

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Typed: h/30/65

MAY 4 1965

RECORDED - 5
4-6-65

Paul H. Wilson, Sr., Acting
Assistant Attorney General
Federal Reserve

President's Commission
Assassination of President
John F. Kennedy
November 22, 1963
William French

In reference to the recent telephone conversation between
Inspector Leo J. Gauthier of your Bureau and Mr. Cella of this
District, it will be appreciated if you would deliver directly
to Mr. Robert E. Hunt the prints of Commission Exhibit No. 802
which you were kind enough to obtain through another Government
agency.

Thank you for obtaining these prints and your compliance
with the above request.

CC:
Records
Chrono
Cella

5/11/65
4/30
B F
5/3/65

SENT BY MESSENGER
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
MAY 4 1965

Form No. DL-900
Rev. 1-17-63

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTING SLIP

TO: NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
Mr. Tolson			
Mr. DeLoach			
Mr. Mohr			
Mr. Bishop			
Mr. Casper			
Mr. Callahan			
Mr. Conrad			
Mr. Felt			
Mr. Gale			
Mr. Rosen			
Mr. Sullivan			
Mr. Tavel			
Mr. Trotter			
Tele. Room			
Miss Holmes			
Miss Gandy			

- ADVISE
- ACTION
- ANSWER
- ANSWER ON ACKNOWLEDGMENT
- ANSWER ON DEFERRED
- PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF
- COMMENT
- PER CONVERSATION
- AS REQUESTED
- NECESSARY ACTION
- NOTE AND RETURN
- CALL ME
- YOUR INFORMATION

REMARKS

Let's discuss this -- I have talked to Mr. Specier

from Mallory - 3 BI (2561)

2 BI is during 6 am of down will

Impact on vehicle

FILE
EPM
129-11
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAY 5 1963

FROM: NAME	BUILDING	ROOM	EXT.	DATE
Howard P. Willens		2107		4/28/63

Card - 11. Location of the ...
... you will be the ...
... the ... to ...

JK

NOTE-O-GRAM

© THE DRAWING BOARD - BOX 385 - DALLAS, TEXAS

ROBT. H. WEST - COUNTY SURVEYOR

160 COURT HOUSE • DALLAS 2, TEXAS • RI 8-4981

MESSAGE

REPLY

TO Federal Bureau of Investagation
% Inspector Leo. J. Gauthier
Washington, D. C.

DATE 3-29-65

For the Warren Commission, I made a plat on Elm, Houston & Main Sts in the City of Dallas, Texas. I believe this plat was dated May 24, 1964 and is called Warren Commission Exhibit No. 882. Due to the time elimate, I was unable to have any prints made for my files. You promised, as soon as the hearing was completed, that you would send my some prints. If you will, please send me 6 prints of the above survey plat.

Thanking you for your kind consideration in this matter, I remain,

As ever



BY _____ SIGNED

INSTRUCTIONS TO SENDER:

INSTRUCTIONS TO RECEIVER:

1. KEEP YELLOW COPY. 2. SEND WHITE AND PINK COPIES WITH CARBON INTACT.

1. WRITE REPLY. 2. DETACH STUB. KEEP PINK COPY. RETURN WHITE COPY TO SENDER.

C. G. 129-11

DJ-96a
(Rev. 6-13-61)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTING SLIP

TO	
NAME	BUILDING AND ROOM
<i>M. Cella</i>	

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION | <input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____ | | |

REMARKS

you seem to be handling this now?

FROM

Criminal Division Mail
NAME: *[Signature]* ROOM NO. ROOM EXT. DATE

These guns being in NATIONAL MUSEUM.

RECEIVED

APR 7 1965

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Oswald's Guns Value: \$10,000

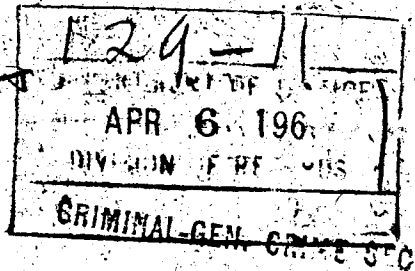
DALLAS (AP) — Court-appointed appraisers put a \$10,000 value on the mail order rifle Lee Harvey Oswald used to kill President Kennedy and the pistol he carried at the same time.

A bullet from the pistol killed city policeman J. D. Tippit as he sought to arrest Oswald.

Probate Judge F. W. Bartlett Jr. accepted the valuation and appointed Mrs. Marina Oswald, the assassin's widow, community administrator of the property Friday.

An assistant of Bartlett, Harry McKay, said he understood from counsel for Mrs. Oswald that a gun collector had offered \$10,000 for the two guns. The rifle cost Oswald \$12.95.

William Blalock, Mrs. Oswald's lawyer, said he felt the Justice Department should relinquish the weapons but he didn't know what would be done to bring this about.



NdeBK:HPW:al
129-11

4/15/65

April 21, 1965

Honorable Waggoner Carr
Attorney General of Texas
Supreme Court Building
Austin 11, Texas

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Mr. J. Lee Rankin has asked me to reply to your inquiry regarding the disposition of the rifle and other materials connected with the assassination of President Kennedy.

I can assure you that neither the assassination weapon nor any of the other evidence relied upon by the President's Commission in its Report has been returned to Lee Harvey Oswald's widow. Prior to the completion of its work, the President's Commission informed the Federal Bureau of Investigation of its view that all of the physical evidence relating to the proof of the participation of Oswald in the assassination of President Kennedy should be retained by the United States Government for an indefinite period. I am in complete sympathy with the Commission's recommendation and this Department is currently studying various means of accomplishing this end.

How
4/15/65

I am pleased to have this opportunity to be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Nicholas deB. Katzenbach

Attorney General

RECEIVED AND MAILED
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
APR 21 1965 T.J.

cc - Records
Chron.
Mr. Willens

The Attorney General
Mr. Miller
Mr. Callahan

Mr. Rankin

MAIL: HPV:al
129-11

APR 11 1935

Wm. P. Lane Justice
26 West 44th Street
New York, New York 18906
Dear Mr. Justice:

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to
Honorable Wagoner Carr, Attorney General of Texas,
regarding the deposition of the physical evidence
currently in the possession of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation. I anticipate that legislation on this
subject will be recommended by this Department in
the near future.

