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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

LEONARD WEISS, STAFF DIRECTOR

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April 14, 1992

To Arnold

Mr. James Lesar
President
The Assassination Archives and Research Center
918 F Street, N.W.
Room 510
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Lesar:

I am writing to invite you to testify before the Committee on Governmental Affairs on Tuesday, May 12, 1992. The hearing will begin at 9:00 a.m. and be held in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Building. The subject of the hearing will be the "Assassination Materials Disclosure Act of 1992." The legislation proposes to create an independent review board to govern and coordinate the release of government information relevant to the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy. In accordance with Committee rules, please have 100 copies of your written testimony delivered to the Committee no later than close of business on Friday, May 8, 1992. Your written statement may be as long as you desire, but please be prepared to limit your spoken testimony to five to seven minutes in length.

Your testimony will be extremely helpful to the Committee and to the Congress as it considers this important legislation. While you may discuss whatever aspects of the legislation you desire, particularly how it relates to the records and resources of your agency, the Committee would appreciate learning your views on several specific subjects:

As an attorney and specialist in the genre of government information regarding the assassination of President Kennedy, how would you go about constructing a definition of "relevant assassination material?"

Would you extend the identification and definition of such records to agency operations and functions related to the assassination? If so why? If not why not? Would you extend the identification and definition of such records beyond the records of prior official investigations (Warren Commission or House Assassinations Committee), requests by such investigative bodies to agencies, or requests made through the Freedom of Information Act? If so why? If not why not?

Should judicial review be added to the legislation? Why or why not?

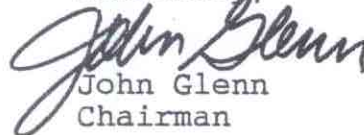
Should the personnel and administrative records of the Warren Commission, House Assassinations Committee, Church Committee, or other official investigations be kept secret? Should there be an exception for privacy protected material?

What is your view of the provisions in the legislation with regard to postponement of release? Is it too much of a "time capsule" approach? Who should conduct the future reviews if the Review Board is out of commission? Should the President? Should the Archivist? What role should the agencies have?

How should agencies best manage their existing Freedom of Information Act requests while the Review Board is in existence? What will be the impact of postponement by the Review Board of records which may also be the subject of Freedom of Information Act requests during or after the tenure of the Review Board?

Thank you for your assistance and consideration. I look forward to seeing you on May 12th. In the event that you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may find it most helpful to call the Committee directly and speak with either Dr. Leonard Weiss, Staff Director, or Steven Katz, Counsel, at 202-224-4751.

Sincerely,


John Glenn
Chairman