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Senator in covered
Nov. 8
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November 3, 1965

Honorable John Sherman Cooper
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

NOV 5 1965

Dear Senator Cooper:

I think it would be a good idea to have a meeting of the former members of the President's Commission to Investigate the Assassination of President Kennedy within the near future. Since the Commission has been discharged, it cannot meet as a Commission, but all of the members certainly can get together and discuss the items you refer to which are the lodging of the records, their classification, and also the budget of the Commission.

You will recall that the Commission instructed me to have all of the records lodged with the National Archives and this was done in accordance with those instructions. The National Archives have worked diligently to classify the records and have largely completed that effort. They now have a number of questions about releases of some of the records, and I will have a copy of that inquiry from National Archives prepared and sent to each of the former members of the Commission for their examination and consideration before the meeting which I assume could be held by sometime before the latter part of this month.

I am sure you will also recall that a detailed final budget was furnished to each member of the Commission sometime before the Commission's affairs were closed. I assume that your secretary can find this for you so that you can reexamine it at your leisure.

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If it meets with your approval, I should like to try to get to you the information I describe by the middle of this month and before that time canvass all of the former members to find an agreed date for a meeting in Washington the latter part of the week of November 14th, or for the early part of the week of November 21st if the meeting for the prior week cannot be arranged. I am assuming that all of the former Commission members would desire to have the entire former membership present if at all possible.

Will you kindly let me know whether these suggestions meet with your approval and, if so, I will proceed to try to accomplish them.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,


J. Lee Rankin