

ACCESS • Association of Concerned Citizens
for Ending Senseless Secrecy
P.O. Box 9032 • Washington, D.C. 20003

September 17, 1982

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Many of us have worked together in the past for a shared goal to get out the facts of political assassinations in America. Creation of the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1976 was achieved by many individuals working together to demonstrate the public's interest and need to know. This achievement flowed directly from combined efforts during the sixties to translate public outrage into political pressure for release of Warren Commission documents. Without those political pressures it is doubtful we ever would have had a Congressional reinvestigation.

The House Committee was all too much like the Warren Commission in one respect. On closing shop they provided no access to their working files for either historical researchers or the general public who paid for the investigations. By comparison, when Warren Commission files were designated as unavailable until the year 2038, an outraged public demanded and brought about earlier release.

As things now stand the House Committee files won't be available for research until the year 2028. This is because Rules of the House of Representatives do not provide for release of documents less than 50 years old. However, the House has the authority to waive its own rules and a resolution passed by the full House could make Assassination Committee documents open to research immediately. Passage of such a bill would hold the House Committee to the same accountability as the Warren Commission.

We intend to lobby for passage in the House of the required Resolution and we need your support. An association of concerned citizens will again be necessary to end senseless secrecy. By organizing a broad coalition of interested citizens we can speak with a loud voice to those responsible in the House. We seek to attract a wide spectrum of individuals in this shared effort and propose doing so by working for one single purpose. As an organization we will take no position on whether the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King were conspiracies. We will take no position as an organization as to the performance of the various investigations. We simply wish release now of the

House Committee files so those who demanded and paid for these investigations will be better served in making their own judgments.

In the three years since the House Committee made public its controversial findings of conspiracy the Justice Department has not acted on specific recommendations for further investigation. Executive agencies slowed their ongoing document releases during the life of the committee on the grounds that both the Kennedy and King cases were "currently under Congressional investigations". Since the closing of those investigations releases have come to a virtual standstill.

The F.B.I., C.I.A., and other executive agencies are now resisting Freedom of Information requests for their own House Committee era documents by suggesting all provided the committee became congressional records and are thus exempt. In recent litigation the Clerk of the House actively tried to block F.B.I. releases by invoking the Speech and Debate clause of the U.S. Constitution. Clearly those upon whom we rely for information are not informing us.

We propose that you lend your good names to this association and express your support in the coming months by writing former House Committee members (a list of current addresses is attached) and your own Representative who regards constituent inquiries a high priority during an election year. Particularly between now and November it is hoped concerned citizens across the country will call upon their campaigning Representatives to take a position publicly in favor of the public's right to know.

Here in Washington we will be calling upon members of the House in their Capitol Hill offices. To be effective this lobbying will need your active support back in the congressional districts. Raising political awareness of this issue in localities all around the nation was the key to success in the past. Public pressure forced release of Warren Commission files and brought about a Congressional reinvestigation. Together we will gain the release of House Committee files.

Please act to join in this effort today by completing the attached membership card.

Sincerely,


MARK ALLEN

Sincerely,


KEVIN WALSH

HSCA MEMBERS

The Honorable Louis Stokes
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richardson Preyer, M.C.
603 Sunset Drive
Greensboro, North Carolina 27408

The Honorable Walter E. Fauntroy
2350 Rayburn House Office Bdg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Christopher T. Dodd
363 Russell Senate Office Bdg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Thone
Governor
State of Nebraska
State Capital
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

The Honorable Harold S. Sawyer
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Floyd T. Fithian
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Edgar
2442 Rayburn House Office Bdg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harold E. Ford
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Yvonne Braithewaite Burke, M.C.
Kutak, Rock and Huie
600 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1400
Los Angeles, CA 90017

The Honorable Samuel L. Devine, M.C.
Bricker and Eckler
Suite 1150
1301 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

The Honorable Stewart B. McKinney
106 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thomas Downing
Downing, Conway and Beale
12482 Warwick Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23606