Sincerely,
W. R. Rabinowitz

Attorney General

cc: Records
Chicago
Mr. Wilson
The Attorney General
Mr. Miller
Mr. Callin

End

J. LEE RANKIN

36 WEST 44TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036
MURRAY HILL 7-2924

April 9, 1965

Hon. Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I am enclosing a copy of an inquiry from Mr. Waggoner Carr, Attorney General of Texas.

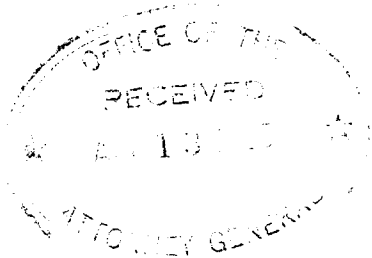
He is asking whether the murder weapon and other possessions have been returned to Oswald's widow. I have advised Mr. Carr that I was forwarding his inquiry to the Department of Justice for reply.

For your own information, the letter from the Commission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding the personal property that the F.B.I. had obtained in connection with its investigation of this matter, informed the Bureau that in the opinion of the Commission all of the physical evidence relating to the proof of the participation of Lee Oswald should be retained by the United States for an indefinite period.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
J. Lee Rankin



129-11

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	RECORDED
40 APR 12 1965	INDEXED
RECORDS BRANCH	W. M. J.

ATTORNEY GENERAL
CRIMINAL GEN. CRIME SEC.



WAGGONER CARR
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

SUPREME COURT BUILDING
AUSTIN 11, TEXAS

April 5, 1965

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
36 West 44th Street
New York City, New York 10036

Dear Lee:

I have received some inquiries concerning the return of the Kennedy murder weapon to Oswald's widow. I have seen nothing in the papers here but apparently there has been an item on it.

Inquiries pertain to why this weapon was returned to her and I must admit I am a little surprised that this has been done.

Will you please supply me with the reasons for the return of the weapon so I may be prepared to answer these inquiries. Were all of his possessions returned to her?

Yours very truly,


Waggoner Carr

WC:cr

Typed: 4/20/65
EJM:GAB:ehd
129-11

Honorable Gaylord Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 19, 1965, transmitting a letter dated April 5, 1965, from [redacted] regarding the response used in connection with the slaying of President Kennedy.

Letters pertaining to the disposition of these response and other items considered by the President's Commission on the Assassination, are receiving consideration by the Department and I am not in a position to give you any further information at this time.

It is a pleasure to be of assistance to you whenever possible. [redacted] matter is returned herewith.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. WILHELM, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure
Records
Chrono
Brugger
Mr. MILLER
Deputy AG

SENT BY TELETYPE
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
APR 21 1965 TA

129-11
4/20/65

4/20
129-11

129-11

4/20

APR 21 1965

April 21 1965
4/21/65

HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN
CLINTON P. ANDERSON, N. MEX.
ALAN BIBLE, NEV.
FRANK CHURCH, IDAHO
ERNEST GRUENING, ALASKA
FRANK E. MOSS, UTAH
QUENTIN N. BURDICK, N. DAK.
CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ.
GEORGE MCGOVERN, S. DAK.
GAYLORD NELSON, WIS.
HERBERT S. WALTERS, TENN.

THOMAS H. KUCHEL, CALIF.
GORDON ALLOTT, COLO.
LEN B. JORDAN, IDAHO
MILWARD L. SIMPSON, WYO.
E. L. MECHAM, N. MEX.
PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO.

JERRY T. VENKLER, STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

RECEIVED
APR 20 1965
CRIMINAL DIVISION

April 19, 1965

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED TO:

Congressional Liaison
Justice Department
Washington, D. C.

RE:

The gun used by Harvey Oswald
to kill President Kennedy.

PLEASE GIVE THIS INQUIRY SUCH CONSIDERATION AS THE
ATTACHED COMMUNICATION MAY WARRANT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THIS COURTESY, AND I SHALL
LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR EARLY REPLY.

Sincerely yours,

Gaylord Nelson

GAYLORD NELSON
U. S. Senator

GN/g

Enclosure: letter from [REDACTED]

129-11

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		RECORDED
22	APR 20 1965	
RECORDS BRANCH		

1. consistent (Mr. Calla)

April 5, 1965

The Honorable Bayard Rustin
Senator from Wisconsin
Washington D. C.

APR 8 1965

Dear Sir:

The attached is self explanatory.
I feel that these weapons should
be kept in the custody of the
Federal Government.

Are we to allow this woman
to again capitalize on the death
of our beloved president?

She is now a rich woman, because
her husband killed Jack Kennedy.

I feel very strongly about this. His
death was a great loss to our country
and to the world.

To further exploit this death
would be a national scandal - and
morally wrong.

I request your attention on this
matter, as I am also requesting the
attention of Senator Proxmire.

Sincerely,

Place Value of \$10,000 on Oswald's Weapons

DALLAS — (AP) — Court-appointed appraisers put a \$10,000 value on the mail order rifle Lee Harvey Oswald used to kill Pres. John F. Kennedy and the pistol he carried at the same time.

A bullet from the pistol

— killed city policeman J. D. Tippit as he sought to arrest Oswald.

Probate Judge F. W. Bartlett Jr. accepted the valuation and appointed Mrs. Marina Oswald, the assassin's widow, community administrator of the property Friday.

An assistant of Bartlett, Harry McKay, said he understood from counsel for Mrs. Oswald that a gun collector had offered \$10,000 for the two guns. The rifle cost Oswald \$12.95.

William Bialock, Mrs. Oswald's lawyer, said he felt the Justice Department should relinquish the weapons but he didn't know what would be done to bring this about.

FV:am
Typed 6/18/65
L29-11

G.A.R.

June 18, 1965

Honorable Del Clawson
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

Thank you for your letter of June 2. The
legislation concerning the disposition of the
assault rifle weapon has now been cleared by
the Bureau of the Budget and was sent forward
yesterday by the Department for introduction in
Congress. For your information, enclosed is
the Department release concerning this legislative
proposal.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Records ✓
Chrono
Mr. Vinson-2
Mr. Willens

JV
6/18

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

Handwritten initials

DEL CLAWSON
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
23D CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON BANKING
AND CURRENCY
COMMITTEE ON
UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

OFFICE ADDRESS:
1430 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

FIELD OFFICE:
10241 SOUTH PARAMOUNT BOULEVARD
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE NO.: 923-9200

June 2, 1965

Honorable Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Vinson:

This is in further reference to your reply to my letter concerning the disposition of the weapon used in the assassination of President Kennedy. I agree that it is regrettable that someone in the Department of Justice released information which your policy would not permit you to furnish to a Member of Congress.

