

August 22, 1975

Jane F Smith
Director
Civil Archives Division
National Archives and Records Service
Washington DC 20408

Dear Ms Smith

Thank you for your letter of August 11 which was forwarded to me on Cape Cod, a lovely and fascinating part of the United States undergoing geologic and social change. Undoubtedly you have been here and imbibed its wonder.

While I await return to New York to consult files and books where-with to digest the material accompanying your letter (for which I have made remittance under separate cover, as directed), I would appreciate receiving information on two matters come to attention from the media.

The National Enquirer, whose sources include garbage cans, bruit-ed the "news" in its August 26, 1975 issue, page 13, bottom of column one: "A major point troubling congressmen is testimony to the Warren Commission by President Kennedy's widow that investigators insist shows JFK was shot from the front. In the testimony - declassified in 1972 but published here by the Enquirer for the first time in any publication..." Then follows what purports to be a quotation from, and interpretation of, what she said to the Commission. I do not trust the Enquirer and would like to know 1) whether, in fact, Ms Kennedy did testify before the Commission; 2) whether she was listed as a witness; 3) whether her testimony, if given, was classified, and if so, 4) whether it was declassified in 1972; also 5) whether Ms Kennedy was included in Mr Johnson's catalogue.

Reference to classified and declassified material is also made in an article in the Saturday Evening Post of September 1975, under the subheading "A Bibliography for JFK Buffs." On page 53 we find the following: "The declassified but unpublished Warren Commission materials are available to any serious researcher. -Mr Marion M Johnson of The National Archives is custodian of the documents, although he does not have the authority to release any of the still classified items. Within the constraints placed on them by the Department of Justice and the Central Intelligence Agency- which control the classified materials-..."

Is it true? Does the Department of Justice control classified materials relating to the Warren Commission? Does the Central Intelligence Agency? If true, do these agencies control the same materials jointly? Or do they control separate bodies of materials?

If true with respect to either one or both of these agencies, what is the general nature of these classified materials? Are they listed somewhere as are, for example, the classified transcripts of certain Commission executive sessions?

My requests are endless as the subject is inexhaustible as is, I hope, your patience with me. I shall be grateful for any information you can give me concerning the Enquirer and Post statements.

Sincerely,

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