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Warren Probers Join Call for JFK Disclosures

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Washington

Thirteen former counsels and staff members of the Warren Commission urged all government agencies yesterday, including the FBI and the CIA, to make public all records compiled in investigating the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In a joint statement, they said that the reasons for secrecy have dissipated after 28 years and that officials should be guided by a bias in favor of public disclosure.

The 13 former staff members who investigated Kennedy's assassination said they "remain convinced beyond a reasonable doubt" that Oswald alone fired all the shots that killed Kennedy and that "based on the record as a whole," there is no credible evidence of a conspiracy on the part of the CIA or any other government agency or anyone else.

Adding to growing pressure for disclosure generated by the film "JFK," the 13 also delivered a letter to the archivist of the United States, Don Wilson, asking his help in releasing the remaining 2 percent of Warren Commission evidence that is still under seal.

Wilson could not be reached for comment, but a spokeswoman, Jill Brett, said "the 2 percent still

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closed are covered by restrictions over which the archives has no control." These restrictions include privacy law regulations, national security classifications, protections for confidential informants and other statutory limitations, such as those applicable to Lee Harvey Oswald's tax returns.

All the commission lawyers who are still living have now endorsed the request, which was publicized in news conferences in Los Angeles, Cleveland and Des Moines, Iowa and Washington.

The signers included the former general counsel of the commission, J. Lee Rankin, 11 of the 14 assistant counsels for the panel and a former staff member.

Among them are Senator Arlen Specter, R-Pa., Ohio state Judge Burt W. Griffin of Cleveland and David W. Belin, a Des Moines lawyer who unsuccessfully sought release of all the files in 1975 in a Freedom of Information Act request.