

# DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# OFFICE OF RECORDS OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

**MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM NOR ADDED TO THIS FILE**

WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE OFFICE OF RECORDS  
OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

By order of the Attorney General

**THIS FILE HAS BEEN CHARGED AS INDICATED BELOW**

Requested by	Division	Date Issued	Returned
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[illegible]

# TO TRANSFER FILES

Sect. 1 thru 8 FRC

166-12C-1

Sect. 9

12-10-71-----

# Call





United States Department of Justice

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CRIMINAL DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

FEB 11 1980

166-12C-1 am

Mrs. J. Keller  
Everett, Washington 98206

Dear Mrs. Keller:

Your letter to Vice President Mondale concerning the re-opening of the Robert Kennedy Assassination investigation has been referred to me.

As you may know, the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy was a state, rather than a Federal crime, and its investigation and the prosecution of Sirhan Sirhan was the responsibility of California authorities. Subsequent to Senator Kennedy's assassination, Public Law 91-644 was passed making it a Federal crime to kill, kidnap, or assault a member of Congress. That law now appears at 18 U.S.C. 351.

Therefore, although we appreciate the interest of concerned citizens, such as yourself, no member of the Federal Executive Branch may be of assistance in this matter unless there is credible evidence that Federal laws in effect at the time of the assassination were violated.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Heymann  
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

BY: *Philip T. White*

Philip T. White  
Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General

T. 9-4-79

SEP 5 1979

DSD:CBM:ach:sds  
DJ 166-12c-1

Mr. Timothy J. Stanton  
17806 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Dear Mr. Stanton:

This ~~is~~ in response to your recent letter concerning  
the parole of Sirhan Sirhan.

It is always of interest for this Department to  
receive the views of private citizens on matters of  
current public interest.

Sincerely,

Drew S. Days, III  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

By:

C. Brian McDonald  
Deputy Chief  
Criminal Section

Records  
Chrono  
McDonald

*Sub  
P. 4. 79*

STANTON'S TOUCH FLOW SHOPPE

17806 Detroit Avenue  
LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107

DOT/USP

TO

Phone 521-2500

The White House  
President Jimmy Carter  
Washington D.C.

DATE

July 30 - 1979

SUBJECT

166-12C-1  
SIRHAN SIRHAN Parole

DEPT.

45

14 AUG 1979

RECORDED

AUG 22 1979

CIV.

> It is sickening to believe that Sirhan Sirhan who fatally shot Robert Kennedy and was convicted of it by our own courts will be eligible for parole Nov. 1st, 1984. How can this possibly happen?? Are our laws a joke? Since when does the majority of honest citizens have to be subjected to these barbarians who break our laws. If this continues you will see honest law abiding citizens walking guns in an effort to maintain peace & parity that is the job of government! Enforce to the letter the laws we have all decided on and all will benefit!!!

SIGNED

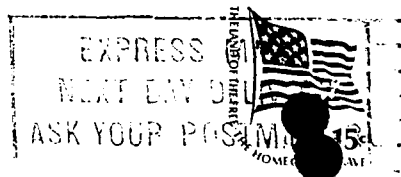
Timothy J. Stanton

☐ PLEASE REPLY

☐ NO REPLY NECESSARY

*Stanton's Touch Flower Shoppe*

17806 DETROIT AVE.  
LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107



*Pres. Jimmy Carter  
% The White House  
Washington D.C.*

*20510*

LAW OFFICES OF  
Vincent T. Bugliosi  
RECEIVED  
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION  
MAY 31 3 49 PM '79  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

*Docketed*  
*6/4/79*

Steinberg & Bugliosi

ROBERT K. STEINBERG, INC.  
ROBERT K. STEINBERG  
VINCENT T. BUGLIOSI  
RICHARD L. ROSSEN

9171 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 332  
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210  
272-8531 274-8878

F. LEE BAILEY  
ONE CENTER PLAZA  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108  
MEMBER, MASS. BAR

EDWARD J. BELLEN  
6 SANDGASSE  
6 FRANKFURT, MAIN GERMANY

DREW S. DAYS III  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
United States Department  
of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
20530

*files*

166-12C-1

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		RECORD
MAY 18, 1979		
46	MAY 31 1979	
R.A.O. CIVIL RIGHTS DIV.		

Dear Mr. Days:

Enclosed is correspondence between ourselves and the United States Attorney's office in Los Angeles over the past six months.

We call special attention to the letter just received from Chief Assistant Paul G. Flynn, wherein he notes that our findings in the Robert Kennedy assassination case have been forwarded to the Department of Justice, apparently after having been reviewed and analyzed by the U.S. Attorney's staff out here.

We can only assume that this material would not have been forwarded to higher authority were it not worthy of further consideration. Might we also note that the U.S. Attorney does not reject the jurisdiction of this matter under any civil rights statutes, as per the citing from your office by David B. Adler in his letter to us of April 6, 1979.

We should like clarification of your position on this matter at your earliest convenience.

JGC/WWT:bm

cc: Attorney General Griffin Bell  
Lester S. Hyman, Esq.  
Ms Andrea Ordin/Paul G. Flynn

ENCLOSURES

Sincerely yours,

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

LAW OFFICES OF  
Vincent T. Bugliosi

Steinberg & Bugliosi

ROBERT K. STEINBERG, INC.  
ROBERT K. STEINBERG  
VINCENT T. BUGLIOSI  
RICHARD L. ROSSEN

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6 FRANKFURT, MAIN GERMANY

MS ANDREA ORDIN  
United States Attorney  
312 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California  
90012

OCTOBER 18, 1978

Dear Ms Ordin:

Several months ago we had hand-delivered to you an advance (galley) copy of our just-released book on the Robert F. Kennedy assassination case. In a covering letter, we made note that there might be danger in store for a good many "prospective witnesses" identified in this case via our book. Such may now have occurred.

Enclosed is a letter to the Pomona Police Department relating to some recent events concerning the members of the Johnny Gray family, some of who have now provided us with additional information over and above that previously known and described in our book; it is our firm opinion that the lives of one or more of these witnesses could be in immediate danger.

