside the United States of the intelligence
16 agencies.

17 I know -- he has told me that there was a
18 photograph -- this isn't pertaining to the assassination
19 directly, but in a bank vault in another country, there is a
20 faded Polaroid photograph of himself with Oswald in Jackson
21 Square in New Orleans, that perhaps somewhere a tape recording
22 of a discussion between Oswald, Nagall, and two conspirators
23 exists.

24 I know that the Garrison investigation tried to get
25 it, but the man that they sent happened to be a CIA agent himself.

1 He was infiltrated on the Garrison staff, apparently.

2 Nagall claimed that this tape recording didn't exist,
3 but he has also hinted that it may still exist, and certainly,
4 he would have ample records on activities in Japan, Mexico City,
5 and elsewhere where he operated.

6 DR. HALL: Do you think he would testify without a
7 grant of immunity?

8 MR. RUSSELL: I think he should be granted immunity.
9 If he were offered immunity, I believe he would probably do
10 it.

11 DR. HALL: Thank you very much.

12 DR. JOYCE: Mr. Russell, I am wondering -- you have
13 mentioned a variety of names and aliases this morning, and I'm
14 wondering if you have any certain knowledge of records in
15 government agencies or even in private hands pertaining to any
16 of them that have not been released.

17 MR. RUSSELL: Concerning aliases in general of the
18 various individuals?

19 DR. JOYCE: Well, concerning any of the people whom
20 you have mentioned either by their name, their alias, or even
21 a cryptonym or something of that nature.

22 MR. RUSSELL: Well, nothing comes immediately to
23 mind, but certainly, a number of people who have come up over
24 the years as having possible knowledge of the assassination
25 have used aliases.

1 One example that I can think of is this fellow that
2 I interviewed who is now dead, Colonel William Bishop, who
3 maintained that he had some knowledge of the assassination ahead
4 of time and used the name John Adrian O'Hare, and the there
5 was this sort of thing -- well, did O'Hare die in 1975 and Bishop
6 live on or -- I mean it's a very murky world, as you know, and
7 certainly, cryptonyms are very important.

8 Am/LASH comes to mind, which was the cryptonym for
9 Orlando Corvella, who was involved in the assassination plots
10 against Castro.

11 I think there must be -- in fact, there's been released
12 now a long list of CIA cryptonomic programs, and of course,
13 it's a lengthy process to go into that and find out who was
14 involved in all these operations, but if I do think of anything
15 further directly about people's aliases, I will let you know.

16 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Mr. Russell, did you ever attempt
17 to gain information from any Japanese sources, Japanese
18 government sources, in particular?

19 MR. RUSSELL: I never went to Japan myself. I know
20 that, during the course of the front-line investigation, a
21 researcher whom I know did spend some time tracking down people
22 in Japan and wasn't really able to come up with much. I don't
23 know if he looked in the right places. I mean Japan is very
24 secretive about all this.

25 You know, they sent an investigator of their own to

1 this country, named Atsuyuki Sassa, I believe, immediately after
2 the assassination, to try to find out what the American
3 government was looking at, and I personally think that there
4 may be some very interesting material in Japan.

5 Exactly where you would look -- as I said, I know
6 that the intelligence agency there, the CIA's counterpart, was
7 called the Cabinet Research Office, and I think they should
8 be requested to see what they have on Oswald.

9 He was stationed there, of course, for a long time.

10 The Japanese police, I'm told, surveiled him, took pictures
11 of him outside the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo on occasion when
12 he walked in, and I definitely think it would be a further area
13 for pursuit.

14 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you, Mr. Russell. We very
15 much appreciate your expertise and sharing information with
16 us.

17 We have two additional witnesses for our hearing
18 today.

19 George Michael Evica -- he is the author of *And We
20 Are All Mortal: New Evidence and Analysis in the Assassination
21 of John F. Kennedy*, which was published in 1978. Mr. Evica,
22 welcome, and if you would help us focus on the records this
23 morning, we'd appreciate it.

24 MR. EVICA: Thank you.

25 "The arc of the universe bends toward justice," from

1 a letter to the editor by Joseph E. Lowry, President, Southern
2 Christian Leadership Conference, New York Times, March 25, 1995.

