

February 14, 1992

Rec'd
2/18/92


Dear "Convenor":

This material is going to the 31 individuals designated as "convenors" on the local directory distributed earlier. Many of you have received notices of late additions (and some may be enclosed with this letter) for people in your area. These will be added to a revision of the directory to be distributed in 2 or 3 weeks, along with several corrections I have received.

Meantime, I'm sending you several items that you might find useful:

1. Ulric Shannon's write-up of the Albany-Rochester-Buffalo meeting held Jan 17 at Fredonia; not necessarily a "model" for your meetings, but an idea.
2. excerpt from the Congressional Record showing Rep Henry Gonzalez' introduction of a resolution to open the HSCA files. I understand the resolution has been referred to the House Administration Committee, chaired by (no relation) Charles Rose of North Carolina. I expect to have a list, courtesy Ray Ritchie, of all the documents contained in the HSCA files.
3. photocopy of a clip from the Houston Post showing the results of a survey of Texas congressmen on the issue of opening the files---perhaps suggesting a direction that that we might use "media assets" in our respective areas; most daily newspapers must have "political reporters" who might be encouraged to do similar jobs of getting members of congress on record.
4. clipping from the Buffalo News, a column of Donn Esmonde about myself. Without seeking personal aggrandizement, I think we must find ways to exploit the fleeting "fame" in our current situation to promote a more favorable climate of public acceptance of our work; and the political action necessary to open research files.
5. A clip about the files recently opened in Dallas. From other sources I understand that the condition of access to these files (one hour at a time under the nose of the archivist) are not particularly encouraging. We have an offer from "one of us" to photocopy the file very cheaply, but it would of course be necessary first to get a copy from their archives.
6. The first issue of Prologue, published by Bill Kelly for the COA. At this point it isn't entirely clear how we and COA can help each other; but I'm working on it.
7. A form or format for you to submit a report on your group's activities. Some reports I've received already; I'd like to have the first of your reports using the format by March 1 if possible. Please remember, communication is the essence of organization, so let's "stay in touch."

The humongous "double issue" of TTD for Jan-Mar is nearly complete and hopefully will be in your hands by or very close to March 1.


Jerry Rose

On January 18, 1992, some twenty assassination researchers from the upper New York State area met at Fredonia, NY. This "mini-conference", organized by Buffalo's Nathan Sull, Third Decade publisher Jerry Rose and this researcher had three important topics on its agenda: a review of last November's ~~conference~~ in Dallas, a review of Oliver Stone's movie "JFK", and a look ahead to the upcoming (let us hope) release of all presently classified documents, particularly those of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

research
symposium

The twenty researchers are residents of three main regions of upper New York State--Rochester, Albany and Buffalo-Silver Creek. Thus, three "representatives" were chosen to lead each area: Nathan Sull for Buffalo, Joseph Backes for Albany and Greg Quail for Rochester. The purpose of such structuring is to coordinate researchers' pressures on elected officials to bring about swift release of these documents--swift, because most researchers agree that once the controversy over "JFK" dies down, so will the public push for such releases.

But even at this early date, the outlook seems positive: important politicians such as Ted Kennedy, Arlen Specter, Richard Nixon and Louis Stokes, as well as most of the mass media (New York Times, ABC News) have called for public disclosure of these files. Reports are that Lee Hamilton and Henry Gonzales are ready to introduce a motion in Congress to release the files. Researcher John Long was even able to report early progress with his own elected representatives.

The main "pressure tactics" endorsed by Silver Creekers Jerry Rose and John Long are: first, getting commitments from local politicians to push for the release of the files; secondly, insuring follow-through by these politicians; and thirdly, gaining public support by calling for disclosure on TV, radio, and in the op-ed pages of newspapers.

Rose also urged strong action by the Assassination Archives and Research Center in Washington, a group on whose board of directors he sits; almost on cue, AARC's director, Jim Lesar, penned a strongly worded call for disclosure in an article written for The Washington Post.

→ P.S.: have you seen it?

We hope that readers in other states will take the initiative to organize similar regional cliques to maximize political pressure.