We ask that you take immediate steps to protect the lives of all members of the Gray family in cooperation with the Pomona police authorities.

As previously stated, we stand ready to assist your office in any way useful; however, we are slightly disturbed that we have yet to receive any kind of response from you about the contents and contentions of our book.

If you do not take our appeal seriously, please notify us as such and we shall seek other intervention. However, it is our best opinion that your office has primary responsibility at this juncture.

JGC/WWT:jah

cc: Vincent T. Bugliosi  
Attorney General Griffin Bell

Very sincerely,

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

PGF:ff

\_\_\_\_\_

*United States Department of Justice*

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
U.S. COURT HOUSE  
312 NO. SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

November 22, 1978

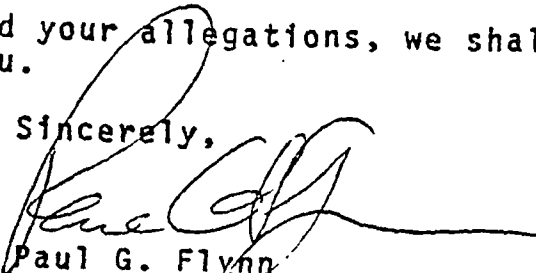
Mr. Jonn G. Christian  
Mr. William W. Turner  
Law Offices of Vincent T. Bugliosi  
9171 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 332  
Beverly Hills, California 90210

Dear Messrs. Christian and Turner:

We are in receipt of a proof of your book entitled  
"The Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy."

After we have reviewed your allegations, we shall  
be in contact with you.

Sincerely,

  
Paul G. Flynn  
Chief Assistant  
United States Attorney





LAW OFFICES OF  
Vincent T. Bugliosi

Steinberg & Bugliosi

ROBERT K. STEINBERG, INC.  
ROBERT K. STEINBERG  
VINCENT T. BUGLIOSI  
RICHARD L. ROSSEN

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EDWARD J. BELLEN  
6 SANDGASSE  
6 FRANKFURT, MAIN GERMANY

MR. PAUL G. FLYNN  
Chief Assistant  
United States Attorney  
312 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

DECEMBER 6, 1978

Dear Mr. Flynn:

In your letter of November 22nd you use the term "your allegations" as related to our book on the Robert F. Kennedy assassination; frankly, we are wary of this being used to classify some aspects of our investigation, most especially the evidence we've assembled in support of there having been more than one gunman firing at the assassination scene.

We suggest that official photographs from the FBI, the County Coroner, and signed statements from principals therein and others present at the crime scene, all attesting to a multiple weapon attack on Senator Kennedy, hardly constitutes "allegations" from our quarters; and when this evidence is juxtaposed with the handling of the "ballistics" aspects of the case by Los Angeles law enforcement officials (circa 1968-1978), it becomes all the more convincing that there exists "reasonable cause" to suspect that some type of a "conspiracy and cover-up" effected RFK's death.

The above information would best be placed before a federal grand jury for consideration and deliberation; if this is what you have in mind, we are prepared to assist in any way useful and necessary; if not, then we shall be compelled to seek appropriate remedies from other sources now available to us.

All that is required here is an open mind and awareness that we are all dealing with matters that have had and will continue to have a profound effect on the future of our nation.

JGC/WWT:jah

Sincerely,

cc: Vincent T. Bugliosi  
Dr. Robert J. Joling  
Robert Vaughn

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

CHRISTIAN/TURNER  
Suite #332  
9171 Wilshire Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, CA  
90210

FEBRUARY 2, 1979

MS ANDREA ORDIN  
United States Attorney  
Central District of  
California  
312 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California  
90012

Dear Ms Ordin:

Enclosed is recently developed information on the Robert Kennedy assassination that should be of particular interest to your office as you continue your review of our findings (as per Paul G. Flynn's letter to us of November 22, 1978).

We submit this additional data because we're sure it carries with it implications beyond our original discoveries.

The firmly stated position of the 1978-79 Los Angeles County Grand Jury (Foreman) would seem to automatically place the entire burden on your office for the proper and prompt handling of this matter; and rightfully so, perhaps, as the issues at hand have national ramifications.

It is our belief that because of the longtime, ongoing "political" relationships and interactions by many of those we identify as embroiled in "conspiracy and cover-up," this matter presents formidable problems to any agency of government; however, your office is uniquely required and obligated to set aside any such considerations, which we trust can be done without further delaying an appropriate resolution.

We're not trying to unfairly position nor pressure you in this issue; however, with the Presidential election of 1980 fast approaching, the need to ascertain whether or not some kind of extant conspiracy lurks in the shadows would seem an absolute imperative.

We stand ready to assist in any meaningful way possible.

JGC/WWT:jah

Very Sincerely,

cc: Vincent T. Bugliosi  
Dr. Robert J. Joling  
Lester S. Hyman, Esq.  
Washington, D.C.  
Attorney General Griffin Bell

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

ENCLOSURES

LAW OFFICES OF  
Vincent T. Bugliosi

Steinberg & Bugliosi

ROBERT K. STEINBERG, INC.  
ROBERT K. STEINBERG  
VINCENT T. BUGLIOSI  
RICHARD L. ROSEN

9171 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 333  
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108  
MEMBER, MASS. BAR

EDWARD J. BELLEN  
6 SANDGASSE  
6 FRANKFURT, MAIN GERMANY

MR. PAUL G. FLYNN  
Chief Assistant  
United States Attorney  
312 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

MAY 7, 1979

Dear Mr. Flynn:

Last November 22nd you notified us that your office was looking into the so-called "allegations" contained in our recent book on the Robert F. Kennedy assassination case; these specifically related to evidence showing that a conspiracy and a cover-up were involved in the RFK assassination.

You also stated that you would be "in contact" with us after reviewing our findings; surely five months has been enough for you to determine the viability of this evidential information.

