

FORM LETTER

CALIF. AREA

% 335 S. Rimpau Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90020
March 14, 1984

Professor Francis Bowman
Chairman, Department of History
University of Southern California
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Dear Professor Bowman:

For some time I have been interested in the background and evidence of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination and have participated in efforts to win the release of evidence and clarify the fundamental unanswered questions in that case. As a student of Political Science, I have also felt that the academic awareness of and contribution to the kinds of issues implicated in such cases has often been regrettably sparse. Apart from advancing the historical understanding of seminal events, such academic input can serve more immediately to expose both errors in official activities and assertions and inaccurate claims sometimes made by critics. Existing academic treatments of political assassinations and related subjects (e.g. intelligence activities, administration of justice, media and communications) illustrate the effectiveness with which these values can be served through judicious work.

I and some others are presently concerned about stimulating increased academic response to the present body of facts and issues in the RFK case. Such a response could pertain both to coursework potentials in a variety of disciplines (e.g. History, Political Science, Law, Journalism) and to significant original research from primary sources. It also bears on questions of the housing and effective use of some existing documentary collections centered on this case. From the viewpoint of both historical and current public interest concerns, the preconditions for effective work in this area are identical: emphasis on verified evidence to the exclusion of conjecture and preconception, and careful, dispassionate use of critical method.

There are obvious advantages for the Los Angeles area as a site for such work in connection with the Robert Kennedy case, including various official records and sources present here. It could assume a variety of forms, depending on the discipline, supervision, resources, academic format and other factors. Courses devoted specifically to the issues of political assassination have been successfully conducted in some universities, but these matters are also susceptible to treatment as elements in other kinds of courses. Significant published works on this subject exist.

Enclosed are two documents which provide a general sense of some of the current aspects of this case. If you have questions on the above, or if these possibilities are relevant to your own or your department's work, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory Stone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally on the page.

Gregory Stone

cc: Paul Schrade
Robert Joling
Dr. Philip Melanson