Your courtesy in assuring me that I will be kept informed of your progress in drafting legislation is appreciated as is your graciousness in tendering your apologies. I would be grateful for advice on what progress you have made in identifying the source of the story and any measures taken to prevent a similar lapse in coordination and adherence to your information policy in the future.

Sincerely,

Del Clawson
Del Clawson
Member of Congress

DC:ac

129-11

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	RECORDED
JUN 3 1965	F.W.W.
RECORDS BRANCH	D
T. Mr. WITTEN S	
2 CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SEC.	

SP:sn
2/11/65

Alternative 1

An Act

§1 It is declared that it is a national policy to preserve for public use the documents and physical objects that were considered as exhibits to the Report submitted to the President by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, as objects of national significance, for the benefit of the people of the United States.

§2 The Attorney General, for the purpose of effectuating the policy expressed in Section 1 of this Act, shall have the following powers and perform the following duties and functions:

(a) Acquire in the name of the United States by gift, purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, any documents or physical objects, or any interest therein, which was considered as an exhibit to the Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

(b) Transfer custody of all such property to the Archivist of the United States.

§3 Proceedings instituted by the Attorney General to acquire any property by condemnation as authorized by this Act shall be conducted in the District Court for the District of Columbia and shall be governed by the procedures prescribed by Rule 71A of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; provided, however, that the determination of

the issue of just compensation shall be by a commission of three persons, appointed by the President, whose action and report shall be determined by a majority, and shall be final.

§4 Appropriation (Compare 16 U.S.C. §466)

Alternative 2

§1 It is declared that it is a national policy to preserve for public use those documents and physical objects considered as exhibits to the Report submitted to the President by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, the examination of which may be necessary adequately to appraise the conclusions reported by the President's Commission, or which may be of historical value to the people of the United States.

§2 The members of the President's Commission shall have the power to determine those documents and physical objects the preservation of which is necessary to effectuate the policy of Section 1 of this Act. A list of all such property determined by the President's Commission to be necessary to effectuate ^(such) ~~the~~ policy ~~of this Act~~ shall be published in the Federal Register.

§3 The ⁺Attorney General, for the purpose of effectuating the policy expressed in Section 1 of this Act, shall have the following powers:

SP:sn
2/11/65

Alternative 3

4-7-65

§1 It is declared that it is a national policy to preserve for public use those documents and physical objects considered as exhibits to the Report submitted to the President by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, the examination of which may be necessary adequately to appraise the conclusions reported by the President's Commission, or which may be of historical value to the people of the United States.

§2 The Attorney General, for the purpose of effectuating the policy expressed in Section 1 of this Act, shall have the following powers:

(a) To designate those documents and physical objects, the preservation of which is necessary to effectuate the policy expressed in Section 1 of this Act.

(b) To acquire in the name of the United States by gift, purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, all documents or physical objects, ^(so designated) or interest therein,

~~designated by the President's Commission under the authority of Section 2 of this Act.~~

(c) ^{To} Transfer custody of all such property to the Archivist of the United States.

§3 Proceedings instituted by the Attorney General to acquire any property by condemnation as authorized by this Act shall be conducted in the District Court for the District of Columbia and shall

129-11
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 17 1965
RECORDS SECTION

129-11
file
KRC

be governed by the procedures prescribed by Rule 71A of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; provided, however, that the determination of the issue of just compensation shall be by a commission of three persons, appointed by the President, whose action and report shall be determined by a majority, and shall be final.

§4 Appropriation (Compare 16 U.S.C. §466).

(a) Acquire in the name of the United States by gift, purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, all documents or physical objects, or interest therein, designated by the President's Commission under the authority of Section 2 of this Act.

(b) Transfer custody of all such property to the Archivist of the United States.

§4 See §3 of first alternative.

§5 See §4 of first alternative.

Additional considerations:

1. Are there any materials other than exhibits which we wish to condemn?
2. Should the Attorney General be given authority to prescribe regulations regarding the manner of preserving the property covered by this Act? Should the Act specifically provide that the normal regulations of the Archives shall apply?
3. Should the commission to determine just compensation be selected by the Court rather than by the President? Should the members be nominated by the President and appointed by the Court? Should judicial review of the commission's determination be provided for? Would a statute allowing the executive to select a commission which is to render an unreviewable determination of value give rise to problems of due process?
4. Should the statute provide for the remuneration of the members of the commission to ~~also~~ determine just compensation?

5. As to Section 4 of the first alternative, should we provide that Congress is authorized to appropriate funds, or should we designate a special existing fund from which payments shall be made? If the former, should we include in §2 the proviso found in 16 U.S.C. §462(d) to the effect that no obligations shall be assumed prior to congressional authorization? Should we include such a proviso for any amount over a specified dollar amount (e.g. \$250) for any one item?

HJM:LEW:am
(typed 4/12/65)

4-5-65

April 13, 1965

P. W. W. 129-11
RECORD

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President

RE: Public Availability of Materials Delivered to the
National Archives by the President's Commission
on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

The Department of Justice has completed the study, requested by you in your memorandum of January 12, 1965, concerning the advisability of modifying the usual restrictions which would govern the availability to the public of materials delivered to the National Archives by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. In the course of this study, the Department of Justice has obtained the views of the President's Commission, the Archivist of the United States, the interested Federal agencies and the Dallas Police Department.

Under normal regulations governing access to materials deposited in the National Archives, materials are made available to any competent adult with a definite, serious reason for requesting access, unless there is in effect an overriding restriction on disclosure or disclosure would violate obvious requirements of public policy or propriety. With respect to investigative reports furnished to the President's Commission by Federal agencies, the relevant restriction is a rule of nondisclosure for a period of 75 years unless the agency in which the report originated authorizes disclosure.

1025
4/2/65

The Chief Justice has informed me in a letter dated April 5, 1965, that the President's Commission concluded, after full consideration, that the public availability of the Commission's records was a matter to be resolved by the Attorney General and the originating agencies in accordance with established law and policies.

Records ✓ Mr. Willens Attorney General
Mr. Weinreb Mr. Miller Deputy Attorney General

SENT DIRECT FROM
COPY SENT DIVISION MAIL ROOM
DATE 4-13-65

Hand carried to George...
George...

of the Government. According to the Chief Justice, the Commission assumed that these determinations would be made in light of "the overriding consideration of the fullest possible disclosure." Moreover, the Commission did not desire to restrict access to any of its working papers except those classified by other agencies.