If you reject our findings, we should like to know the specifics on which you have based that determination; however, if you agree with us and a good many others so exposed to this evidence, then we should like to know the status and disposition of this matter as it now stands within your office. We believe we are entitled to this information as professional men and as concerned citizens of this nation, and for its future.

JGC/WWT:km

Sincerely,

cc: Vincent T. Bugliosi, Esq.  
Dr. Robert J. Joling, J.D.  
Robert Vaughn, Ph. D.  
Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.  
Lester S. Hyman, Esq.

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

PGF:ff

United States Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
U. S. COURT HOUSE  
312 No. SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012


May 14, 1979

Messrs. Jonn G. Christian  
and William W. Turner  
9171 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 332  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that the materials which you submitted concerning your investigation of the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy were forwarded to the Department of Justice on April 10, 1979, for review. As soon as word is received from the Department as to their recommendation, we shall contact you.

Sincerely,

  
Paul G. Flynn  
Chief Assistant  
United States Attorney





CHRISTIAN/TURNER

LAW OFFICES

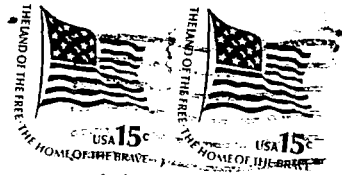
STEINBERG & BUGLIOSI

9171 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 332

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

**PRIVATE &  
CONFIDENTIAL**

DREW S. DAYS III  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
United States Department  
of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
20530



LAW OFFICES OF  
Vincent T. Bugliosi

APR 27 4 31 PM '79

RIGHTS  
9171 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 332  
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

272-8531 274-8878

APR 30 1979

Steinberg & Bugliosi

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VINCENT T. BUGLIOSI  
RICHARD L. ROSSEN

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108  
MEMBER, MASS. BAR

EDWARD J. BELLEN  
6 SANDGASSE  
6 FRANKFURT, MAIN GERMANY

DREW S. DAYS III  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
United States Department  
of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
20530

APRIL 17, 1979

Dear Mr. Days:

Your letter of April 6, 1979 (under the signature of David B. Adler) has just reached us. Its contents are both confusing and quite disconcerting.

For you to advise us to turn to "appropriate local police officials" in this instance would be like a Jew facing the ovens at Auschwitz calling on Adolph Eichmann to save him. Apparently you think that our book's facts concerning criminal involvement in the Robert Kennedy case by local police officials are to be ignored; not by us, they're not.

For your specific information: we are aware of at least one instance already where one crucial witness, whose name and involvement in this case are spelled out in great detail in our book, has been shot at; and his family has been harrassed and intimidated as well, because several of them know of conspiratorial elements in the RFK case that we came into possession of after our book was published; and these same "local police officials" refused to provide protection.

If you fail to grasp the significance of the above, then you likely have not read our book either; in any case, for you to fail to act as these conditions readily warrant is to assume a responsibility for the murders of innocent persons should that now occur.

JGC/WWT:bm

cc: Attorney General Griffin Bell  
Lester S. Hyman, Esq.

ENCLOSURES

Sincerely yours,

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

FILE  
DBA

MAY 2 1979

CHRISTIAN/TURNER  
Suite #332  
9171 Wilshire Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, CA  
90210

FEBRUARY 2, 1979

MS ANDREA ORDIN  
United States Attorney  
Central District of  
California  
312 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California  
90012

Dear Ms Ordin:

Enclosed is recently developed information on the Robert Kennedy assassination that should be of particular interest to your office as you continue your review of our findings (as per Paul G. Flynn's letter to us of November 22, 1978).

We submit this additional data because we're sure it carries with it implications beyond our original discoveries.

The firmly stated position of the 1978-79 Los Angeles County Grand Jury (Foreman) would seem to automatically place the entire burden on your office for the proper and prompt handling of this matter; and rightfully so, perhaps, as the issues at hand have national ramifications.

It is our belief that because of the longtime, ongoing "political" relationships and interactions by many of those we identify as embroiled in "conspiracy and cover-up," this matter presents formidable problems to any agency of government; however, your office is uniquely required and obligated to set aside any such considerations, which we trust can be done without further delaying an appropriate resolution.

We're not trying to unfairly position nor pressure you in this issue; however, with the Presidential election of 1980 fast approaching, the need to ascertain whether or not some kind of extant conspiracy lurks in the shadows would seem an absolute imperative.

We stand ready to assist in any meaningful way possible.

JGC/WWT:jah

Very Sincerely,

cc: Vincent T. Bugliosi  
Dr. Robert J. Joling  
Lester S. Hyman, Esq.  
Washington, D.C.  
Attorney General Griffin Bell

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

ENCLOSURES

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

PGF:ff

*United States Department of Justice*

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
U.S. COURT HOUSE  
312 NO. SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

November 22, 1978

Mr. Jonn G. Christian  
Mr. William W. Turner  
Law Offices of Vincent T. Bugliosi  
9171 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 332  
Beverly Hills, California 90210

Dear Messrs. Christian and Turner:

We are in receipt of a proof of your book entitled  
"The Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy."

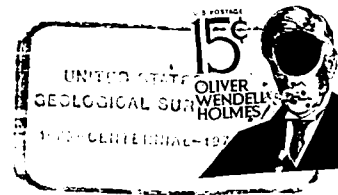
After we have reviewed your allegations, we shall  
be in contact with you.

Sincerely,

  
Paul G. Flynn  
Chief Assistant  
United States Attorney







DREW S. DAYS III  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division  
United States Department  
of Justice  
Washington, D.C.  
20530

Suite #332  
9171 Wilshire Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, CA  
90210

T. 4/5/79

DSD:DBA:lmd  
DJ 166-12C-1

APR 6 1979

Mr. John G. Christian  
9171 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 332  
Beverly Hills, California 90210

Dear Mr. Christian:

Your letter dated October 27, 1978 to the Attorney General, concerning threats to persons who allegedly have information concerning the death of Robert Kennedy, has been referred to the Civil Rights Division for review. This danger has allegedly arisen in response to your publication of a book, The Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy--A Searching Look at the Conspiracy and Cover-up: 1968-1978.