3 While this is not in the prepared notes that I gave
4 you copies of, this is a message from Marina Oswald Porter,
5 who urges you to subpoena all film and all video generated by
6 both the networks and the local stations in Dallas and,
7 obviously, also from Austin and Houston, et cetera, and in the
8 light of that, especially since Mr. Trask was so helpful, I
9 wanted to tell you that Trask, of course, and Groden, of course,
10 but also Martin Shackelford would be excellent sources for
11 finding film and video, and because I was a production editor
12 for five years, as well as their music and effects editor at
13 the same time, I know that one of the problems you will face
14 when you get professional tape -- two inches,
15 inch-and-a-half -- from the '60s, you very well may not have
16 the equipment on which to run it and view it.

17 So, I urge you to check equipment for running and
18 viewing professional tape, et cetera, and if such equipment
19 is available, possibly duplicating it, actually duplicating
20 the equipment or getting it on long-term loan.

21 Also, when you do get film and tape, be very careful
22 with it, because it will be already in the process of
23 deterioration. You might want to copy some of it.

24 About getting the message out, I urge you -- for
25 example, in photography -- and this is all part of my

1 statement -- to look into photographic clubs, photographic
2 magazines, photographic journals, and place ads, but also get
3 on the Internet and the World Wide Web and tell them that you're
4 looking for document suggestions, tell them you're looking for
5 document requests, and get on all the bulletin boards and ask
6 for those private sources.

7 I've given over 12 major papers since 1985 at
8 conferences in Washington, Louisville, Dallas, et cetera.

9 Among the major the 20 major topics, I narrowed the
10 topics for us here to six and then possibly three others if
11 we have time, and I'd like to go over those with you now, and
12 the topics are the Texas Trip: Presidential Security, the Texas
13 Trip: The Dallas Motorcade Route, the Texas School Book
14 Depository Building, Rifles, Ballistics, and as I said, possibly
15 three others. You will notice that, among the other topics
16 are, in fact, a topic that was touched on by Dick Russell.

17 For the first, the House Select Committee on
18 Assassinations took note of the local and Federal security
19 errors, security lapses, and security inadequacies in Dallas
20 on November 22, '63, and specifically around and in Dealey Plaza,
21 resulting in a site the Committee judged to be, quoting the
22 Committee itself, "uniquely insecure."

23 Since no later than '75, researchers have collected
24 comments circulating not just among researchers but in the U.S.
25 intelligence community on a possible Dealey Plaza assassination

1 scenario; that is, a covert test of the President's security,
2 including a simulated attack to be attributed to pro-Castro
3 agents or sympathizers, that test justifying an actual security
4 stripping as part of the simulation. With the President made
5 vulnerable, the assassination plot succeeds.

6 Now, what documents would you need? Obviously, all
7 documents touching on presidential security no later than April
8 1963. I would bet that probably from April 23rd you would begin
9 to see security documents of importance.

10 From April of '63 through November of '63, in the
11 files of the Dallas police, especially their special
12 services -- that would be Officer Reynolds' division -- the
13 Secret Service, especially its presidential protective
14 division; the CIA, especially the Office of Security, I think
15 you should know, is the CIA inside the CIA -- and the FBI,
16 especially what might remain of J. Edgar Hoover's files,
17 including the document called
18 "An Agreement Between the FBI and the Secret Service" that would
19 be on presidential protection.

20 Now, what about the route? Contrary to what most
21 people think, the motorcade route was neither controlled by
22 the White House nor by Vice President Johnson. Governor John
23 Connally and his Austin and Dallas associates dictated the
24 specifics of that Texas trip.

25 There's only a paragraph here. I have about 200 pages

1 now developed that document that fact. I'm not speculating
2 on it. It was Connally and his associates who dictated the
3 specifics of the trip, most significantly the Dallas segment,
4 including the motorcade route.

5 If the route was, in fact, determined at an early
6 date, allowing conspirators carefully to plan the
7 assassination, then the history of that decision-making process
8 relative to the trip to Dallas and of the motorcade route through
9 Dealey Plaza needs to be fully documented.

