



Memorial Continuing Education Institute

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July 16, 1985

Mr. Stephen Yslas, President
Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners
150 N. Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Yslas:

As an instructor and researcher in American History concerned with the study of American political assassinations, I wanted to write to you and the Commission in order to support the release of police files concerning the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

For the past four years I have been helping to develop a research center for the study of American political assassinations. This center is now located in Washington, D.C. The Assassination Archives and Research Center is a non-profit foundation which is currently establishing ties to academic departments at major colleges and universities throughout the United States. It is the intent of the AARC to encourage serious faculty and students to use its resources in Washington to study political assassinations.

My research and fundraising have led to "horror stories" about valuable research materials that were improperly housed, misused, or damaged. The Lincoln Trial papers (handwritten) were stored in baskets within the National Archives until recent years when they were finally copied onto micro-fiche. I have seen films and rare books that were damaged because they were not stored in climate-controlled areas.

There is a lot of interest in the study of terrorism and violence as well as assassinations on college campuses. Students entering colleges in the Fall will have, in most cases, been born in 1968, with little knowledge of the 1960's. Yet, there still remains a natural and academic curiosity among today's students and faculty to try to understand why these tragic events occur.

If I may be of any assistance in recommending a systematic release of the materials, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Dr. John H. Gordon

JHG/may