Any information you possess regarding threats to the safety of various persons should be reported to the appropriate local police agencies who are authorized to investigate such dangers. The Civil Rights Division has no jurisdiction to investigate your allegations.

Sincerely,

Drew S. Days III  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

By:

David B. Adler  
Attorney  
Criminal Section

Records  
Chrono  
Adler

DWA  
4/6/79

# ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number,  
building, Agency/Post)

Initials

Date

1. <i>Conroy</i>		
2.		
3. <i>ADLER</i>		
4.		
5.		

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

## REMARKS

*Was assigned to  
Bullagher. Also was  
being handled by Mike  
Epstein of Crim. Division  
Closed 3/3/71*

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals,  
clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)

Room No.—Bldg.

Phone No.



# ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number,  
building, Agency/Post)

Initials

Date

1. *Classification Unit*
2. *Crum for*
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

## REMARKS

*Not for Civil Rights -  
Voting Section. There  
is no mention of a  
voting violation in  
this letter.*

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)

Room No. — Bldg.

Phone No.

5047-102

U.S. G.P.O. 1977-241-530/3090

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)  
Prescribed by GSA  
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206

LAW OFFICES OF  
Vincent T. Bugliosi

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Steinberg & Bugliosi

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NOV 13 1978

ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL  
U. S. Justice Department  
Washington, D. C.

OCTOBER 27, 1978

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

By now members of your office should have reported to you on the contents of our recently-released book, THE ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY -- A Searching Look at the Conspiracy and Cover-up -- 1968-1978. If not, we should be ready to supply you with a copy on request.

As per the enclosed letters, we have long sought the involvement of federal law enforcement in this case; not only for the sake of a long-overdue justice, but because there are lives in jeopardy in this case at this juncture, our own included.

Certainly your recent exposure to certain elements within the highest levels of law enforcement in California should point out the reality of our contentions here; we're convinced that our book reflects the extremes of this situation as it has existed now for more than ten years.

We are equally convinced that a failure to come to grips with the facts behind the conspiracy and cover-up in the RFK case could well place the lives of the President, Vice President and other prominent government officials in serious jeopardy; the element we identify as involved in the RFK assassination is lethal, indeed, and is quite vocal in its irrational challenge of the current Administration's foreign and domestic policies.

We urge you to assume responsibility for this situation at once.

JGC/WWT:jah

CC: Vincent T. Bugliosi  
Dr. Robert J. Joling

ENCLOSURES

Very sincerely,

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

LAW OFFICES OF  
Vincent T. Bugliosi

Steinberg & Bugliosi

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EDWARD J. BELLEN  
6 SANDGASSE  
6 FRANKFURT, MAIN GERMANY

GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, California

JUNE 21, 1978

Via Allard K. Lowenstein

Dear Mr. Governor:

We wish to thank Mr. Lowenstein for presenting you with a prepublication copy of our forthcoming book from Random House, "THE ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY -- A Searching Look at the Conspiracy and Cover-up -- 1968-1978." The book is to be released by our publisher on or before September 1st.

The title of our book is quite reflective of its contents; while it is most contrary to what you've been told before by involved law enforcement officials, we respectfully request that you personally examine our evidence and then re-evaluate your position.

If you find that our book contains sufficient information to support its central theme, then we urge you to use the complete powers vested within your office to see that this case receives an appropriate review at the earliest possible moment; we are asking the same of several other government officials, who will be receiving copies of the book momentarily.

We trust that you will understand the portent of this issue if left to being unresolved any further; and we also ask for your assistance in providing for the safety of the many witnesses named within the pages of our book, ourselves included; you may contact us through our counsel in this matter, Mr. Vincent T. Bugliosi.

JGC/WWT:jh

Very Sincerely,

cc: Vincent T. Bugliosi, Esq.  
Dr. Robert J. Joling, J. D.

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

LAW OFFICES OF  
Vincent T. Bugliosi

Steinberg & Bugliosi

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108  
MEMBER, MASS. BAR

EDWARD J. BELLEN  
6 SANDGASSE  
6 FRANKFURT, MAIN GERMANY

GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, California

OCTOBER 13, 1978

Dear Mr. Governor:

In late June of this year we turned over to you (via Allard K. Lowenstein and Ms Carol Moss) a specially-bound copy of our just-released book from Random House, "THE ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY -- A Searching Look at the Conspiracy and Cover-up -- 1968-1978." We are informed that it was received by your aide, Mr. William Press, who was to have turned it over to you for your personal examination. We trust this has been done.

In our covering letter of June 21, we pointed out that there would be a possible threat to the safety of witnesses to elements of the conspiracy and cover-up in this case once the book was released to the public; such seems now to have happened to the entire family of some crucial witnesses.

We urgently request that you assign someone on your staff to make contact with us at the above address as soon as possible, to see what might be done to afford the requisite security demanded in this situation.

JGC/WWT:jah

cc: Vincent T. Bugliosi  
Dr. Robert J. Joling  
Allard K. Lowenstein

Very Sincerely,

JOHN C. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

ENCLOSURE



LAW OFFICES OF  
Vincent T. Bugliosi

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6 FRANKFURT, MAIN GERMANY

OFFICER FORREST HERRING  
Pomona Police Department  
Mission Boulevard  
Pomona, California

OCTOBER 18, 1978

Dear Officer Herring:

Pursuant to our phone conversation this morning at the home of Mrs. Louise Gray of your city:

We trust that a review of our book on the Robert F. Kennedy assassination will assist your department in assessing the events of the recent past around the Gray home; certainly formal statements should be taken from all members of the Gray family as they relate to their individual and collective recollections of relevant incidents and events; this we have done ourselves over the last two weeks; we should be happy to assist you in any way useful, of course.

It is because of the history of the RFK case in the hands of Los Angeles (and subsequent State) law enforcement officials that we have deemed it necessary to seek the intervention of higher governmental authority, especially at the Federal levels of government; we urge that you do the same if you think the information developed by your investigators so warrants.

