

Hon, Steven D. Yslas
 President Los Angeles Board
 of Police Commissioners
 Parker Center, Suite 144-150
 150 No. Los Angeles St.
 Los Angeles, CA. 90012

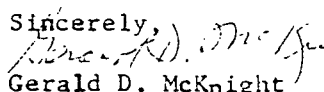
July 9, 1985

Dear Mr. Yslas:

I would like to add my name to the list of public-spirited citizens who have gone on record requesting that the Los Angeles Police Department provide access to their records on the Robert F. Kennedy assassination. It is a privilege to associate myself with concerned citizens like Paul Schrade, Robert J. Joling, Philip Melanson, and Gregory Stone. I deeply respect their efforts and regard their concern as legitimate and commendable.

I am a professor of history at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. For the past 9 years I have taught a course entitled "The Politics of Assassination (History 315) for the History and Political Science Department. The thrust of the course deals with the major political assassinations of the 1960s--JFK, King, and Robert Kennedy--with emphasis on how our institutions responded to these traumatic events. Central to the course's instructional value, indeed, its very educational *raison d'etre*, is the availability students have to examine critical Justice Department-FBI documents on the John Kennedy and Dr. King assassination investigations. It is from this classroom perspective that I can attest to the enormous instructional value of these public records and this impression has been consistently seconded over the years by students' evaluations of History 315. These students feel immensely advantaged by this exposure and take away from the course an intimate understanding of the grass-roots meaning of our "open society" and a special respect for the FOIA.

My other reason for writing stems from my own professional scholarly interests in the Dr. King assassination. Last summer I had an article published in The South Atlantic Quarterly (Spring, 1984) on the Memphis sanitation workers strike of 1968. The article was based on an examination of more than 2000 FBI documents. Currently, the Justice Department is processing my FOIAPA request (Request No. 253,473) for some 26,000 documents relating to the Poor Peoples' Campaign/Washington Spring Project. Ultimately, I hope to write a book on the subject. I include this brief research biography by way of establishing my bone fides in supporting the endeavors of serious-minded and concerned individuals who believe it is now time for the LAPD records on Senator Robert Kennedy's assassination, by far the largest and most critical body of official information on the case, to begin finding their way into the public domain.

Sincerely,

 Gerald D. McKnight
 Professor of History
 Hood College
 Frederick, Md. 21701

cc: Ms. Barbara Scalei