

March 20, 1996

Dr. Beverly Miller
President
Western New England College
1215 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA 01119-2684

Dear Dr. Miller:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal agency created by The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL 102-526) to oversee the review and release of records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. I have enclosed a fact sheet on the Review Board for your information.

An important part of the Review Board's mandate, as articulated by the United States Congress, is to compile at the National Archives as complete a record of the assassination as possible. The Congress clearly stated that the Review Board was to search beyond the records of previous governmental investigations and seek relevant assassination records that are in private repositories.

As I know you are aware, The Richard Sprague Collection on the John F. Kennedy Collection is housed at the D'Amour Library at Western New England College. Mr. Sprague compiled a large collection of photographs that are related to the assassination of President Kennedy. A member of our senior staff recently reviewed the Collection with Ms. Kathie Burns, who was kind enough to give us access to the materials. As a result of this review, the Review Board is now very interested in discussing with you the possibility of arranging for the Sprague Collection to be included in the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection at the National Archives.

We are aware, of course, that there are many factors that you would need to consider before taking such action. In this regard, I would like to point out those that I believe speak in favor of a donation of the material. First, the National Archives would guarantee state-of-the-art preservation, security, and accessibility for the materials in its facility in College Park, Maryland. Second, including the Sprague Collection in the JFK Collection at the National Archives would ensure that the materials

would be available to many more people, a fact that would surely have been important to Mr. Sprague. Third, the College would be relieved of the burden of providing the space and resources that are involved in properly housing and maintaining such a large collection. And finally, Western New England College would receive full credit for making the donation to the National Archives.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I would appreciate it if you would call me at your earliest convenience to discuss the Sprague Collection. I can be reached at (202) 724-0088, ext. 232, and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell
Executive Director

Enclosure