It is our opinion that the lives of many innocent persons could be at stake in this matter; thus, we ask that your department take the affair seriously and act with all due urgency.

Thanks for your attention and concern.

JGC/WWT:jah

Very sincerely,

cc: Vincent T. Bugliosi  
Ms Andrea Ordin,  
United States Attorney

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

ENCLOSURES

LAW OFFICES OF  
Vincent T. Bugliosi

Steinberg & Bugliosi

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6 FRANKFURT, MAIN GERMANY

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MS ANDREA ORDIN  
United States Attorney  
312 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California  
90012

OCTOBER 18, 1978

Dear Ms Ordin:

Several months ago we had hand-delivered to you an advance (galley) copy of our just-released book on the Robert F. Kennedy assassination case. In a covering letter, we made note that there might be danger in store for a good many "prospective witnesses" identified in this case via our book. Such may now have occurred.

Enclosed is a letter to the Pomona Police Department relating to some recent events concerning the members of the Johnny Gray family, some of who have now provided us with additional information over and above that previously known and described in our book; it is our firm opinion that the lives of one or more of these witnesses could be in immediate danger.

We ask that you take immediate steps to protect the lives of all members of the Gray family in cooperation with the Pomona police authorities.

As previously stated, we stand ready to assist your office in any way useful; however, we are slightly disturbed that we have yet to receive any kind of response from you about the contents and contentions of our book.

If you do not take our appeal seriously, please notify us as such and we shall seek other intervention. However, it is our best opinion that your office has primary responsibility at this juncture.

JGC/WWT:jah

Very sincerely,

cc: Vincent T. Bugliosi  
Attorney General Griffin Bell

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN/  
WILLIAM W. TURNER

CHRISTIAN/TURNER

LAW OFFICES

STEINBERG & BUGLIOSI

9171 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 332

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

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ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL  
U. S. Justice Department  
Washington, D. C.

Typed 10/12/77  
BRC:ALH:JRR:pa  
166-12C-1

October 18, 1977

Mr. Robert J. Joling, J.D.  
Rizzo, Joling & Rizzo, S.C.  
Suite 312 Schwartz Building  
520 58th Street  
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140

Dear Mr. Joling:

Your letter of August 30, 1977, to Mr. Barry Jagoda, expressing your view that the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy, was referred to the Criminal Division for consideration and reply.

We are of course aware that not all forensic scientists are in agreement as to the evaluation of the physical evidence found at the scene of the assassination and the conclusions to be drawn therefrom. Minor discrepancies are also present in other evidence relating to the event. However, after giving full consideration to the foregoing, in our view, the evidence that Sirhan Sirhan acted alone in the assassination remains compelling.

As all logical investigation of the matter has been completed, we see no useful purpose in repetition thereof. You suggested that failure to reply to a letter of May 17, 1977, from you to President Carter on this subject carries serious implications. That and even the delay in this response certainly evidence some inefficiency in our bureaucracy, for which we duly apologize, though instances of this nature have plagued the citizenry from time immemorial. In any event, such a failure is scant evidence of any nefarious scheme, and we must disagree most forcefully that any such

Records  
General Crimes  
Robinson (2)

scheme exists as you suggest.

In summary, while we appreciate your concern and your efforts in this matter, we remain of the view that there is nothing further to be done with respect thereto.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN R. CIVILETTI  
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

By:

ALFRED L. HANTMAN, Chief  
General Crimes Section  
Criminal Division

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP		ACTION
1 TO (Name, office symbol or location)  General Crimes	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
	DATE	COORDINATION
2	INITIALS	FILE
	DATE	INFORMATION
3  Re: Letter from Robert J. Joling, Esq. to Barry Jagoda	INITIALS	NOTE AND RETURN
	DATE	PER CON - VERSATION
4	INITIALS	SEE ME
	DATE	SIGNATURE
REMARKS  Per Radek's conversation with Jim Robinson.  Enclosure		
Do NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disapprovals, clearances, and similar actions.		
FROM (Name, office symbol or location) Lee J. Radek, Attorney Public Integrity Section	DATE 9-19-77	PHONE 4592

~~EE~~  
A adik

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 6, 1977

SEP 8 9 40 AM '77

RECEIVED  
MAIL UNIT

Dear Mr. Joling:

I am in receipt of your letter and, in view of the interest and concern in this matter, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your correspondence (and copy of Mr. Ellard's letter) to the Department of Justice for further consideration.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

*Barry Jagoda*

Barry Jagoda  
Special Assistant  
to the President

Mr. Robert J. Joling, J.D.  
Rizzo, Joling & Rizzo, S.C.  
Suite 312 Schwartz Bldg.  
520 58th Street  
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140

RECEIVED

SEP 14 1977

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CIV. RIGHTS DIV.



LAW OFFICES

**RIZZO, JOLING & RIZZO, S. C.**

SUITE 312 SCHWARTZ BLDG.

520 58TH STREET

KENOSHA, WISCONSIN 53140

MICHAEL S. RIZZO  
ROBERT J. JOLING  
BRUNO M. RIZZO

TELEPHONE 658-1621  
AREA CODE 414

August 30, 1977

Mr. Barry Jagoda  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Re: Robert F. Kennedy Assassination Investigation

Dear Mr. Jagoda:

Mr. Michael Ellard of United Press International recently has forwarded the correspondence he has had with you. This was sent to me for my personal edification.

On May 17, 1977, I addressed a letter to President Carter relative to the Robert F. Kennedy assassination matter. I forwarded this to President Carter from Los Angeles, California. Unfortunately, I have not yet received a response to said correspondence. As a result I continue to grow more apprehensive day by day. It now appears that non-involvement at the highest level of government and avoidance of the implications embodied within this matter will continue.

The present status of the efforts in the case of the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy strongly indicates that there may well have been a conspiracy of some dimension involved in the taking of the Senator's life which may concomitantly involve an official cover-up continuing in effect to this very day on a very broad scale. Most ominous of all if, indeed, conspirators involved in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy walk the streets as free men, those of political persuasion entirely inimicable to that of President Carter or Vice President Mondale might again attempt such a dastardly deed.