Never again will we have such a golden opportunity to snatch the truth--or its remnants--from the jaws of bureaucracy. The time to act is now.

Ulric Shannon
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that about 700,000 seniors would go back to work if this unfair and outdated tax penalty were repealed. The impact this would have on our economy would be significant, potentially adding about \$15 billion to the gross national product. Repealing the earnings test is a cost-effective measure, and we can take it right now to help in this stubborn recession. Repeal is common sense, it is economic sense, and it is fair play for older Americans who want to or need to look out for themselves by earning their own way.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 325 CONCERNING RELEASE OF SEALED DOCUMENTS ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

(Mr. GONZALEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a simple House resolution today that would unseal and release to the public those files that were sealed by the Select Committee on Assassinations pertaining to the assassination of President John Kennedy. Until a few weeks ago, I had no idea that any documents had been sealed. The sealing of documents by the House is something that I believe the House of Representatives should find abhorrent.

Yet, I was the one who is responsible for creating the committee—I introduced the resolution that the House adopted, although the original purpose of the committee was skewed. As it turned out, the committee turned into a who dunnit rather than a committee dedicated to a legislative purpose. Thus, the committee was undermined from the very start when it took off in the direction of an investigation with no legislative goal. When they announced their findings that the assassination of President Kennedy was probably the result of a conspiracy, but then sealed the records of the committee, the germseed for eternal conjecturing and infinite hypothesizing was planted.

We in the Congress have often enough engaged in debates with the executive branch about claims of executive privilege to withhold information from the Congress. If the Congress does this itself, by sealing documents that should be part of the public domain, we have lost our moral argument on this issue.

I am not reviving anything, not espousing any theory or endorsing any inference of conspiracy, and I am not asking for anything other than to release the sealed records to the public. I ask my colleagues to join with me if they share my interest and concern in ensuring openness in government and in our processes.

H. RES. 325

Resolved, That, within thirty days beginning after the date of adoption of this resolution, the Archivist of the United States shall release for public use the records specified in section 2.

SEC. 2. The records referred to in the first section are all of the records of the Select Committee on Assassinations of the Ninety-fourth Congress and of the Ninety-fifth Congress.

JANUARY 15, 1992.

HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR HENRY: Congratulations on moving to get all the information related to the Kennedy assassination released. Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent to Lou Stokes which you may want to put in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when you introduce your resolution. Keep up all your good work.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR.

JANUARY 13, 1992.

HON. LOUIS STOKES,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LOU: As an aide to President Lyndon Johnson from 1965 until he left office in January, 1969, let me add my voice to those who are urging you and the House of Representatives to release all files related to your investigation of the assassination of John Kennedy and the Warren Commission report.

The Oliver Stone movie JFK is a disgraceful concoction of lies and distortions designed, among other things, to leave the impression that there was a massive conspiracy among all elements of American society—government, business, the media—to kill President Kennedy, and that one of the conspirators was President Johnson. The movie may make Stone and Time-Warner lots of money, but it is still a big lie.

The film is particularly offensive with respect to President Lyndon Johnson who called the Kennedy assassination "the foulest deed of our time" and said when he faced a joint session of Congress shortly thereafter, "All I have I would have given gladly not to be standing here today." In addition to working as Lyndon Johnson's closest domestic aide for three and one-half years, I have spent the past four years researching and writing *The Triumph and Tragedy of Lyndon Johnson*.

Johnson believed, as he said to me, that Fidel Castro was responsible for President Kennedy's assassination. In a reference to attempts by the Kennedy brothers to assassinate Castro, Johnson told me, "Kennedy tried to get Castro, but Castro got Kennedy first." After assuming the Presidency, Lyndon Johnson ordered a stop to all covert activity to eliminate Castro. Moreover, LBJ was so convinced that Castro assassinated Kennedy that he asked the FBI to take special precautions to protect him and his family from an attempt by Castro on his own life. Johnson did not agree with the Warren Commission's report that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. In late 1966 and early 1967, he discussed with me reopening the investigation, but decided against it because he did not believe it was in the interests of the country and he did not want to inflict any additional pain on the Kennedy family.