10 Now, neither the Warren Commission nor the House
11 Select Committee on Assassinations has such documentary
12 evidence.

13 In fact, the most important House Select Committee
14 on Assassinations document is tucked away in an appendix to
15 the 12 volumes. It's remarkable that that's where you find
16 out the most about the motorcade from the House Select Committee
17 on Assassinations.

18 You need, then, all the documents relating to the
19 Dallas motorcade route from the Dallas police, the so-called
20 host committee in Dallas -- there were other host committees
21 in Fort Worth and in Austin -- the Secret Service but especially
22 the documents of the Austin, Texas, Johnson-Connally office
23 and the Austin Secret Service.

24 Less well known is my second suggestion that you get
25 all the documents relating to the Dallas motorcade route

1 associated with, sent to, created by, or sent by Mr. Bill Moyers,
2 the White House's representative in Austin the latter part of
3 November '63.

4 Mr. Moyers worked with the Secret Service in Boston
5 and communicated, apparently, directly and indirectly with both
6 the Dallas Secret Service and with the Dallas host committee
7 on the motorcade route.

8 I'm going to skip the Texas School Book Depository
9 Building, because I think that's obvious, but it's only been
10 taken up once in the literature, and that's in Jerry Rose's
11 Fourth Decade Journal.

12 About the rifles, I think you realize that there
13 is -- finally, we get at the heart of the problem and the hard
14 evidence as we look at the rifles, plural, and most people do
15 not know about the SIFAR documents.

16 The SIFAR documents are the Italian armed forces
17 intelligence service documents identifying the rifle reputedly
18 found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository
19 and photographed so that the photographs went around the world
20 as a 7.35 rifle in appearance, re-barrelled to 6.5.

21 That means every discussion on the possibility of
22 it being a larger millimeter size is justified by its apparent
23 appearance. I'm not speculating now. I have some of the SIFAR
24 documents but not all of them.

25 It's very important for you, therefore, to get all

1 the SIFAR documents -- that's the military -- Italian military
2 intelligence service documents -- in their original Italian,
3 including those documents generated by SIFAR in Italy but not
4 shared with U.S. intelligence agencies, all SIFAR documents
5 received by the FBI, the CIA, the Treasury Department from SIFAR
6 directly or indirectly transmitted.

7 FBI Special Agent Robert Frazier is still available.

8 The last time I talked to Francis X. O'Neill, former FBI agent,
9 he indicated that Robert Frazier would be happy to talk about
10 ballistics and about the rifles.

11 So, he would be especially helpful here, since he
12 worked with the documents, the SIFAR documents, and testified
13 to the Warren Commission using SIFAR documents.

14 Now, those documents are apparently not in the Warren
15 Commission records. So, you'd have to go to the Italian
16 government and to the FBI.

17 It is very important, by the way -- it was very
18 important at the time -- I didn't realize why, but then Defense
19 Minister Giulio Andreotti was quite concerned about the fact
20 that it was, in fact, a Mannlicher-Carcano, and if you're
21 wondering if the Italian bureaucracy and the media found that
22 of interest, they flew two people over from Panorama, which
23 is the Italian equivalent of Time magazine, to interview me
24 in Connecticut for three hours when I broke this story on the
25 SIFAR documents, at Giulio Andreotti's request to the Italian

1 military that they explore the whole story of the alleged
2 assassination rifle.

3 Now, about ballistics -- and I think it's very
4 important that you see where that ballistics story is going.

5 Beginning with former CIA chief Allen Dulles, a member
6 of the Warren Commission, and continuing through a series of
7 CIA officers, both active and retired, the FBI's so-called
8 ballistics match of the rifle reportedly found in the
9 depository, CE-399, the bullet reportedly found at Parkland,
10 and the fragments reportedly recovered from the presidential
11 limo, have been seriously questioned.

12 If you look at the 26 volumes and you look at the
13 testimony of Robert Frazier before the Warren Commission, the
14 commissioners themselves doubted the FBI's ballistics argument.

