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Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

September 8, 1978

The Honorable John Sherman Cooper
Covington and Burling
888 Sixteenth Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Senator Cooper:

The Committee appreciates your having taken the time to call Professor Blakey several months ago to express your interest in our endeavor. It is good to have the benefit of your thoughts on the investigation into the death of President Kennedy.

Our public hearings are now under way and are scheduled to continue until September 28th. Among the areas that we are considering in our hearings are a number of issues relating to the performance of the Warren Commission and the Federal agencies involved in the investigation of the President's assassination.

We have invited both President Ford and Mr. Rankin to appear and testify on those subjects between September 19 and September 22, and we have been informed that both will attempt to arrange their schedules to do so. When I discussed the hearings with President Ford, he asked whether you and Mr. McCloy would also be appearing at the hearings. However, when we spoke with Mr. McCloy several days ago, he expressed the desire not to appear unless the Committee felt it was "necessary." In conjunction with our forthcoming hearings, on behalf of the Committee I would like to extend to you the opportunity to appear and offer your views.

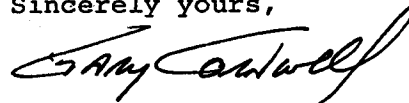
The Committee will understand your decision should you not decide to come, and will nevertheless incorporate the views you previously expressed into our permanent

record and consider them in our final report. On the other hand, if you feel that an appearance at the hearings would not be unduly burdensome to you, the Committee and the public, I am sure, would both appreciate, and benefit from, the opportunity to hear your views directly from you at the hearings.

I have attached a list of the subject areas which the Committee is principally interested in considering for your assistance in making a decision. As soon as possible, please notify me of your decision, and if you decide to appear, I will discuss with you a specific date and other arrangements for your appearance.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Gary Cornwell
Deputy Chief Counsel

GC:ijr

Enclosure