Mr. Chairman, you did take the time in a thorough House inquiry to reexamine the Warren Commission findings and conduct

ious film giving millions of young Americans a false revisionist history lesson—I believe it is imperative that the House open to the public all the files accumulated in the course of your investigation.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR.

□ 1210

TRIBUTE TO GLENN BRENNER

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in paying tribute to Glenn Brenner—a man who was loved by so many people in the Washington area and beyond—and also to send my condolences and prayers to Glenn's wife, children, and parents in their time of sorrow and loss.

I think everybody got to know Glenn Brenner like I did by watching him on television. A member of my staff who had the privilege of working with Glenn said he was everything he appeared to be on TV, and more.

Having been born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, like Glenn, I took a special interest in following his career.

Glenn Brenner was a consummate family man. Despite his success and the celebrity he obtained, Glenn's family always came first.

In life—and death—Glenn Brenner taught us the value of laughter. More importantly, he taught us not to take our work and careers so seriously that we lose sight of what is most important in this life—our families and friends.

Thank you, Glenn, and may God bless your family and friends.

RESPONDING TO THE CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL WARFARE THREAT

(Mr. BROWDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, in a time of worldwide proliferation of chemical and biological warfare programs, when the former Soviet Union's enormous CBW resources might be available for sale to the highest bidder, it is imperative that the United States be trained and ready to face the threat of chemical/biological war.

The intelligence community recognizes the threat.

Director of U.S. Central Intelligence Robert Gates last month told the House Armed Services Committee:

The accelerating proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons in other countries around the world is probably of gravest concern.

The defense community recognizes the threat.

Sen. H. Norman Schwartzkopf, 1991

Shaking dust from JFK files

Most Texas congressmen support unsealing records

HOUSTON POST 1-19-92

BY ROSALIND JACKLER AND DAN CARNEY
POST WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Whoever said time heals all wounds hadn't counted on Oliver Stone.

His controversial film about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has rubbed salt into a nation's scarred psyche, resurrecting painful memories and re-creating doubts about the events 28 years ago.

Whether you've seen his movie *JFK*, whether you glorify Stone's work or vilify him for revisionist history, he pointed out the all-but-forgotten fact that some records of Kennedy's assassination are sealed until 2029.

But, maybe not.

A move is afoot in Congress to re-open the work of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which conducted a two-year investigation and reported in 1978 that a conspiracy probably

was behind Kennedy's slaying. The committee, though, agreed with the 1964 Warren Commission report that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone gunman who shot the president that sunny November day in Dallas.

Stone's movie didn't create questions as much as it reminded the public of questions forgotten over the decades. And for a generation too young to remember or not yet born, the debate over the film has turned into a living history lesson.

That's what disturbs Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, who was chairman of the House select committee. He now is considering opening the committee's records, because of the movie's claims of a government conspiracy and cover-up. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., brother of the slain president, said he wouldn't stand in the way.

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, who briefly chaired the committee before a dispute with the legal

Should JFK files be open to public?

Oliver Stone's *JFK* has spurred calls for unsealing files on John Kennedy's death. Should the files be opened?



InfoPoll/Page A-17

congressmen say open files

From A-1

counsel caused both to resign, said he will file a resolution this week when Congress returns to open those documents. Unsealing the records requires a majority vote of the 435 House members.

And most of the 27 Texans in the House are willing to support such a resolution. Of the 18 members who could be reached last week, all but two said they favor opening the committee files. The two holdouts hadn't decided yet.

"I believe there was a conspiracy," said Rep. Mike Andrews, D-Houston, who was a freshman at the University of Texas when Kennedy was killed.

He dismisses Stone's theories about then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson and the military-industrial complex being behind the assassination, but Andrews does believe there was more than one gunman.

The Warren Commission concluded Kennedy, and then-Texas Gov. John Connally, who was riding with Kennedy, were shot by Oswald from behind from the Texas School Book Depository during an open-car motorcade. There has always been a belief by many that at least one other gunman fired at the president from a grassy knoll to the right and slightly in front of the Presidential convertible.

Archives has JFK records

POST WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The National Archives houses three sets of records relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

They are from the Warren Commission, the House Select Committee on Assassinations and related material donated by the Kennedy family and the famous Zapruder home camera film showing the president being shot.

