

October 30, 1996

Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army, Ret.) Daniel Marvin  
715 Hector Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Marvin:

I received your letter dated September 10, 1996. I regret that you found my earlier response disappointing.

You have a story about the assassination of President Kennedy that you want to tell. I invited you to tape that account onto an audiocassette and send it, together with any documents or other materials you consider relevant, to us for inclusion in the JFK Assassination Collection at the National Archives. You apparently have decided not to do that for the reason that an audiocassette doesn't strike you as good enough. Formal depositions (which require the presence of a court reporter and the preparation of an official transcript, plus travel costs either for the witness or ARRB staff) are extraordinarily expensive, and the ARRB's budget cannot support doing that except in extremely rare cases. In any event, whether audiotapes carry less probative weight than a formal sworn deposition does not matter. We are not collecting evidence for use in a court of law nor, for that matter, are we even conducting an investigation. Rather, our charter calls for us to seek out and assemble assassination-related materials for the National Archives. We are aggressively trying to do that, in many venues and with many people.

The preparation of audiotapes is a convenient and relatively inexpensive method of capturing personal reminiscences, and one we have previously used to good effect with several other individuals. Our offer still stands: we'll be happy to convey your audiocassette and any other materials to the Archives.

If you think that what you have to say is important to round out the historical understanding of President Kennedy's assassination, then you should accept this.

Finally, I regret you chose to conclude your letter with a personal attack on my integrity and courage.

This apparently springs from the fact that I admonished you in my letter of July 2, 1996, for citing me in your letter to Congressman Hinchey as a person who endorses your theories about the assassination. Whether I personally believe you or not is not the issue—and, in fact, I think you'll see from a careful reading of my earlier correspondence that I've tried to remain as neutral, interested and objective toward you and your potential contributions as I do all others who contact me or the ARRB. *The real point is that what you did was ethically improper.* You cited me as someone who has endorsed your theories, which is factually untrue inasmuch as I have never publicly done that. You tied my name to your personal crusade, which you had no right to do without my permission.

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And you cited my affiliation with the ARRB, thereby implying that the Review Board too is a party to your personal investigative efforts, which it is not. I again point out that this has nothing whatsoever to do with the facts, whatever they are, concerning Commander Pitzer's death, and everything to do with your improper conduct. The two are not the same.

I encourage you to reconsider your earlier decision and send the ARRB an audiotape for inclusion in the Archives. Unfortunately, unless you choose to do that, I see no purpose to be served by continuing to correspond with you.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Wray  
Colonel, Infantry (U.S. Army, Ret.)  
Chief Analyst for Military Records