Based on the views of the Commission and the recommendations of the Federal agencies involved (summarized in the Attachment to this letter), the Department of Justice believed that there should be some modification of the normal procedure of the National Archives. The Department recommends that the following procedure be adopted in order to accomplish the most complete disclosure consistent with other legitimate interests:

1. All material furnished to the President's Commission by the Dallas Police Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service should be made available to the public on a regular basis, since both agencies have authorized full disclosure.
2. Investigative reports and related materials furnished to the President's Commission by other Federal agencies should be administered in accordance with the existing regulations of the National Archives. These agencies should be requested to examine the materials furnished by them with a view to authorizing the immediate disclosure on a regular basis of as much of the materials as possible. (Where materials originated with an agency other than the one furnishing them to the Commission, the decision regarding disclosure should be made by the originating agency.) The following guidelines should be applied:
 - a. Statutory requirements of nondisclosure should be observed.
 - b. Security classifications should be respected, but the agency responsible for the classification should consider whether the classification can be eliminated or graded down consistently with the national security.

All unclassified material which has been discussed
publicly or is subject in the report of the
President's Commission or accompanying published
documents should be made available to the public on
a regular basis. (In this connection, it should be
noted that the President has advised that a final
determination of which reports have been published
is within the purview, jurisdiction or his powers, will
not be published before 1964.)

Classified material which has not already been dis-
closed in another form should be made available to the
public on a regular basis unless disclosure:

- 1) will be detrimental to the maintenance
and enforcement of the laws and regulations
of the United States and its agencies;
- 2) may reveal the identity of confidential
sources of information or the nature of
confidential methods of acquiring infor-
mation, and thereby prevent or hamper the
use of the same or similar sources and
methods in the future;
- 3) may lead to the incorrect identification of
sources of information and thereby embarrass
individuals or the agency involved;
- 4) would be a source of embarrassment to
important persons, who are the subject or
source of the material in question, because
of the dissemination of gossip and rumor or
because of a personal nature having no signifi-
cant connection with the administration of the
President.

3. will reveal material pertinent to the criminal prosecution of Jack Ruby for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, prior to the final judicial determination of that case.

Where one of the above reasons for nondisclosure may apply, the agency involved should weigh such reasons against the overriding consideration of the fullest possible disclosure in determining whether or not to authorize disclosure.

Except in special cases, documents should be withheld or disclosed in their entirety.

4. Classified and unclassified material which is not made available to the public should be reviewed by the agency concerned five years and ten years after the initial examination has been completed. The criteria applied in the initial examination, outlined above, should be applied to determine whether changed circumstances will permit further disclosure. Similar reviews should be undertaken at two-year intervals during the remainder of the 75-year period of nondisclosure. The Archivist should undertake arrangements for such review at the appropriate times.

5. When a request for limited disclosure of particular unclassified documents or groups of documents is received by the Archivist, he should communicate such request to the agency concerned, which should consider the request in the light of the criteria outlined above and, wherever consistent with those criteria, authorize the limited disclosure requested. In the application of the criteria, consideration should be given to the qualifications of the person requesting disclosure and the purpose for which the request is made.

It should be noted that the Archivist has indicated that the arrangement and preparation of an inventory of the material turned over to the National Archives by the President's Commission will not be completed until June 1, 1962. Accordingly, it is unlikely that a review of the material turned over to the Commission by the various agencies can be undertaken before that date. It is suggested that the Archivist be

needed to make arrangements with the various agencies for such review to be undertaken at the earliest possible date, to be carried out on an expedited basis.

The Archivist has advised that the disposition of materials originating with the President's Commission itself has been discussed with Mr. Rankin and that a final decision has been deferred until after June 1. He has advised also that pending a determination of the ownership of physical exhibits, requests for access to them will be referred to the Department of Justice. While it is anticipated that the fullest possible disclosure of these portions of the record will be authorized, in accordance with the desires of the President's Commission, the Department believes that particular decisions as to them should not be made until information regarding them is complete.

If these procedures meet with your approval, this Department will prepare the necessary instructions.

Richard L. B. Kohn

Attorney General

Attachment

Summary of Views of Interested Federal Agencies
Concerning the Disclosure to the Public of Materials
Delivered to the National Archives by the President's
Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

In response to inquiry by the Department of Justice, the federal agencies which submitted reports or other materials to the President's Commission expressed the following views regarding the disclosure of these materials to the public.

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation recognizes that materials furnished by it for use by the President's Commission, except those which were classified for reasons of national security, are in the public domain. Most of the material furnished by the Bureau was unclassified. Security classification was necessary in some instances to prevent the identification of confidential informants, to protect the secrecy of confidential investigative techniques, to avoid disclosure of information showing the Bureau's coverage of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C., and to maintain the classification imposed by other agencies on information furnished by them to the Bureau. The Bureau believes that classified material should be disclosed only to persons having the necessary security clearance.

The Bureau believes that another problem is presented by unclassified material, some of which contains reports of rumor, gossip, and similar data involving innocent people. Some of this unclassified material contains the results of extensive investigations of Mrs. Marina Oswald and various associates of the Oswalds. Disclosure of such material, the Bureau believes, would be a source of unwarranted embarrassment to the people concerned. Some material contained in unclassified documents was furnished to the Bureau in confidence by sources such as banks and hotels. The records of these sources cannot be produced except pursuant to a court order. Public disclosure of this information might cause the Bureau to lose the cooperation of such sources in the future and might subject the sources to civil suit.

129-11

22	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	RECORDED
	APR 20 1965	
	RECORDS BRANCH	

A separate problem is presented by records of the Bureau's investigation of Mr. Jack Ruby, whose conviction for the murder of Oswald is still under review in the Texas courts.

The Bureau, which has retained records of all material furnished to the President's Commission, is prepared to examine all classified documents in order to extract the classified information and make the remainder available to the public. In addition, the Bureau is prepared to review the classification of all classified documents at least once a year and at any time in response to a specific inquiry concerning the classification of a particular document.

While pointing out the problems noted above concerning undisclosed material, the Bureau makes no specific recommendation concerning such items.