Kennedy's estate transferred custody of the autopsy photos and X-rays to the archives in 1966. Under a deed of gift, those pictures can be viewed only by government agencies investigating Kennedy's death or by recognized medical and technical experts who obtain permission from the family's representative.

According to officials with the National Archives, 98 percent of

the Warren Commission records are open. Some documents have been withheld for national security, personal privacy or law enforcement considerations.

The unpublished records from the House Assassinations Committee were sealed for 50 years, until 2029, under a standing rule that covers all unpublished records of the House of Representatives.

Such documents customarily are closed for 30 years, but the 50-year restriction can apply to certain categories, such as personnel and executive sessions.

Files on the assassination are still held by the CIA, FBI and the Defense Department. They, too, are closed.

The only files members of the House of Representatives are currently talking about opening, through a vote of its members, are those of the select committee.

THE POST INFO POLL SHOULD ALL FILES ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC?

To register your vote, dial H-O-U-S-T-O-N (468-7866), with a touch-tone phone, then enter 7655 (POLL). Telephone lines will be open until 6 p.m. Sunday. Results will be published in Monday's Post.



The Post InfoPoll is not scientific but does serve as an informal gauge of the intensity of feelings on an issue.

Only two of the Texans contacted last week had seen Stone's movie: Reps. John Bryant, D-Dallas, and Charles Stenholm, D-Stamford, and both agree the records should be opened.

"I think the public ought to feel confident that their government is not withholding anything from them about anything, whether the Kennedy assassination or any other historical event. Let these records see the light of day," said Bryant, who was between classes in Freeport's Brazosport High School on Nov. 22, 1963, when a schoolmate told him about the shooting.

Said Stenholm: "I have a hard time seeing any reason the records should be sealed. That just gives credibility to the people who say there is something there."

Rep. Charles Wilson, D-Lufkin, says open the committee's files, but don't create any new commissions or panels to study the matter.

Wilson, who worked on the Kennedy campaign, said he has no intention of paying Stone "10 bucks" to see an overly sensational film because he has a hard time swallowing the plot of a massive conspiracy.

That may seem like an unusual opinion from a congressman who saw a communist menace just about everywhere during the Cold War, avidly supported the Contra rebels in Nicaragua and went to Afghanistan to help the guerrilla warriors take on the Soviet army.

"I think Mr. Stone has a real psychological hang-up with his government," Wilson said. "The idea that this could be kept secret is absurd. We couldn't even mine the harbor in Nicaragua and keep it a secret."

Rep. Ralph Hall, D-Rockwall, argues that a new investigation might uncover facts and events missed by previous probes, particularly concerning any Cuba connection to the assassination.

There long has been speculation that Fidel Castro ordered Kennedy's assassination in retaliation for attempts on his life by United States operatives. Castro has always denied that theory.

But since the former Soviet Union opened its files on the Cuban missile crisis, Russia may release more documents that might cast some light on that theory.

"They're opening their books," Hall said. "Perhaps we could unravel some mysteries the CIA and others have faced."

Rep. Larry Combest, R-Lubbock, wouldn't be surprised if an

"What's driving this public's concern is they haven't had the whole story," Combest said.

Dallas OKs release of Kennedy assassination files

DALLAS (AP) - The Dallas City Council on Monday voted unanimously to release all municipal files on President Kennedy's assassination, including a box of records recently discovered.

The resolution, sponsored by councilman Domingo Garcia and approved in a 15-0 vote, also urged Congress to authorize the release of all federally held files on the assassination.

"The American public has a right to know in a free and open society what the government has or hasn't got," Garcia said.

"They have a right to see these files not in 2029, but in 1992."

Garcia said "maybe they (files) will reveal something, maybe they won't."

A box of documents was delivered to City Hall as the resolution was being considered. The municipal archives already had 15 boxes of files relating to the assassination, said city archivist Cindy Smolovik, who added that the new files should be available to the public within days.

Garcia said he did not know what the new files contained. Several of the files

were labeled "Intelligence Oswald" or "Intelligence Ruby" and one said "letters to Ruby."

