

I have come here from New York City because of my profound concern about this issue.

I will speak from my point of view as a documentary film producer, who is now in the process of researching the life of Robert Kennedy.

My last television program, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT: The Press Conferences of JFK, aired on PBS on the 20th anniversary of President Kennedy's death. It was made up almost entirely of archival footage from the Kennedy Library. The program could not have been produced if CBS had not deeded its press conference footage to the Kennedy Library, or if CBS had chosen to deed only a limited selection of conferences or portions of conferences. In order for me to do the best program I needed the complete record to work with. Otherwise, I could not have hoped to convey anything more than a limited view of my subject.

Unfortunately, when I began my research on the presidential campaign and related death of Robert Kennedy I came up against the problem of limited access to relevant records concerning the assassination. Instead of being able to study both the primary documents and various interpretations, such as the Kaiser, Houghton and Christian/Turner books, I had only the books and the varying interpretations of evidence contained in them.

The impossibility of doing a fully responsible job of dealing with the assassination under these circumstances is due to the lack of a common base of information dealt with by the authors of the various books and articles on the subject. Some would focus on one area or series of areas of evidence, leading to one interpretation, and another would reach the opposite conclusion based on the evidence he chose to present.

I want to present you with an example\*of the kind of prob- \*(a very  
lems I face without the release of the full record. And please sensitiv  
understand that I do not draw any conclusions or wish to adopt example)  
an interpretation of any final import from this one evidentiary  
example:

I have here copies of some FBI photos (with which you are probably familiar) from their initial study of the room in which the assassination occurred. I am referring to the FBI's photographs of the doorframes located in a direct line with where all the gunshot victims fell. The FBI's captions for these photos refer to, "Bullet holes located in center doorframe inside kitchen serving area." Now, as anyone familiar with this case knows, the LAPD accounted for all eight of the bullets Sirhan's gun could hold, without explicitly explaining their conclusions about these photos. So, without access to the full record of the investigation a researcher might well conclude that the FBI's "Bullet holes...in center doorframe..." must mean that another gun had been fired.

This kind of problem, the dearth of relevant information

can lead directly to irresponsible conclusions or interpretations. And in the case of how I will deal with the assassination in my program, I am left with three less than fully responsible options - one, adopt the conclusions of one of the authors, - two, refrain from dealing with the assassination at all, or - three, promote my own interpretation from the limited record.

It is relevant to add that the destruction of the doorframes by the LAPD along with the fact that more than half of the property reports are not not accounted for also encourages less than fully responsible interpretations. So, I do hope that the Commission will immediately act to explicitly prohibit any further destruction of evidence.

The assassination, in 1968, was a highly significant cross-roads for our country, replacing the probable RFK presidency with the Nixon years. Now a's the 20th anniversary of that event fast approaches, surely Americans deserve to have access to the full historical record, and not to yet another summary interpretation.

I want to close with the example of how another city has treated a similar tragedy. In May, Senator Edward Kennedy's office asked me if I would allow them to show my program on President Kennedy as part of the Dallas County Democrats' dinner remembering President Kennedy on his birthday. I was proud to do so and asked if I might be present at the dinner. It was a wonderful evening. Several congressmen and others spoke with genuine admiration and affection about the man who met his death in their city. The next day, I went to Dallas's memorial to John Fitzgerald Kennedy, which for me was even more eloquent than the National Memorial in Arlington and which acknowledged Dallas's special sorrow that the assassination occurred in their city. Finally, I went to the Dallas County Administration Building, (formerly the Texas School Book Depository), where Dallas is currently in the process of transforming the 6th floor into an historic exhibit, which incidentally will include a room that explains the views of those who do not accept the Warren Commission interpretations, and which even points out the so-called "grassy knoll" from one of the windows.

Dallas has already invested \$75,000 and is now out raising the 3-million the entire project will require. And, as well, although the circumstances are not equivalent to those before you today, they have also released their police files to the people of the United States.

Dallas has shown an appreciation that a major historic event occurred in their city and have taken the position that they would make an active and affirmative effort to help both scholars and the general public understand the event, by making what is known available to all.

Thank you very much for your attention and your concern.