2. Secret Service. The Secret Service recommends that access to its investigative reports furnished to the President's Commission remain restricted for all reports in the following categories:

- "(1) Reports affecting national security.
- "(2) Reports which reveal the extent of Presidential protection or protective techniques.
- "(3) Reports mentioning innocent persons having no connection with the subject of the investigation that would needlessly embarrass or damage the innocent parties.
- "(4) Reports containing information given to us in confidence which, when investigated, was found to:
 - (a) have no connection with the assassination;
 - (b) be untrue, yet the reports would be embarrassing, both to the supplier of the information who may have acted in good faith in view of the importance of the subject matter of the investigation, or to the person concerning whom the information was furnished; e. g. , derogatory remarks about President Kennedy attributed to persons before and after the assassination.

"(5) Reports containing information from confidential informants from which readers might draw an inference, erroneously or correctly, as to the identity of the confidential informant."

The Secret Service has indicated its willingness to examine the reports furnished by it to the President's Commission for the purpose of determining which items may be made available to the public now (including declassification, if necessary) and which may be made available at some future time less than 75 years hence. It has also recommended an annual review of the necessity for continuing restrictions on particular items.

3. Post Office Department. The Postal Inspection Service furnished documents and information to various investigative agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service. It believes that the receiving agencies should determine whether or not such documents and information should be disclosed.

The Inspection Service submitted directly to the President's Commission a summary of its activities, which was not a classified document. The Service has no objection to the publication of this document, but believes that the approval of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service should be obtained. The Inspection Service furnished to the President's Commission "copies of the front and back of POD Form 2153-X, dated September 18, 1963, covering a publication 'OGONEK' addressed to Mr. Lee H. Oswald, Box 2915, Dallas, Texas." The Service believes that these copies should not be made generally available at this time.

The Service has indicated its willingness to examine any documents furnished by it to the President's Commission for the purpose of determining whether they can be released to the public.

4. Central Intelligence Agency. The Central Intelligence Agency believes that items furnished by it to the President's Commission and withheld from the public domain under security controls should not be excepted from the normal 75-year period of nondisclosure. The Agency cooperated fully with the President's Commission and made every effort to release material furnished to the Commission for the public record.

Wherever it was possible without jeopardizing the national security or this country's posture abroad, security classifications were graded down. Because of this policy, very little of the material furnished by the Agency is now withheld from the public. The criteria which were applied in determining whether or not to release information were: (1) the evidential value of the information in question; (2) the protection of sensitive sources and methods of operation; and (3) the possibility of international ramifications in view of the fact that most of the material was acquired abroad, particularly in Mexico and the U. S. S. R. None of the withheld material has a direct bearing on the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Agency believes that the national security requires the continuance of restrictions on withheld documents and that this interest outweighs all other considerations. It recommends that at the end of the 75-year period another security appraisal be made before such documents are disclosed.

5. Department of State. The Department of State made every effort to cooperate with the President's Commission in releasing to the public all significant information concerning the assassination of the President. In a small number of cases, the publication of documents was restricted in order to protect coding systems, in the interest of national security, to avoid personal embarrassment, or because a later revision of a draft document containing the substance of the draft had been released for publication. (Where coding was involved, the full substance of the document in question was made available for publication.) A few documents were classified and have been restricted accordingly.

Some of the material which has not yet been made available could probably be released if necessary. It will probably be possible to release other material within the next ten years. In cases where a document was furnished by the Department but originated with another agency, the approval of the originating agency should be obtained. The Department is prepared to examine material furnished by it to the President's Commission now and on an annual basis hereafter to reevaluate the necessity for nondisclosure.

6. Department of Defense. The Department of Defense has examined material at the National Archives which has been identified as furnished to the President's Commission by the Department. Some of the material, consisting of investigative reports and other material relating to individuals, is of a kind normally not disclosed to the public. In view of the exceptional nature of the work of the President's Commission, however, the Department does not object to the disclosure of this material, all of which is unclassified. If further material is later identified as originating with the Department of Defense, the Department requests an opportunity to review such material before it is disclosed.

7. Internal Revenue Service. The Internal Revenue Service has no objection to unrestricted public examination of documents concerning matters included in the public record by the Report of the President's Commission.

Tax returns which have not been made a matter of public record are protected from disclosure by Sections 6103 and 7213 of the Internal Revenue Code and by 5 U. S. C. Section 22. The President has statutory authority to disclose such protected information, but the Service recommends that in accordance with the spirit of the statute, tax returns not made matters of public record not be made available for general inspection.

A determination concerning other items furnished to the President's Commission should be made on an individual basis. Many documents reflect protected tax return information. Others contain information which would indicate the identity of a confidential informant, which is scandalous and not relevant to the subject of the Commission's inquiry, which consists of unconfirmed allegations by third parties, or which discloses the Service's policies respecting collection, auditing, settling, or prosecution. The Service has traditionally maintained a policy of nondisclosure of information of this sort and believes that the public recognizes the necessity for this policy. The Service believes that disclosure of material of the kind indicated would not add significantly to the comprehensive report of the President's Commission or to public information concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. Accordingly, the Service believes that no public interest would be served by disclosure. The Service believes that except in exceptional circumstances, documents of which portions must remain undisclosed

be restricted in their entirety. If documents containing deletions are released they are likely to prompt curiosity about the deletions and may produce charges that significant information is being withheld.

As a means of assuring the public of the thoroughness of the Commission's investigation, the Service suggests that letters received by it from the President's Commission requesting documents, along with transmittal replies, be made available for inspection. Clearance to disclose such letters would have to be obtained from the President's Commission, the originating agency.

The Service has indicated its willingness to inspect material furnished by it to the President's Commission now and at periodic intervals to determine whether such material may be made available to the public. It suggests that material be withheld only if: (1) disclosure is prohibited by law or agency regulations; (2) disclosure would be detrimental to the administration of the laws administered by the agency concerned; (3) the material relates to scandalous information unrelated to the assassination; (4) the material consists of unsubstantiated information or allegations; or (5) the material could embarrass or damage innocent persons without serving the public interest in full disclosure of information pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy.

8. Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has previously authorized the President's Commission to publish all documents furnished to it by the Service. Accordingly, the Service has no objection to the immediate disclosure of all such documents to the public.