"There are some that are really bland ... but there are some like letters to Jack Ruby and all kind of activity involving people near Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald," Garcia said.

Last week, Assistant City Manager A.C. Gonzalez told Garcia in a memorandum that "almost all" the Dallas records had already been turned over to the Warren Commission, the FBI or the municipal

archives.

They included records pertaining to Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin; Ruby, who killed Oswald; and Kennedy's death.

Kennedy was fatally shot during a motorcade in downtown Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. In the recent movie "JFK," film maker Oliver Stone had raised allegations of a conspiracy in the assassination.

Congressional files on the president's death had been sealed until 2029. Garcia's motion covered any documents,

police reports, audio tapes or film related to the assassination. His resolution also asked that the U.S. House open all sealed files of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Dallas County Historical Foundation executive director Bob Hays, who helped assemble The Sixth Floor exhibit on the assassination, said he doubts the Dallas files will reveal new information.

"The fact that anything that important would be left in Dallas seems to me unlikely," Hays said. "If's possible."

City wants Express-News' landmark plans Woman

PROLOGUE

The Newsletter of the Committee for an Open Archives

The Committee for an Open Archives -P.O.Box 6008, Wash.D.C.2005-0708

Volume 1 #1

"THE PAST IS PROLOGUE"

January 1992

COMMITTEE FORMED TO RELEASE JFK DOCUMENTS

Washington, D.C. The Committee for an Open Archives was formed in November, 1991 to help draft a bill to release the documents of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, see that it is introduced in Congress, to lobby for its passage and to disseminate the information once it is released.

Although most of the Warren Commission and FBI documents related to the assassination of John F. Kennedy have been released in censored form, there are still some significant material from the earliest investigations that are still being kept under raps. We are also attempting to get them released.

The most important documents however, stem from the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which concluded its business in 1979. HSCA Chairman Louis Stokes, on March 27, 1979, officially wrote that, "...The Justice (sic) Department is in physical custody of a variety of materials originating from the Select Committee. It can be anticipated that your department will receive requests under the Freedom of Information Act for access to these materials."

"The purpose of this letter is to request specifically that this congressional material and related information NOT be disclosed outside your department without written concurrence of the House of Representatives."

"All government agencies are...to treat the records they compiled for the HSCA investigation in the same fashion as "congressional material" NOT TO BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC."

House Rule XXXVI on the "Preservation and Availability of Noncurrent Records of the House" stipulates that such documents can only be made available if they have "been in existence for 50 years."

The Committee for an Open Archives intends to see that a bill is introduced in this congress that will release these documents. Although Rep.Stokes and former HSCA chief counsel G. Robert Blakey are expected to try and block such an effort, there is strong public support for such action and a growing lobby effort to pass such legislation.

It is believed that the bill, once introduced, will be assigned to the House Administration Committee before it is voted on by the complete House.

STONE'S "JFK" SPARKS DEBATE FUELS MOVEMENT TO OPEN ARCHIVES

By William E.Kelly

There have been few major motion pictures to create as much controversy before their release than Oliver Stone's new movie, "JFK."

Like Stone's other films, "JFK" is entertainment, not documentary or history. It's conspiratorial tone, however, has irked a few lawyers and journalists, whose reputations were made and are still threatened by this case.

The film is significant for calling attention to the assassination of JFK, a black hole in American history, and for using the medium to reach and influence a new generation who weren't even born in November, 1963.

While the debate rages over whether President Kennedy was killed by one man alone or by a sinister conspiracy, much of the truth lies locked away in the National Archives in Washington D.C.

Stone's movie may inspire some people to call for an official investigation. That however, has already been done, and done over, by the Dallas Police, the FBI, the USMC, the Warren Commission, the New Orleans District Attorney's office, the Schweiker-Hart subcommittee of the Senate's Church Intelligence Committee and the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA).

It was this last Congressional committee which compiled many important documents and took the testimony of many witnesses from 1977-1979. The HSCA issued a series of publications, its final report concluding, "there is evidence of conspiracy." The committee then dissolved, leaving its most significant evidence locked in the National Archives.

