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August 26, 1980

Robert P. Gemberling  
7106 Clemson Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75214

Dear Mr. Gemberling:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letters dated July 18, 1980 and August 12, 1980 to me regarding the transcript of your testimony before the now default House Select Committee on Assassinations. After receiving your letter of July 18, 1980, I contacted the Office of the Clerk relative to the contents of that letter. I now have in my possession a copy of the letter from the Clerk to you dated August 6, 1980.

In your letter dated August 12, 1980, you posed the question of what was necessary for you to get a copy of the transcript of your testimony which could not be made available to you until it has been in existence for fifty years. Firstly, this Congressional Committee is no longer in existence and therefore, I have no authority to act as Chairman of a now default Congressional Committee. Secondly, you are not correct in assuming that the reason you are unable to get a copy of your transcript is because I, as Chairman of the Committee, did not approve publication of your testimony at the Committee's final meeting on December 29, 1978. While there was a resolution that did authorize me to release such executive testimony and other information in the possession of the Committee during presentation of the Final Report, there was no request before me to release your executive Committee transcript. The Committee for reasons of its own did not choose to publicize the executive Committee testimony.

If you recall on the day that you appeared before Mr. Preyer's Subcommittee there was a conversation between you and Mr. Preyer which appears in the transcript as follows:

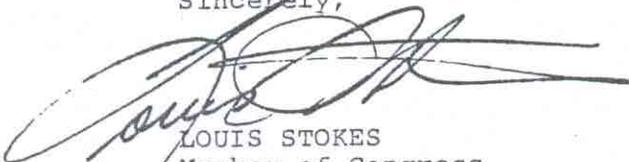
Mr. Preyer. "That was going to be my final comment to you, Mr. Gemberling. This is an executive session. I assure you that no member of the Committee or staff here is going to release any of this testimony. We would like to encourage you not to discuss any of it. If you want to use us as an excuse this is an executive session and the Committee has urged you not to discuss it, I would so urge you right now."

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Mr. Gemberling. "Very good. That will suffice. I am sure there will be people who will know I have been up here. I will assure the Committee that I will not divulge anything we have discussed other than to say I did testify but it was an executive session and that will end it. Thank you."

There was some further discussion between you and Mr. Preyer in which you requested a copy of the transcript being made available to you. Mr. Preyer informed you that under our Rules it stated that the Committee would furnish the witness a copy of the transcript of his or her testimony when it is made public at his or her own expense. Mr. Preyer advised you on that occasion that the full Committee would have to take up a question of authorizing a full transcript for you. Since the matter was never presented to the full Committee and authorized by them, I was never given an opportunity to have the Committee respond to your request. Accordingly, your testimony before the Kennedy Subcommittee is subject to the Rules of the House of Representatives which has been explained to you by the Clerk.

Sincerely,



LOUIS STOKES  
Member of Congress