From

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Deputy Attorney General	
Solicitor General	
Executive Assistant to the Attorney General ...	
Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust	
Assistant Attorney General, Tax	
Assistant Attorney General, Civil	
Assistant Attorney General, Lands	
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal	
Assistant Attorney General, Legal Counsel....	
Assistant Attorney General, Alien Property...	
Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security .	
Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights	
Administrative Assistant Attorney General....	
Director, F. B. I.	
Director, Bureau of Prisons	
Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization	
Pardon Attorney	
Parole Board	
Board of Immigration Appeals	
Director, Public Information	
Records Administration Office	

MEMORANDUM

April 6, 1965

Mr. Willens:
Howard,

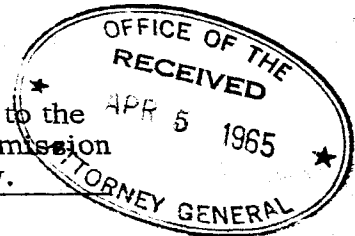
This looks all right to me, but does the Chief Justice's letter change it? I haven't seen the letter.

HFR

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Harold F. Reis, Executive Assistant

DATE: April 5, 1965

FROM : *How* Howard P. Willens, First Assistant,
Criminal DivisionSUBJECT: Public Availability of Materials Delivered to the
National Archives by the President's Commission
on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

Attached is a proposed memorandum from the Attorney General to Mr. Bundy in response to the latter's request of January 18, 1965. As you will recall, this Department was asked to review the entire problem for the White House and recommend whether some alteration of Archives regulations pertaining to investigative reports should be made in the case of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. The White House interest was prompted by a letter from the Mayor of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who protested the standard 75-year secrecy rule applicable to all investigative reports in the possession of Archives.

No recommendation has been received from the Chief Justice or Mr. Rankin regarding this problem. At the Attorney General's request, I called Mr. Rankin about two weeks ago to inquire about the Commission's position. He said that he and the Chief Justice had just prepared a draft of the letter and that the Chief Justice would undoubtedly dispatch it when the Court's business permitted. I suggest that this be handled now by sending the Chief Justice a carbon copy of this proposed memorandum and ask him if it meets with his approval. It should be pointed out that the last paragraph of the memorandum assumes that this approval will be forthcoming. It may be easier for the Chief Justice to have this proposal in front of him rather than deal with the problem in a more general fashion. I think, however, in view of the fact that the White House wants this report immediately, that the Chief Justice should be asked to do this, if possible, within a few days.

129-11

22	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	R E C D
	APR 20 1965	
	RECORDS BRANCH	

I am not completely satisfied with the substance of this proposal. In brief, we recommend that the Archives make all the materials available under their normal regulations as soon as they are organized. The exceptions to this policy are materials which are classified and also unclassified materials which meet the criteria set forth on page 3 of the memorandum to Mr. Bundy. (There are exceptions provided here for unclassified materials which may reveal the identity of confidential sources of information or confidential methods of investigation, which may be detrimental to the administration and enforcement of our laws and regulations or would be a source of embarrassment to innocent persons.) Our proposal requires that each investigative agency review the material as soon as practicable to decide which unclassified materials should not be disclosed because they meet these criteria. It provides further for review after 5 years and then at succeeding 10-year intervals to decide whether additional materials should be made available to the public under the customary Archives rules. In addition, the proposal provides that when a request is made for a specific type of material or item in Archives which is not available, the originating agency shall review the matter again, taking into account the policy in favor of full disclosure and the qualifications and purpose of the individual seeking disclosure.

In short, the proposal we are making is a substantial modification of normal Archives rules applying to investigative reports. Even with these criteria, substantial material will be made available under this policy which would not otherwise have been made available. Moreover, instead of the blanket 75-year rule we are suggesting immediate review, review 5 years from now and review at succeeding 10-year intervals in an effort to maximize disclosure. On the other hand our proposal adopts the view of all the agencies concerned (including Archives) that some unclassified material should not be made available to the public. It is this aspect of the proposal, compounded by the vagueness of the proposed criteria and the lack of any control

or review of the investigative agencies' decisions, which may prompt some public criticism once this policy is adopted and announced. Given the difficulties with the alternatives, however, I am inclined to recommend this approach.

I am available to discuss this with you at your convenience.

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
	Mr. Harold Reis			51

- SIGNATURE
- APPROVAL
- SEE ME
- RECOMMENDATION
- ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE
- PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF
- COMMENT
- NECESSARY ACTION
- NOTE AND RETURN
- CALL ME
- PER CONVERSATION

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
RECEIVED
APR 12 1964

REMARKS: Harold: Attached is a letter from Mr. Bundy regarding the availability of the President's Commission materials. I have incorporated the views of the Chief Justice as set forth in his letter of April 5, which is also attached for your information. His letter did not require any change in the substance of the proposal, since basically indicated that the Commission believed that the matter should properly be decided by the Attorney General and the investigative agencies which originated the materials.

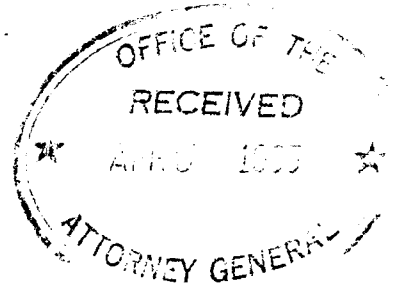
Mr. Chase from Mr. Bundy's office has been calling me regularly about this matter. I assured him this morning that I would make every effort to have this approved by the Attorney General tomorrow.

FROM:	NAME	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT.	DATE
	Howard P. Willens	2107	4/11

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

April 5, 1965



Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach,
Attorney General of the United States,
Justice Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

The President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy gave careful consideration to the proper disposition of its records before it delivered them to the National Archives. It wished them to be held there for the benefit of the American people. At that time, it decided that it was in the best interests of all concerned that the policy relating to the Commission's records provide for the fullest possible disclosure.

At the same time, the Commission recognized that its records contained investigative materials which were classified by the originating agencies to protect the security of the United States. Furthermore, among such materials were numerous items in which inhered serious potential for character assassination and other similar misuse to the injury of innocent persons.

The Commission, after full consideration, concluded that it did not have either the authority or the necessary information to determine the technical questions as to when the classified materials should be released without injury to the security of the country. It decided that the responsibility for that decision must of necessity be left with the originating agencies and the Attorney General, as the chief legal officer, in accordance with established law and policies of the Government. It also concluded that such agencies and the Attorney General could best determine what safeguards were necessary to protect innocent persons in the release of defamatory materials.

129-11

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	RECORDS
22 APR 6 1965	R. C. M.
RECORDS BRANCH	R. D.
CRIMINAL - ADMINISTRATIVE	

In arriving at the foregoing conclusions, however, the Commission assumed that all of the determinations by the agencies and the Attorney General would be made in recognition of the overriding consideration of the fullest possible disclosure, and that all other proper factors, including the disclosures that have been made, would be taken into account. The Commission had no desire to restrict public access to any of its working papers except those classified by other agencies. It was with these thoughts in mind that the Commission, on its dissolution, committed its papers to the National Archives subject to the laws and regulations concerning the release to the public of classified and restricted materials.