15 Check it, please.

16 Dulles express his doubt directly to FBI Agent Robert
17 Frazier when the FBI's rifle expert was making his ballistic
18 presentation to the Commission.

19 Now, notice that, if we go through these documents,
20 we're going for documents about the hard evidence that allegedly
21 involves Lee Harvey Oswald through a broken chain of evidence
22 from that ballistics match that the Warren Commission members
23 did not buy through a rifle that cannot be linked directly to
24 Lee Harvey Oswald to the assassination.

25 Very important, therefore, that you look for, as I

1 said in my documents section on this topic, the FBI's original
2 microscopic comparisons in photographs and slides that need
3 to be recovered from wherever they are.

4 FBI Agent Robert Frazier's notes and work materials
5 need to be recovered so that an independent analysis of the
6 ballistics evidence as it was available to the FBI, not now,
7 but in November of '63 can be made.

8 I can assure you that, when you take the original
9 FBI spectrographic reports and the original FBI neutron
10 activation analysis tests -- and I have those documents from
11 the FBI, and by the way, some or all of them are missing now
12 from the National Archives, so I may be one of the people from
13 whom you need to get documents that no longer exist either in
14 the FBI files or in the National Archives -- that I would urge
15 you to have those independently checked by a spectroscopist
16 and a neutron activation analysis person.

17 About the others, my other topics, I was very happy
18 to hear Dick Russell talk about John Thomas Mason. You will
19 get your best -- I think, for now -- your best leads on John
20 Thomas Mason and his relationship to ALPHA-66 and Frank Elsworth
21 from Elsworth's documents -- that is, the Treasury Department's
22 records -- and from the documents that are cited in my book,
23 *And We Are All Mortal*.

24 For the medical records at Parkland and Bethesda,
25 no one has looked yet for the teaching institution records.

1 Almost all of the doctors at Parkland and at Bethesda, many
2 of them, had teaching institution connections, and some of them
3 made reports to their teaching institutions; that is, as part
4 of an internship, residency, et cetera.

5 I would make no assumptions. Find out every teaching
6 institution that was involved with Parkland and every teaching
7 institution that was involved with Bethesda, find out if there
8 were any records distributed from both Parkland and Bethesda
9 to those teaching institutions' files. I think you're going
10 to come up with some very interesting material there.

11 Lastly, the Bethesda medical record -- the last time
12 that I interview Francis X. O'Neill, former FBI agent, he said
13 at approximately midnight, he left Bethesda, the morgue room,
14 where a fully-clothed body, presumably of John F. Kennedy, was
15 in the coffin and the work largely, both of the autopsysts
16 and the cosmeticists, had been concluded.

17 Yet, sometime after midnight -- I think after
18 1:00 -- we know that at least two Secret Service saw an apparently
19 naked John F. Kennedy on his face, and they were asked to verify
20 a bullet hole in his back.

21 What you have to reconcile, therefore, are two
22 different sets of records that are at odds with what Francis
23 X. O'Neill reports he saw as he left Bethesda and what Secret
24 Service Agent Heale reports as he stayed at Bethesda, and that's
25 no small concern, because that brings up that whole question

of body alteration.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Any questions for Mr. Evica?

DR. NELSON: I have a question.

How do you think we should treat the information that reveals presidential protection if, in fact, they're still using many of those same methods today.

MR. EVICA: They are still using some of those same methods, and let me take you back to 1975 and '6, when I was in close touch with George O'Toole, former problems analysis chief of the Central Intelligence Agency.

I talked about a history of security stripping from the presidency of John F. Kennedy to the two shootings in which President Ford was involved.

George O'Toole had no doubt that security was inadequate and that we were going to have war, in effect, results of either security stripping or inadequate security that would threaten the lives of the presidents.

I see that as a pattern, this inadequacy of presidential security. Some may see it as something even more.

But certainly, the uniquely insecure security of the President of the United States on November 22, 1963, was the context in which John F. Kennedy was killed.

CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: That's it, Mr. Evica. We appreciate your sharing your information with us today.