I respectfully request that you, personally, follow up on my earlier letter to the President. If desired, I would be most happy to meet with Attorney General Bell at which time, I am sure, my contentions could be aptly demonstrated to his complete satisfaction.

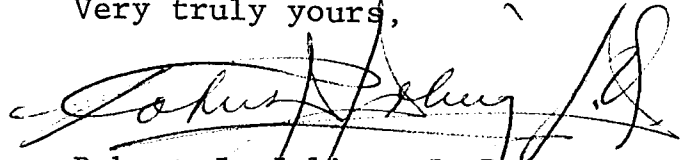
Mr. Barry Jagoda

-2-

August 30, 1977

I will await your early affirmative action and reply.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Joling", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert J. Joling, J. D.  
Vice President - International  
Association of Forensic Sciences  
Past President - American Academy  
of Forensic Sciences  
Associate in Law - The American  
College of Legal Medicine  
Member - British Academy of  
Forensic Sciences  
Member - International Association  
of Traffic Medicine  
Former Associate Professor of  
Medical Jurisprudence - University  
of Arizona College of Medicine

cc: Al Lowenstein  
Greg Stone  
Vincent Bugliosi  
Michael Ellard  
John Christian  
William Turner  
Cyril H. Wecht

# United Press International

GENERAL OFFICES  
NEWS BUILDING, 220 EAST 42ND STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

Written from

LOS ANGELES NEWSPICTURES BUREAU  
1543 WEST OLYMPIC BLVD.  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015

June 2, 1977

Mr. Jimmy Carter  
President of the United States  
of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Last week during your television appearance here in Los Angeles, I was one of those selected to ask questions. Unfortunately, however, time ran out before my turn arrived, although CBS TV had me ask my question after you had left the studio.

Enclosed is a Los Angeles Times story that appeared May 19, 1977, that encompasses the above. My question deals with an issue that has been on the minds of most Americans for a long time: The assassinations of the past decade and a half.

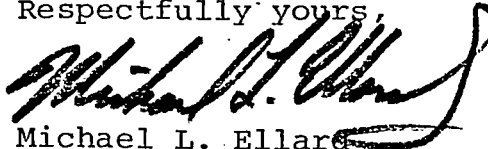
Recently the former special counsel of the House Committee on Assassinations, Mr. Richard Sprague strongly recommended that you intercede in this issue by appointing a special prosecutor as in the Watergate affair. He suggested that the House is too "political" a body, but more importantly, the House is not capable of handling matters involving criminal investigations. I am reliably informed that the House does not have the authority to either indict or convict anyone.

Assuming Mr. Sprague's viewpoint is correct, it only seems logical and proper that the President of the United States of America take charge of this matter as soon as possible. It was my impression that you shared the American people's concern in this issue during your campaigning out here in 1975.

As a working news photographer, I have recently been provided with substantial information relating to a possible conspiracy in the Robert F. Kennedy assassination. Ironically, some of this same evidence was being presented before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors during your television appearance, some of which we used in wirephotos that night. We also obtained a copy of the letter sent to you on this subject by Dr. Robert J. Joling, the past President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. It was Dr. Joling and former Congressman Allard K. Lowenstein who presented this new evidence before the Board of Supervisors on May 17th.

It seems to me that these two men of high reputation should be listened to on this matter. I should like to know if you share the vast majority of Americans' concern on the assassination issue, and if so, whether or not you plan to confront it in the near future. If I personally can be of any help whatsoever please feel free to contact me, I owe it to myself, my profession, and my country.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Ellard", written in a cursive style.

Michael L. Ellard

MLE:nao

Bernard L. Massarsky  
745 Delavan Street  
Teaneck, N. J. 07666

SEP 10 1977  
N.J.

FIRST CLASS

MR BARRY MASSARSKY  
JUSTICE DEPT. BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
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Room 7105

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27 Hill Street

Lexington, Ma. 02173

861-7178.

**William A. Foley, Jr.**  
Assistant to the  
University Registrar

**Boston University**  
881 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215  
617/353-3609



*no country*

CATHOLICISM AS A CAMPAIGN ISSUE IN THE  
WEST VIRGINIA PRIMARY OF 1960:

a primary resource paper; research conducted at the John F. Kennedy Library, Waltham, Massachusetts

Barry Mitchell Massarsky  
Boston University  
Professor Wm. Foley  
HI 616  
Kennedy Presidency  
Fall Semester-- 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I began my research at The John F. Kennedy Library in Waltham, Massachusetts with a limited knowledge of my subject matter and an even more infinitesimal understanding of a presidential library. Thanks to the indefatigable assistance of Will Johnson, Joan Hoopes, and the entire Kennedy research staff, I was able to afford a more comprehensive appreciation for both my subject matter and the innerworkings of such a resourceful institution as the Kennedy Library.

Will Johnson directed my research toward the oral history transcripts, the prepresidential papers, the Democratic National Committee papers, the memorandums, letters and correspondences, which constitute the bulwark of this thesis. For his assistance, I am hereby appreciative.

The research was also the product of a beneficial relationship between Professor Foley and myself. His advice on attacking the thesis, our weekly meetings, and continuous supervision, made my research effort more comprehensive and easier to prepare. I am quite grateful for this assistance.

On a lighter note, I would like to thank the MBTA for providing transportation to the library. Though they left me a mile away, I still would not have been able to accomplish my research goals without their trolleys and buses. They were reasonably efficient though perhaps a more direct route to the library could be established.

FOREWORD:

This thesis contains manifold objectives: the effect of the Catholicism issue in the West Virginia primary of 1960, the political organization to combat it, the issue's effect in the general election as well as other aspects of the primary which relate to the Catholicism issue.

I have included in my research other dimensions of the primary which provide the reader with a sensible overview of the climate of opinion in West Virginia. These aspects include Senator Hubert Humphrey's challenge, the Kennedyesque charisma <sup>10K</sup> which propagated his political organization, the basic objections levied against a Catholic President, and other aspects pertinent to a discussion of this main issue.