Because these documents are classified as "congressional documents" they are subject to House Rule #36 which stipulates that they cannot be released to the public for 50 years. They are scheduled to be released in the year 2029.

Nor can these documents be obtained by researchers through a Freedom of Information Act suit since Congress absolved itself from compliance when it approved the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act, over-riding a veto attempt by President Gerald Ford, who had served on the Warren Commission.

Now it will take an act of Congress to release the files and the public support for such an act is increasing.

Former chief counsel of the HSCA G.Robert Blakey said, "I'll rest on the judgment of historians in 2029." But we won't. We want the truth in our lifetime not in 2029.

Committee for an Open Archives
P.O. Box 6008, Washington D.C. 20005-0708

Letter From The Publisher:

The idea for the Committee for an Open Archives (COA) developed several years ago, but it only fermented into a workable concept last November shortly before the Assassination Symposium on Kennedy (ASK) in Dallas.

I had suggested the idea to John Judge, who had first introduced me to the significance of the Kennedy assassination when we were both in college in the sixties, but the concept only percolated until just before we left for the ASK conference. I put together a leaflet for the COA that I distributed to the Symposium participants, and received a tremendous response from an unabashedly biased audience.

On my way home from the conference my train made a six hour stop over in Washington, during which time I visited my Congressman, William Hughes (D. 2nd.N.J.) and then walked over to the Archives, where I learned the exact law, House Rule #36, which has kept the House Select Committee on Assassinations documents locked away. I also visited lawyer James Lesar at the Assassination Information Archives and my college mate John Judge.

While Judge took out the P.O. box in Washington, I put together this newsletter. I called it PROLOGUE a month before I saw Oliver Stone's film, "JFK," at the end of which he notes, "The Past Is Prologue" - the words that are inscribed on the side of the wall of the National Archives. I knew, at least we were on the same wavelength, but I never expected the movie to capture the public's imagination the way it did.

I knew that we had to convince over 218 congressman, a clear majority, to change the Rules of the House to release the documents. I also knew that of the 15,000 bills introduced into Congress every year, approximately 1,000 make it into law, or 1/15th the number submitted. So I thought we were going to start out with at least a 1 in 15 chance of getting the bill through.

Now however, and as long as the public maintains its interest to influence the people's representatives, the chances keep getting better. Once a bill is introduced, as a similar bill was in 1983 (HR# 160), it is sent to a committee. In this case it would normally be the House Administration Committee. The more committees it is sent to, and the longer it stays in committee, the less of a chance it has to make it to the house floor for a vote, and the less chance it has of becoming a law. Without the public interest, most bills lose out in committee, where they stay "on the shelf" until the year is out, and then they must be reintroduced to be considered again.

We don't intend to let that happen. While Oliver Stone made our job plausible, when it was only possible a few weeks ago, Congress still must be urged to move, each congressman must be individually polled as to where they stand on this issue, the bill must be sponsored, co-sponsored and introduced to the House and assigned to a committee. The committee must hold hearings on the bill and then vote on its merits before the matter can be brought to the floor by the entire House of Representatives. The bill may even be included in a larger package of bills to be voted on.

This is certainly an idea whose time has come. Not long ago we were just a few eccentric assassination and history buffs, but now we are mainstream America, with over 70% of the population supporting our cause. Neither Democrat nor Republican, liberal or conservative, leftwing or right wing, nor even lone-nut vs. conspiracy theorists, we just want the facts, and we want them to be made available to the public.

Forget another official investigation. There's already been too many of those. Any new official investigation will merely monopolize the files for another ten years. Lets put all the cards on the table and let them fall where they may. No more secrets, no more lies, just Open the Archives.

William E. Kelly

House Rule #XXXVI

PRESERVATION AND AVAILABILITY OF NONCURRENT RECORDS OF THE HOUSE

1. (a) At the end of each Congress, the chairman of each committee of the House shall transfer to the Clerk any noncurrent records of such committee, including the subcommittees thereof.....

2. The Clerk shall deliver the records pursuant to clause 1. of the rule, together with any other noncurrent records of the House, to the Archivist of the United States for preservation at the National Archives and Records Administration. Records so delivered are the permanent property of the House and remain subject to this rule and the orders of the House.....

