

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 28, 1983

The Honorable Augustus Hawkins
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
H326 Capitol
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Gus:

We are writing to you on a timely matter regarding the 15th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, and the 20th anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

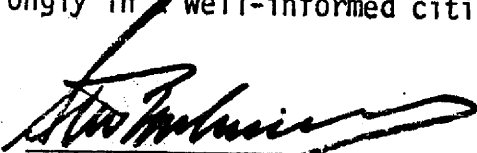
We believe that Congressman Louis Stokes and his Select Committee on Assassinations worked long and honorably to further the investigation into the deaths of these two great men. It is now time to make the records of the Committee's labors available to the public in accordance with our country's long standing tradition of openness and the citizens' right-to-know.

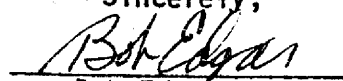
Therefore, we hope that you will support H.Res. 160 authorizing the release of the Committee's records. Time is of the essence, as we would like to bring this to the floor close to the November 22nd anniversary of President Kennedy's death.

No sensitive material would be released under this resolution. It adopts the guidelines used by the National Archives for processing the Warren Commission records. These prevent the release of information that might: 1) be detrimental to the enforcement of U.S. law; 2) reveal the identity of confidential sources or jeopardize future investigations; or 3) embarrass innocent individuals. In addition, our resolution prohibits the release of records from any proceedings that the committee voted to keep secret or where confidentiality was guaranteed to a witness.

The records of the Warren Commission have been available for years to scholars, historians, journalists and the public. Yet right across the hall from those documents in the National Archives the documents of the Select committee remain closed to the public. We believe this reflects badly on the work of the committee and our institution.

The release of the documents would be a fitting testament to Rep. Stokes and his committee, and above all to Dr. King and President Kennedy who believed so strongly in a well-informed citizenry.


Stewart McKinney, M.C.

Sincerely,

Bob Edgar, M.C.

5-III-#-CURRENT COSPONSORS --

- AS INTRODUCED... Edgar, Sawyer, Fauntroy, Ford (TN).
- Jun 6, 83 Towns, Fish, Weiss, Ratchford, McHugh, Levin, Leland, Borski, Boxer, Rangel, Smith (FL), Forsythe, Morrison (CT), Horton, Ackerman.
- Jun 30, 83 Jeffords, Hughes, Mitchell, Owens, Goodling.
- Jul 26, 83 Hall (IN), Patman, Gilman, Dymally, Bellums.
- Sep 14, 83 Clay, Duncan, Gray, Martin (IL), Hyde, Kindness, Seiberling, Bereuter, DeWine, Frank, Shaw.

Berman, McCollum
Bates