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House of Representatives

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October 30, 1979

Mr. Paul Hoch
1525 Acton St.
Berkeley, CA 94702

Dear Mr. Hoch:

Please excuse the unconscionably late date of this reply to your letter of September 1.

As you indicated in your letter, the status of the committee's unpublished material is unchanged. When last we checked (earlier this summer) the files remained the property of the House of Representatives and, thus, are exempted from the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

There is little enthusiasm in Congress for anything to do with further investigation of the Kennedy and King cases. The former Members of the committee (or their staff people who handled HSCA work) I have talked with are not particularly interested in making the committee's unpublished papers available to the public at this late date. The general feeling is that any request for funds to review the files -- making them suitable for release or transfer to some other agency -- would be rejected out of hand by a House Administration Committee which has never been particularly sympathetic to the committee's investigation. The overly stringent budget restrictions imposed by the House Administration Committee on the staff of the Select Committee this spring (after the two-year mandate of the HSCA had expired) were, in fact, a contributing factor to the late date of the committee's report release and the disorganized state of the committee's files. The only way the staff of the committee was able to complete their work on the staff reports to accompany the report by the committee was to ask former Members of the committee to place them on their personal staff payrolls! This is a matter of public record and can be verified by checking the first and second quarter reports of the Clerk of the House against the committee's staff list.

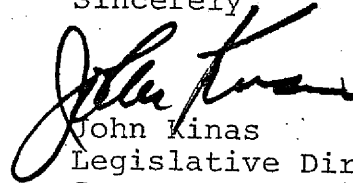
Page 2

On the "hot leads" question, it was my understanding that a separate writeup has been transmitted to the Justice Department, although neither Mr. Fithian nor I can recall the specifics of when that information was transmitted. We have received no word from Justice on what they intend to do with this information.

I greatly appreciate your kind offer to provide our office with indexes to the HSCA report. If it is not too much trouble, I would like to take you up on your offer.

Again, thank you for your interest in Mr. Fithian's work on the Assassinations Committee. If our office can be of any further service, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely



John Kinas
Legislative Director to
Congressman Fithian

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