3.(b).....(2) Any investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific individual (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), any administrative record with respect to personal, and any record with respect to a hearing closed pursuant to clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be available if such records has been in existence for 50 years.....

4. ... (b) The Committee on House Administration may prescribe guidelines and regulations governing the applicability and implementation of this rule.

(c) A committee may withdraw from the National Archives and Records Administration any record of the committee delivered to the Archivist of the United States under this rule. Such withdraw shall be on a temporary basis and for official use of the committee.

NEW BILL WRITTEN BY THE
Committee For An Open Archives
P.O. Box 6008, Washington D.C.
20005 - 0708

102nd CONGRESS

2nd Session

H. Res. # ?-

To provide for the immediate release of all records of the Select Committee on Assassinations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY, 1992

1.

1 Resolved, That, the Clerk of the House is authorized and directed to 2 order the Administrator of the General Services to make available for 3 public use, in accordance with this resolution, all records of the House 4 Select Committee on Assassinations of the 94th and 95th Congress.

2.

1 Sec. 2. The guidelines governing disclosure of the records of 2the Select Committee on Assassinations shall be the guidelines 3utilized by the General Services Administration for the records of the 4President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy 5and any other official investigation, including those conducted by the 6FBI, CIA, ONI, USMC, Dallas police and any other agency of the 7U.S. government.

3.

1 Sec. 3. It is the intent of the House that the General Services 2 Administration give priority to review and release of these records.

COMMITTEE FOR AN OPEN ARCHIVES

-P.O. Box 6008 Washington, D.C. 20005 - 0708-

-----THE TRUTH IS OUR ONLY OBJECTIVE-----

- The Committee for an Open Archives is a non-profit organization established to draft, introduce and pass Congressional legislation to declassify and accelerate the release of documents and testimony related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The COA was founded by William E. Kelly and John Judge and is funded through donations and membership subscriptions.

- The COA intends to pursue this goal through informing the public about what information is being withheld, creating a broad base of public-citizen support to open the Archives, and initiate an intense lobbying campaign in Congress to pass the necessary legislation to release the documents as soon as possible.

- The COA is also pursuing Freedom of Information and Privacy Act requests for specific documents and will publish the most recently released information, as well as any new developments in the JFK assassination, in our newsletter - PROLOGUE. We are also attempting to establish a nationwide team of independent researchers, disseminate the facts to be reviewed and indexed, and open a computerized network that will store, file and distribute the information as it becomes available.

- Besides the censored Warren Commission documents that remain classified after nearly 30 years, there are the House Select Committee on Assassination (HSCA) files, transcripts and information in the National Archives, which are locked away, according to House Rule #36, until 50 years after the conclusion of the HSCA investigation, in 2029.

- To support this effort to release the facts, please sign and distribute-

Send To : Committee For An Open Archives : P.O. Box 6008, Washington D.C. 20005 - 0708

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Level of Commitment :

- Sign On - _____ - Send Petition For Congress To Amend HR#36.
Subscribe - _____ - Subscribe to Prologue - The COA Newsletter (\$25 enclosed).
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THE THIRD DECADE
A JOURNAL OF RESEARCH
ON THE JFK ASSASSINATION
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FREDONIA, NEW YORK, 14063

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*"It's not ironic, it's sad that people are still
investigating the assassination of President
John F. Kennedy,...*

*... it's sad that this crime was not properly
investigated from the very beginning."
- Kevin Costner*

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*Dr. Jerry Rose
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Fredonia, NY,
14063*

"We don't dare confront the implications. I think we've all agreed there was a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy, and we just don't want to know the complete truth. It involves such powerful forces in what we call high places that if we do know, everything might fall apart."
- Leonard Bernstein - 1980

"The very word 'secrecy' is repugnant in a free and open public and we are as a people, inherently and historically opposed to secret societies, secret oaths and to secret proceedings. We decided long ago that the dangers of excessive and unwarranted concealment of pertinent facts far outweighed the dangers which are cited to justify it. Even today, there is little value in opposing the threat of a closed society by imitating its arbitrary restrictions. Even today there is little value in insuring the survival of our nation if our traditions do not survive with it."
- John F. Kennedy

"There is always a tendency in government to confuse secrecy with security. Disclosure may be uncomfortable, but it is not the purpose of democracy to ensure the comfort of its leaders."
- Robert F. Kennedy.