We hope that this report of the attitude and conclusions of the Commission concerning the full disclosure of its records will be helpful to you in the formulation of your proposal for making the materials of this Commission now in the National Archives available to the public.

Sincerely,



April 5, 1965

Typed: 4/1/65

Deputy Attorney General

229-11

REV. C. G. RECORD

Robert J. Miller, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy:
Disposition of Exhibits to Final Report

Extensive consideration has been given to the matter of the appropriate disposition to be made of the exhibits to the final report by the President's Commission. There have been a variety of considerations and views as to how to appropriately resolve what appears to be a novel legal question.

Attached is a draft bill, with accompanying memorandum, to provide for the acquisition and preservation by the United States of certain items of evidence pertaining to the assassination. This draft was prepared by the Office of Legal Counsel. An earlier draft, prepared in this Division, was disseminated to the Office of Legal Counsel and the Lands Division. A copy of this draft is in the attached file. We are also forwarding herewith a copy of the memorandum of March 19, 1965 from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Lands Division concerning our draft and a copy of the items which the President's Commission feels should be permanently retained by the United States.

We feel that the Office of Legal Counsel draft provides the best possible solution to this problem and request that the earliest possible action be taken to have the same introduced as a Department sponsored bill.

A letter of February 2, 1965 from Kilgore and Kilgore of Dallas, Texas, makes demand for the surrender of the assassination rifle and the revolver used in the slaying of Officer Tippit to their client, a Mr. John J. King, who has apparently purchased

CC:
Records ✓
Chrono
Cells
H.J. Miller
AAG, Lands Div.
AAG, Civil Div.
AAG, Office of Legal Counsel

SENT DIRECT FROM
CRIMINAL DIVISION MAIL ROOM

DATE: 4-5-65

BY: _____

400
4/3/65
H.V. 4/3/65
916

AKB
4/2/65
Ollb
4/2

-2-

These weapons from Marian Oswald. Newspaper accounts refer to an offer of \$10,000 for these weapons. This law firm is also independently consulting with the Department and investigating legal action. An earlier letter of January 24, 1968 from Marian Oswald requests the immediate return of several specific exhibits turned over to the National Archives by the Commission. In this letter Mrs. Oswald requests her more general request for the return of all personal property belonging to her and her late husband. Lee Harvey Oswald's brother has also requested the return of certain items.

Our only attention to this matter will be appreciated.

Attachments

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROLLING SLIP

TO	
NAME	BUILDING AND ROOM
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

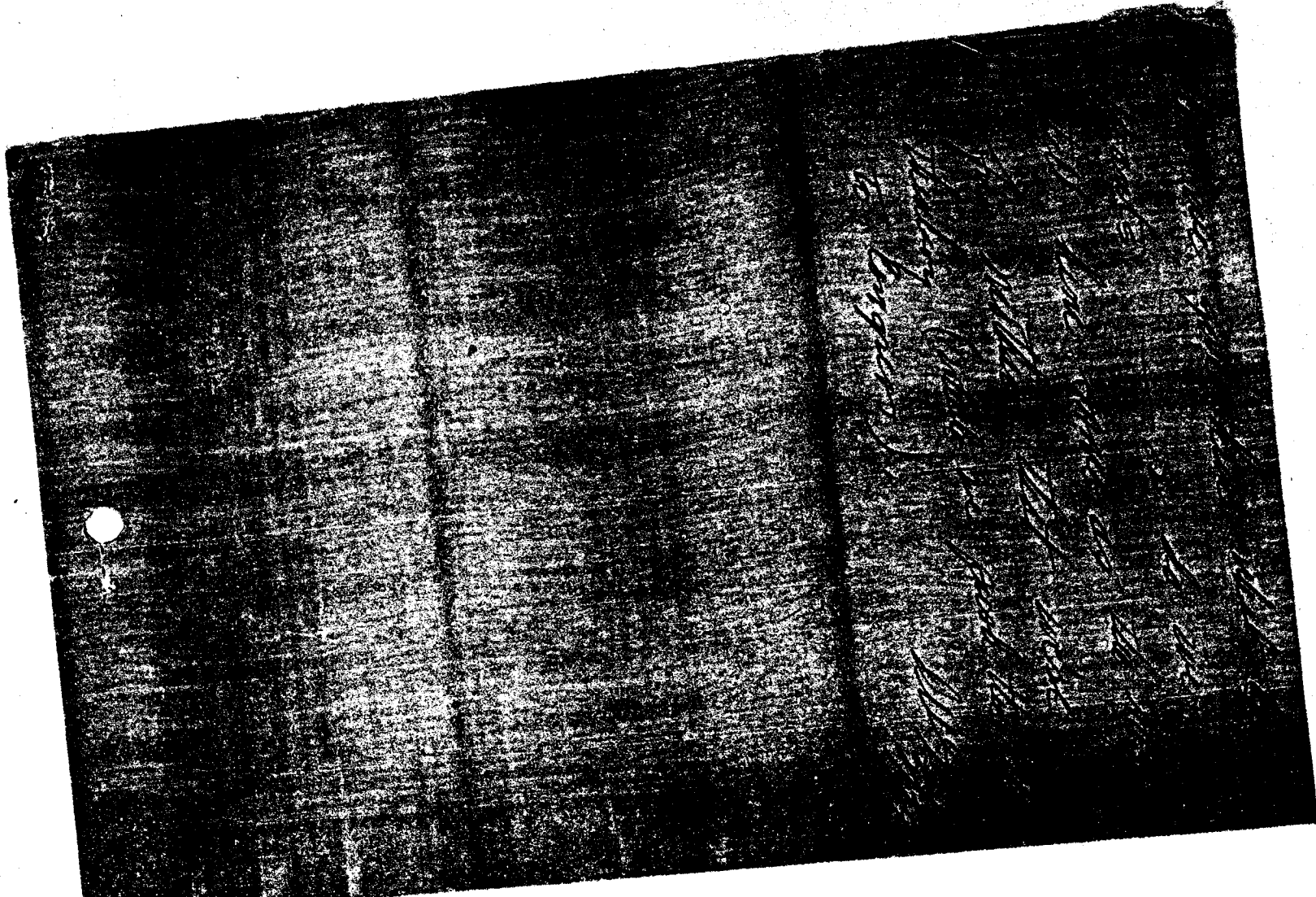
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION | <input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF | | |

REMARKS

I think our proposed statute plus supporting memorandum should get up to the DAG's office this week w/a carbon to Civil Division. Please acknowledge this letter.

hits telephone to OLC and Civil for an ans to our memo - oral ans if cant get in writing - and finalize our draft. In ans. the Justice group have me given some of what

FROM	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT.	DATE
<i>to card, back to wife, or do</i>	2107	3/29/65
Howard P. Willens		



HJM:JJC:bf
129-11

Typed: 3/30/65

Mr. Robert L. Oswald
Room 28
[Redacted]

April 5, 1965

Dear Mr. Oswald:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 23, 1965 requesting the return of various items of personal property of Lee Harvey Oswald covered by Combustion Exhibit No. 2464 (Vol. IV, pp. 639, 640).