I have substantially used the oral history interviews to demonstrate both the political effectiveness of the Kennedy organizational forces and the pressures suffered by Kennedy supporters due to the religious factor. In an effort to supplement these interviews, I have used the Democratic National Committee papers, the pre-presidential papers and other sources to broaden the scope of this research.

When Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy began his quest for the presidency at the 1956 Democratic National Convention, he was well aware of the tension surrounding his religious affiliation. He could recite history in support of his concern; the 1928 Presidential election witnessed a wave of anti-Catholic sentiment against Democratic nominee Alfred Smith, which along with other prevailing issues of the 1920's, resulted in his defeat. Kennedy was determined to confront this issue of religion in the primaries of the 1960 campaign and he chose the West Virginia primary as his proving ground to negate the issue from the public limelight.

*ok - correct.*  
*good campaign*

Yet Kennedy could be encouraged by the change in voting patterns since 1928. Two "important changes" are seen by Samuel Lubell, an experienced writer on politics, since the spectacular election of 1928: "First, fairly large number of Catholics have been voting Republican in recent years-- which of course, means there are more voters who could be won over by a Catholic Democrat... The second change from 1928 is that the Democratic party now exerts a far stronger economic appeal to non-Catholic workers and farmers."<sup>1</sup>

*ok*

There existed a definite trend toward the relaxing of the religious question. In fact, late in 1959, 69% of a sample of voters stated that they would be willing to vote for a well-qualified candidate for President who happened to be a Roman Catholic, compared with 62% of a sample in 1940, according to a report dated December 8, 1959, by George Gallup, director of

---

1- Report, "Bureau of Research and Survey, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America," May 23, 1959, p.6.

the American Institute of Public Opinion in Princeton, New Jersey.<sup>2</sup> Elmo Roper, also a well-known student of public opinion, wrote a guest editorial in the Saturday Review, New York, October 31, 1959, asking the question, "how many (voters) would actually forsake the party of their choice to vote against a Catholic?" Mr. Roper answers: "One can only estimate-- my own estimate is from 6 to 8 per-cent."<sup>3</sup> Though the trend looks toward Kennedy's favor, the issue of religion is still disturbing to a substantial amount of voters.

*good quote on a recent news*

Kennedy entered the West Virginia primary warned of the 95% Protestant constituency, but nevertheless eager for the challenge. A Harris poll conducted in December, 1959, just four months before the primary, gave Kennedy a 70-30 margin over his main rival, Senator Hubert Humphrey from Minnesota. Yet this poll was taken before the news of Kennedy's Catholicism was established.

The platform on which West Virginia politics are shaped is a buldge on the inner slope of the Appalachians, 24,282 square miles in extent (forty-first state in the union in size) on which dwell 1,850,000 people. Theodore White explains the political theater on which Kennedy was to campaign: "if one were to choose those states whose politics (excluding the baroque courthouse states of the South) are the most squalid, corrupt and despicable, then one would add West Virginia to that Jukes family of American politics that included Indiana, Massachusetts and Texas."<sup>4</sup>

*OK*

---

2- Report, "Bureau of Research and Survey..." April 2, 1960, p.1.

3- Ibid., p.2.

4- Theodore White. The Making of a President, 1960. p.116.

Initially, it appeared that Humphrey would prove to be a formidable opponent. Though Kennedy had earlier defeated him in his backyard, Wisconsin, the United Mineworkers, the big labor union in West Virginia, had strongly endorsed Humphrey in retaliation for Bobby and Jack's work on the McClellan committee. Interestingly, Kennedy won the labor vote in the primary.

Robert Kennedy suggested to his brother that the only way to avoid an ugly religious brawl was to ask Humphrey to withdraw. If Humphrey continued and won, he would be charged with stirring up a revival of 1928 bigotry and denounced as a tool of the anti-Catholics. That would finish him as a crusading liberal and damage the Democratic party. Humphrey, fearful of appearing as a Kennedy tool, resisted.

Kennedy was all too eager for the challenge in West Virginia. As Ken O'Donnell, his campaign aide explains, "Aside from the challenge of the religious issue, the primary in West Virginia became such a blatantly open effort on the part of all the other contenders to stop Kennedy that Jack's aroused Irish temper made him eager to plunge into it."<sup>5</sup> In spite of his father's advice, Kennedy never thought of retreating from the West Virginia challenge.

The attack on Humphrey as a straw candidate (Humphrey had no actual chance of winning the nomination but served as a pawn for the stop-Kennedy movement) appealed to the West Virginians' strong sense of fair play, and built up an attractive image of

*Important!*  
*But didn't  
appear on  
a 'straw'  
this  
early?*

---

5- Kenneth O'Donnell, et.al. "Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye," p.186.

Kennedy as the one and only genuine contender for the Presidential nomination who was concerned enough about the state and its unemployment problems to become involved in its primary.

Joseph Rauh, the chief Humphrey co-ordinator in the primaries explained the Humphrey strategy: "We considered ourselves the favorites in the next two primaries. (District of Columbia and West Virginia) The question that you couldn't debate that night was what good would it have done to win the next two. It would have killed Jack Kennedy, but it wouldn't have elected Hubert Humphrey. As you look back, if we couldn't carry Wisconsin, we couldn't nominate him. It was a kind of feeling that when you get one blow, you go back for another. Therefore, it was unanimous there to go on (there referring to a meeting in Wisconsin) except, in my recollection, for a discussion on finances-- and on finances the talk was not in the sense 'Let's give up,' but in the sense of, 'Oh G-d, what are we going to do?'"<sup>6</sup>

Very  
good  
quote!

There was some mention during the West Virginia primary of financial inequities on the part of the Kennedy campaign effort. Rauh also addresses this issue: "The Humphrey camp thought the Kennedy camp was giving the West Virginia political leaders in the different areas funds. Now I understand it's a practice in West Virginia to give funds to political leaders, which they in turn use for poll watchers and so forth, and that is not, in fact, dishonest. Whether it is or it isn't, it was our feeling that large sums were going to these leaders."<sup>7</sup>

104

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6- Joseph Rauh, recorded interview by Charles Morrissey, December 23, 1965, p.58, John F. Kennedy Library Oral History Program.