DONN ESMONDE



New attention on JFK brings moment of fame to assassination expert

OLIVER STONE used him as an uncredited consultant on "JFK." Newsweek mentioned him in a story on John Kennedy assassination theories. The New York Daily News recently called him for comments. He has logged a couple of stints on WGR Radio.

After years of toiling in obscurity, Jerry Rose is a celebrity of sorts.

He owes it all to Stone and — depending on one's point of view — to Lee Harvey Oswald, the CIA, the Mafia, right-wing fanatics, anti-Castro Cubans or some combination of the above.

Rose, a sociology professor at the State University of New York at Fredonia, is the publisher of the Third Decade. The newsletter is regarded as the best periodical on the Kennedy assassination.

For years, his work earned him the regard of JFK assassination buffs, and a reputation as an eccentric with just about everyone else.

Then came Stone's film. Suddenly, what had been a cult secret became common knowledge: Compared with the JFK assassination, a John le Carre thriller was a Dick and Jane primer. Jerry Rose's phone started ringing.

"My reaction is like most people's would be," he says. "Part 'I told you so,' and part 'Where were you before?'"

Rose is hardly a media glamour boy. He's a soft-spoken, introspective man in his 50s who's more comfortable examining documents than standing in the spotlight.

Even so, public response to Stone's film is gratifying to him and other true believers. Or, more precisely, disbelievers.

Less gratifying is the reaction of some of the media's big hitters. The New York Times, the Washington Post and the two main newsweeklies have, to varying degree, trashed Stone's film (and, implicitly, the work of researchers on which it was based).

Much of the media, rather than examining how the Warren Commission operated, presents its findings as authoritative.

Which, naturally, bothers Rose. It was the holes in the Warren Commission report that sparked speculation in the first place.

"The Warren Commission did not have investigative capacities," he says. "It was dependent on what it got from the FBI, mostly, and the CIA. ... Like all of us, it was a victim of the coverup by the agencies."

He says the commission even considered "conducting an independent investigation of (J. Edgar) Hoover (the FBI's dictatorial director). But they were so frightened of him, they ended up just asking him (about Oswald's FBI connections)."

Rose, obviously, could go on for hours about ballistic evidence, autopsy reports and the magic bullet theory (which even three of the seven commission members questioned).

Instead, he stresses the commission's tendency to believe evidence and witnesses implicating Oswald.

One of many examples is Arnold Rowland. He was one of the people who saw a darker-skinned man with a rifle on the infamous sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. Rowland was discredited — of all things — because he occasionally exaggerated his past academic record.

Conversely, Helen Markham's claim that she saw Oswald shoot policeman J.D. Tippett was accepted — even though the commission's own chief counsel later called her an "utter screwball."

It was the FBI's involvement in another case that got Rose hooked on the Kennedy assassination eight years ago.

Research for a sociology textbook led him to previously classified FBI files on the Rosenbergs, the Cold War spies who were executed. He got the sense that "when the FBI wants to make a case against somebody, it doesn't tend to worry too much about the facts."

"That started me thinking about the Kennedy assassination — that maybe there was the same mentality behind that investigation. There was that same need for a quick closure on an unsettling situation."

Rose says that the government's other investigation, conducted by the House Select Committee on Assassinations in the late '70s, was "practically a total disaster." It was short of time and money, had internal problems and accepted much of Warren Commission findings on faith.

Says Rose, "When people talk now about wanting another government investigation, I say, 'We'd better not wish too hard, or it might happen.'"

Still, Rose and others are pushing Congress to pass House Resolution 325, which would release the committee's files. Although Rose wonders how much the files have been "sanitized," he thinks there are at least a few nuggets to be found.

And he has a simple question for all recent conspiracy converts: "Have you contacted your congressman yet?"