Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Ms. Ramona Branch, Archivist
Textual Reference Division
National Archives at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Dear Ms. Branch,

Thank you for the information in your letter of the 30th.

Ms. Barbehenn had been in touch with some of your people. They referred her to the LBJ Library and from it she is getting a dub of the tape.

Unless there are now documents in the Commission's files that were not there in 1968 much of the significance of that LBJ-Senator Russell conversation will not be perceived. I believe it should be of interest to authentic scholars.

I wrote about it to a limited degree in my 1974 book, Whitewash IV.

There is more in my 1995 NEVER AGAIN!

After writing that I wrote a lengthier account that I make available to scholars and will be part of my records at local Hood College.

My sources were Senator Russell himself, his legislative assistant and records he and Senator John Sherman Cooper left. These make it clear that Senator Cooper agreed with Senator Russell on the impossibility of the basic aingle-bullet theory and that to a lesser degree Congressman Hale Boggs did, too.

Thank you for your help,

Harold Weisberg

Ms. Ramona M. Branch, Archivist
Textual Reference Division
National Archives at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

1/1/97

Dear Ms. Branch,

Thank you for the information in your letter of the 30th.

I would like to get a dub of the tape of that 7:54 p.m. conversation between President Johnson and Senator Russell on 9/18/64.

Not knowing how to address those to whom you refer me I ask that you please refer this request for that dub to the proper person there. I'll pay the costs.

Unless there are documents in the Commission's files that were not there in 1968 the significance of that conversation on that date may not be apparent to scholars looking to learn rather than validate a point of view. I wrote about that in my 1974 book Whitewash IV.

Later I wrote about that in greater detail in an unpublished manuscript That in time will be available at local Hood College. I also include some in my 1995 NEVER AGAIN! which was published by Carroll & Graf.

Senator Russell was the first critic of the Warren Report, as the news stories I cite in NEVER AGAIN! do not make clear. Senator Cooper joined him in that. Senator Russell told me that Congressman Hale Boggs had the same doubts but not as strongly.

If any scholars inquire about this and would like copies I'll be glad to provide them.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

National Archives at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

December 30, 1996

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your letter of December 16, 1996, requesting information concerning the existence of transcript documenting a conversation between President Johnson and Senator Russell on September 18, 1964.

According to our listing of LBJ transcripts, the conversation between Senator Russell and President Johnson took place at 7:54 p.m. on September 18, 1964. Our notations indicate that the JFK related portion of the conversation was 13 minutes and 51 seconds in length and the two men discussed the Warren Commission Report, Lee Harvey Oswald, and the bullet that struck John Connally. Further checking indicates that there is no transcript of this conversation. Documents supporting this fact are enclosed. Apparently portions of the tape can be heard in our Motion Picture Sound and Video research room. They can provide you with additional information concerning reproduction.

Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ramona M. Branch

RAMONA M. BRANCH
ARCHIVIST
TEXTUAL REFERENCE DIVISION

Enclosure

RECORDINGS AND TRANSCRIPTS OF CONVERSATIONS AND MEETINGS
JFK ASSASSINATION RELATED CONVERSATIONS, SEPTEMBER 1964
TAPE NUMBER K64.02

PNO	Date	Time	T/F	Speaker	LBJ Y/N	If not LBJ, who is speaking	Other Speaker(s)	Length	Restriction*	Date Opened
1	4/15/94			INTRODUCTION						
2	9/18/64	7:54P	F	RICHARD RUSSELL **	Y			13:51		4/15/94
3	9/19/64	1:45P	F	GEORGE REEDY **	Y			5:47		4/15/94
4	9/27/64	12:55P	F	MCGEORGE BUNDY	Y			11:35	C-Sanitized	
5	9/27/64	2:55P	?	MCGEORGE BUNDY	Y			1:32	C-Sanitized	
6	9/28/64	7:22A	?	MIKE MANSFIELD **	Y			11:30	C-Sanitized	

*Restrictions: A: Closed by Executive Order 12356 governing access to national security information
B: Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
C: Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

** JFK assassination-related portion only

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY TAPE K64.02

RECORDINGS OF CONVERSATIONS
RELATED TO THE JFK ASSASSINATION

COPYRIGHT WARNING

PNO	Speaker	Date	Time
[Side A]			
1	INTRODUCTION		
2	RICHARD RUSSELL*	9/18/64	7:54P
3	GEORGE REEDY*	9/19/64	1:45P
4	MCGEORGE BUNDY	9/27/64	12:55P
	Restriction: Donor Deed of Gift - Sanitized		
5	MCGEORGE BUNDY	9/27/64	2:55P
	Restriction: Donor Deed of Gift - Sanitized		
6	MIKE MANSFIELD *	9/28/64	7:22A
	Restriction: Donor Deed of Gift - Sanitized		

[Side B is blank]

* JFK assassination-related portion only

LIST OF DICTABELT TELEPHONE RECORDINGS
PREPARED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S SECRETARIAL STAFF

DICTATED BY [CW 7]

DICTABELT® NO. 6.545a DATE 9-18-64

RECORD

Dictate special instructions before start of each letter (Number of carbons, special treatment, etc.)

Speak Fast or Slow but clearly. Spell out unusual names. difficult words.

BEFORE TYPING LISTEN AT POINTS CHECKED FOR CORRECTIONS OR INSTRUCTIONS

CHECK √ SCALE JUST BEFORE DICTATING CORRECTIONS OR INSTRUCTIONS	CHECK √ SCALE AT END OF LETTER OR MEMO	DICTAGRAM® PAD NOTES
0	0	7:54 f Sen Richard Russell (ret. This call)
10	10	
20	20	
30	30	
40	40	
50	50	
60	60	
70	70	
80	80	
90	90	
100	100	
110	110	
120	120	
130	130	

Dictaphone REG. U.S. PAT. OFF. TIME-MASTER®

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FORM B-86 REV. 3/57

REFERENCE COPY

Speaker Name: RICHARD RUSSELL
Tape: K64.02
PNO: 2

Information concerning the conversation:

Date	9/18/64
Time	7:54P
LBJ (Y/N)?	Y
If not LBJ, who?	
To/From (T/F)	F
Speaker	RICHARD RUSSELL
Other speakers	
Transcribed (Y/N)	N Transcript Document No.:
Comments	"RETURNED HIS CALL"; ONLY JFK ASSASSINATION-RELATED PORTION AVAILABLE; SEE STATEMENT
Topics	WARREN COMMISSION REPORT ON JFK ASSASSINATION, BULLET THAT STRUCK JOHN CONNALLY; LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Information concerning the recording:

Tape	K64.02
Program No. (PNO)	2
Length of conversation	13:51
Envelope Number*	7
Belt Number*	005A

*Envelope number refers to the number which the LBJ Library staff assigned to the envelope containing the original Dictabelt® or IBM belt. Belt number refers to the number assigned to the original belt recording of this conversation.

STATEMENT BY THE STAFF OF THE LBJ LIBRARY

TAPE 64.02, PNO 2

The following is a portion of a conversation between President Johnson and Senator Richard Russell on September 18, 1964, at 7:54 P.M. The entire conversation is approximately twenty-three minutes, forty-five seconds in length and was originally recorded on two Dictabelts. There is no transcript of this conversation, and only that portion of the conversation in which the Kennedy assassination was discussed is included in this tape. This discussion occurs at the beginning of the first Dictabelt recording and is approximately three minutes, ten seconds in length.