7- Ibid., pp.66-67.

Rauh has laid to rest the allegation that the Kennedy family had bought the West Virginia primary. It was a gross misconception of the complex political organization that Kennedy had created. And Rauh, leader of the opposition force, concedes that this allegation was false and inaccurate.

Kennedy had many advantages at the outset of the primary. Interestingly, his Harvard accent and urbane, sophisticated charm was wondrously accepted by the conservative, West Virginia voter. His appeal was not unlike that of Franklin Roosevelt and many voters, appreciative of the Roosevelt effort during the depression, graciously accepted Kennedy. This is apparent in an interview with a Kennedy campaign worker, Bob Myers, who reflected upon this image:

Young: What was the reaction of the West Virginians that you were with to the Harvard accent and the Eastern airs? Did you find any resentment of this in West Virginia or was he accepted as simply being a little bit different but nevertheless a good guy?

Myers: Well, I think without question the Harvard accent was an asset.

Young: This, too, brought memories of Franklin Roosevelt?

Myers: Yes. And well, maybe this again is a personal opinion, but I always feel that the outstanding public speaker is a man with... his voice can be distinctive on the radio, for example, as opposed to someone else's. I think the Harvard accent was not resented to any extent at all and, in fact, it became a tremendous asset to him.<sup>8</sup>

oh  
good  
quote!

In order to perpetuate this Rooseveltian glamour and image,

---

8- Bob Myers, recorded interview by William Young, July 11, 1964, p.9, John F. Kennedy Library Oral History Program.



Kennedy employed the assistance of Franklin Roosevelt Jr. as part of the Kennedy organizational effort in West Virginia. This connection proved to be overwhelmingly effective in Kennedy's campaign.

Yet the religious factor was not to be overlooked in West Virginia. This was Kennedy's opportunity to confront and defeat the issue. Kennedy decided on a strategy for meeting the religious issue in West Virginia and the nation. He would reassert his independence of ecclesiastical pressure as often as was necessary and attempt to stigmatize as bigots those who remained opposed to him on religious grounds only. His first task would be to make clear his independence, his second, to put the haters on the defensive.

In a letter from Robert McDonough to Senator Kennedy, on May 19, 1958, McDonough first points out the religious "problem" and the difficulty in organizing support in West Virginia due to Kennedy's Catholicism. McDonough's suggestion was simple: "I know of only one way to combat this-- personal contact and the impression therefrom."<sup>9</sup>

The Kennedy organizational team, spearheaded by McDonough, Ted Sorenson and Ralph Dungan, confronted the issue with seven basic approaches as a response to this "problem" in West Virginia:

*very good*

- (1) National statement by prominent clergy deploring issue-- mail to every West Virginia Protestant minister (from them, not Kennedy office)

---

9- Letter from Robert McDonough to Senator Kennedy, May 19, 1958, Pre-Presidential Papers, Papers of President Kennedy, John F. Kennedy Library

- (2) JFK TV shows-- question and answer-- 50% of questions should be on religion (same is true in all public appearances where questions possible)
  - (3) Letter from JFK to every Protestant minister and editor, (draft attached) enclosing mimeographed document on JFK record (draft attached)
  - (4) Distribute brochure on religious issue, with material from same document, pictures of JFK in uniform with Protestant leaders.
  - (5) Series of TCS meetings with Protestant clergy in each West Virginia community of any size.
  - (6) JFK TV appeal on religious issue as well as newspaper ads.
  - (7) JFK letter to every registered Democrat (draft attached)<sup>10</sup>
- op cit

The following recommendations were made by Sorenson and Dungan: on approaches 1,2,3,7-- definitely yes; on approach 5-- yes, wherever local people feel it would help; on approach 6-- last week if seems neccessary; on approach 4,- definitely no, too much like the hate-group approach.<sup>11</sup>

As can be witnessed by the aforementioned memorandum, Kennedy enjoyed a highly-polished organizational mechanism, directed by such loyal politicians as Theodore Sorenson, Ralph Dungan and Lawrence O'Brien, as well as a highly-developed contingency of local politicians; its network of operations reaching all the major voting districts in West Virginia. These local politicians, organized by McDonough, dedicated themselves to a Kennedy primary victory. Religion would be a sensitive issue in West Virginia and the burden was placed on these workers to ease the tension of Kennedy's Catholicism. One of the most

OK

---

10- Memorandum, Ted Sorenson and Ralph Dungan to Senator John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, April 18, 1960, Pre-Presidential Papers, Papers of President Kennedy, John F. Kennedy Library.

11- Ibid.

interesting aspects of the campaign, which truly symbolized the sensitivity of the religious factor, were the social pressures levied against these local politicians for working on the Kennedy campaign. I examined a series of interviews furnished by the John F. Kennedy Oral History Interview Program. Though not all claimed discomfort in supporting Kennedy, these excerpts are enlightening and do shed a light on the severity of the religious factor in West Virginia.

Bob Myers directed the campaign effort in the local suburbs outside of Charleston. He disclaims any personal antagonism levied against him but does discuss the brevity of religion in his district:

*Important point*

Young: There have been reports from some of the people who have been interviewed in West Virginia that members of their family because they were associated with the Catholic candidate, felt social pressure. Not exactly not being invited to the right garden party, but things of that sort. Were you or members of your family ever aware of anything of this nature?

Myers: No, I never... I sometimes think when you get involved in an emotional issue of this type that... Again, maybe I'm being too broadminded, but we never experienced anything of this nature at all, not in the slightest. Quite often, I think, individuals might use something of this nature as an excuse for why they weren't invited somewhere or something. But no, I never... Perhaps, I'm sure, up in the mountains of West Virginia, in some counties, this might be true but this was never an issue.

Young: How do you feel your own predictions held up with respect to religion as an issue?

Myers: well-- and again maybe I'm playing

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