1 MR. EVICA: Thank you. I will be sending you a much
2 longer memo.

3 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Great. We appreciate it.

4 We'd like to hear now from Mr. Edgar Tatro, who is
5 an assassination researcher who has assisted many authors.

6 Mr. Tatro, welcome.

7 MR. TATRO: Thank you for the opportunity. I know
8 that you guys must be tired, and there's only a few minutes
9 left, so I'll try to be as brief as possible, which is tough
10 for a high school English teacher to do, but I'll do the best
11 I can.

12 To answer a couple of quick questions, John Apt worked
13 with Harold Weisberg years and years ago, and he may have in
14 his extensive files files on Apt.

15 I can hook you up with a man who is involved with
16 FBI watchdog abuses. They haven't focused on assassination,
17 but they might know people that might know people.

18 Here at home here, Harold Issacs was a MIT professor
19 here, and there were FBI documents that linked him to the Aunt
20 Lillian, Dorothy Murat from New Orleans, and perhaps you should
21 contact MIT and see what they have on Harold Issacs and see
22 what the relationship is to Oswald's aunt.

23 Let's see here, quickly. Bullets. Bullets. A lot
24 of the things that Mr. Evica has talked about are right on the
25 button. He and I obviously have been working separately but

on similar issues, especially the Texas aspects.

1 He talks about one of the rifles that came through
2 St. Albans, Vermont, and ended up coming through -- he talks
3 about two different rifles with the same serial numbers, and
4 one of them came through St. Albans, Vermont.

5 The bullets -- I wrote an 8,000-word article on the
6 bullets. The bullets went to Greece, came through Canada,
7 Vermont, and ended up in Texas and might tie into Mason, as
8 well. So, that's it.

9 Besides, also, the company that made the bullets is
10 the same company that supplied the arms and ammunition for the
11 Iran-Contra affair, which is not good company.

12 I am interested mainly in Lyndon Johnson. Four major
13 scandals were going on at that time.

14 There was the TFX scandal with Fred Korth, who had
15 to resign a month before the assassination, close friend of
16 Lyndon Johnson's. There was the Bobby Baker scandal, there
17 was the Billy Sol Estes scandal, and there was Jack Halfen,
18 a mafia man working for Marcello.

19 All four of those scandals were exploding on the scene
20 in 1963. Once President Kennedy was dead and Lyndon Johnson
21 was president, they all stopped. All documents relating to
22 those four guys and associates of them should be looked into.

23 George DeMohrenschildt was contacting Lyndon
24 Johnson. He was Oswald's best friend. He was contacting
25

1 George Bush. There's a whole series of relationships between
2 DeMohrenschildt and all of these power figures, especially the
3 oil man, Clint Murchison.

4 John Currington and Paul Rothemell are alive. They
5 were H.L. Hunt's oil men. I believe Rothemell recently just
6 had heart bypass surgery, so he may not be in the best of shape.

7 Okay. I have a record that came through Emily Brown,
8 an excellent researcher who is very little known from the New
9 Jersey area, and the Navy, by accident -- actually, it came
10 through the Air Force.

11 It's a document that puts Oswald in Gulf Port,
12 Mississippi, and he wasn't there, according to the Navy. I
13 have the actual document, and I have all the Navy denials, and
14 I don't know what it means, but something is sure amiss.

15 Oswald's military intelligence files were destroyed.

16 The House Select Committee called it very troublesome, which
17 is the understatement of a lifetime, but cross-reference files
18 were destroyed. I have a letter from the Navy admitting that.

19 The question is, is there any microfilm of these
20 things that could exist somewhere? It's hard to believe it
21 would just go.

22 I am in association with a number of Canadian
23 researchers who are pursuing a number of aspects of the case.

24 They would be glad to help you, and I can hook you up with
25 them.

1 I have a letter from the Canadian government admitting
2 they destroyed Oswald files as recently as 1990. So, that's
3 not very good.

4 When Oswald came back from Russia, he met with a man
5 they call the travel agent, Spas Raikim, but actually he was
6 the president of the anti-Bolsheviks nation, and I've been able
7 to obtain documents showing correspondence between Hoover in
8 1959 to Raikim.