Matters pertaining to the disposition of the exhibits to the Final Report of the President's Commission are receiving consideration in the Department and I am not in a position to furnish you further information at this time.

Sincerely,

HERBERT J. MILLER, JR.
Assistant Attorney General

CC: Records
Chrono
Cells

Handwritten initials

Handwritten initials and date: 3/21/65

Handwritten initials

Handwritten initials and date: 4/5/65

INDEXED AND FILED
COMMUNICATIONS
APR 5 1965
UJ

Form No. DJ-964
(Rev. 5-27-63)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
	<i>Mr. Wilkins</i>			
	<i>Comm. Sec.</i>	<i>Mr. Conroy</i>		

SIGNATURE
 APPROVAL
 SEE ME
 RECOMMENDATION
 ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE
 PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF

COMMENT
 NECESSARY ACTION
 NOTE AND RETURN
 CALL ME

PER CONVERSATION AS REQUESTED
 NOTE AND FILE
 YOUR INFORMATION

REMARKS

*See. would more
get anything from
us (down things we don't
want to keep) so all
we don't want would go
to wife for destruction
to him, if she desires*

FROM: _____

BUILDING, ROOM, EXT. DATE

City

1/2

FILED

[REDACTED]

March 23, 1965

U. S. Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.
Attention: Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach

Dear Attorney General Katzenbach;

I would appreciate it if you or your department will look into the matter of my request, which originally was made in October 1964 to the Dallas office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to have the miscellaneous personal items of my brother, Lee Harvey Oswald, returned to my possession.

My sister-in-law, Marina Oswald, has requested and has so stated to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that the items as listed in Volume 25, pages 639 through 640 in the Warren Commission Report, be returned to this writer.

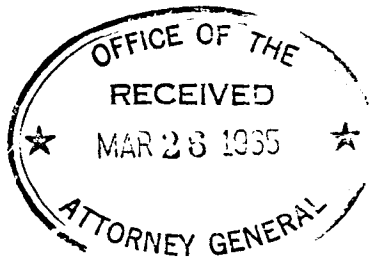
These items are of such miscellaneous nature as one pencil, one sea-bag, etc. I would appreciate the prompt return and your consideration of the above.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Oswald

Robert L. Oswald
Box 28
[REDACTED]

RIO/bls



729-11

40	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE MAR 26 1965 RECORDS BRANCH	RECEIVED
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2. CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SEC.
CIVIL DIV. 1. Mr. U
General Litigation Sec.

RECEIVED
MAR 29 1965
CRIMINAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

W. J. Miller
March 19, 1965

TO : Mr. Herbert J. Miller, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division

DATE: March 19, 1965

FROM : J. Edward Williams
Jaw. Acting Assistant Attorney General, Lands Division

SUBJECT: Proposed bill to provide for the preservation of exhibits to the Final Report by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

There is no present authority for the condemnation of the personal property comprising the items of evidence to be retained by the United States Government.

If the proposed bill is enacted, there appears to be no reason why these items cannot be acquired through condemnation proceedings. However, it is suggested that there be added to section 2(a) of the proposed bill the following:

Any proceedings to condemn such documentary evidence or physical objects or any interest therein shall be conducted in accordance with Rule 71(A) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 U.S.C. App. p. 5188).

It is assumed that you have investigated the possibility of confiscation of these items by the State of Texas under the laws of that State relating to the crimes committed by Lee Harvey Oswald, and the transfer thereof from the State of Texas to the United States.

129-11

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
22	APR 7 1965
RECORDS BRANCH	

129-11
file
ggc

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
AAG Criminal

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

RECEIVED

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel

MAR 16 10 11 AM '65
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

DATE: March 15, 1965

HJM:JJC:mtg
129-11

FROM : Herbert J. Miller, Jr.,
HJM Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division

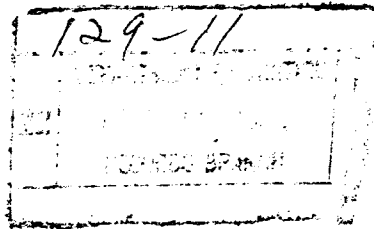
SUBJECT: President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy;
Disposition of Exhibits to Final Report

Attached is a draft bill to provide for the preservation of exhibits to the final report by the President's Commission. Also forwarded herewith is a list of items which the Commission concludes should be permanently retained in the custody of the Government.

Extensive consideration has been given to the matter of disposing of these exhibits and we have concluded that the public interest would best be served by seeking legislation. Mrs. Oswald has demanded the return of her personal property as well as that of her late husband, Lee Harvey Oswald. In making these demands, Mrs. Oswald has expressed the wish that the rifle used to kill the President become the property of the Government. However, the Department recently received a communication, by referral from the Archivist, wherein a Dallas law firm requests delivery of the rifle and the revolver involved in the slaying of officer Tippit to one John J. King, a gun collector, who is said to have purchased these weapons from Mrs. Oswald.

We will appreciate receiving your comments respecting the suggested legislation.

Attachments



AN ACT

To provide for the preservation of exhibits to the Final Report by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

1. It is declared that it is in the national interest to preserve for public use the exhibits to the Final Report submitted to the President by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy as objects of national significance for the benefit of the people of the United States.

2. The Attorney General, for the purpose of effectuating the policy expressed in Section 1 of this Act, shall have the following powers and perform the following duties and functions:

(a) Acquire in the name of the United States by gift, purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, all or any part of the documentary evidence or physical objects, or any interest therein, which constitute the exhibits to the Final Report submitted to the