9 Raikim says it's all innocent, but there are things
10 blacked out, and even he doesn't know what they are blacked
11 out. So, even he would like to get a hold of those things.

12 There are at least five witnesses who said there was
13 a hole in that windshield, forget about the dent, that there
14 was a hole in it, and it's never been resolved, and I have been
15 told that there were five to eight windshields available and
16 they could switch windshields. I think someone ought to try
17 to look into the possibility of a windshield switch.

18 There's a sidewalk scar down here that was stolen
19 by Earl Golz, broken right out of the sidewalk. It's down in
20 a Texas researcher's possession now. It does fit a bullet miss
21 from the other knoll that no one talks about.

22 I can show you a human-like figure with a rifle that,
23 my god, you could fish from that angle. I brought those pictures
24 with me in case anybody really wanted to look at them.

25 Oswald, it's been alleged, was at the Monterey School

1 in Miami, by one of the Warren Commission members in January
2 of 1964. There are no records. It's called the Defense
3 Language Institute now.

4 The Defense Language Institute told me that they
5 didn't have any records on Oswald and that they did not keep
6 any correspondence between them and the Warren Commission or
7 them and the House Select Committee. That's hard to believe.

8 Maybe there is some correspondence in existence in the House
9 Select Committee files.

10 Allen Dulles' mistress, Mary Bancroft, was also a
11 CIA agent. She was the friend of Michael Paine's mother.
12 Michael Paine and Ruth Paine were taking care of Marina Oswald.

13 Now, where there is smoke, there is not necessarily
14 fire, but any fireman will tell you, most fires, people get
15 killed by smoke inhalation, and I would like to know what the
16 relationship is between Allen Dulles, Ruth Paine, Mary Bancroft,
17 and the Oswalds.

18 Let's see here. I think I'll skip as many things
19 as possible.

20 The House Select Committee said that the 201 file
21 had 37 documents that were unavailable at the time. Are they
22 available now?

23 There were microphones, I'm told, in the autopsy room
24 in Bethesda. Did somebody tape record that autopsy? It would
25 be nice to find out more about that.

1 And there are a number of other issues here, but I'll
2 beg off because of time constraints. I'll be glad to try to
3 help you guys out in any way I can.

4 One other thing. Mr. Trask covered most of the film
5 people.

6 There is Richard Sprague, the researcher, who did
7 all of the collecting of films and photographs in the early
8 years, and there is a man in Canada named Dave Hawkins who makes
9 a living out of this, but he has a great deal of photographic
10 materials, as well as other things that might be available to
11 you.

12 One last thing. I almost forgot.

13 The FBI finger-printed those boxes, the perch where
14 Oswald was supposed to be. There were 28 prints. 24 of them
15 belonged to the two FBI agents who did the printing. Three
16 of them belonged to Oswald, and there is one print that nobody
17 ever identified.

18 If we had a copy of that print, maybe the public can
19 find out who owned that print, and maybe it's a bad guy.

20 Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you, Mr. Tatro.

22 Any questions?

23 [No response.]

24 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: In the interests of time, thank
25 you very much for --

1 MR. TATRO: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: -- sharing with us today.

3 This brings to a close our public hearing for today
4 in Boston of the Assassination Records Review Board. I want
5 to give you our address and telephone numbers for anyone who
6 wishes to jot them down to share information with us.

7 As I indicated earlier, the board is very interested
8 in hearing from anyone who wants to direct us toward particular
9 records.

10 Our address is at 600 E Street, Northwest, in
11 Washington, D.C., and the zip is 20530. Our telephone number
12 is 202-724-0088, and the fax number, the same area code,
13 202-724-0457.

14 We thank all of our witnesses this morning for sharing
15 information with us, excellent advice, and we very much
16 appreciate their willingness to be here today.

17 We thank the members of the public for joining us
18 today, and we look forward to your following our continued work
19 as we try to uncover all of the records of the assassination
20 of President Kennedy.

21 Thank you very much. Meeting adjourned.

22 [Whereupon, at 12:58 p.m., the meeting was
23 concluded.]
24
25