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Honorable Louis Stokes  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Mr. Chairman:

I received a copy of Mr. Robert L. Keuch's letter to the Committee of October 7, 1980, which suggests that Bantam Books, Inc., but not the Department of Justice, received copies of the Final Report of the Committee and that no "official" referral of the recommendations of the Committee or the evidence on which it relied has been made by the Committee to the Department.

I personally delivered to Mr. Keuch (a receipt is in the Committee's files) the tape and dictabelt containing the sounds of the two shooters in Deally Plaza, as well as certain photographs, around the time that the Committee released its Final Report (H.R. 95-1828, 95th Copy. 2nd Sess. (Jan. 2, 1979) (Part I)) and went out of business on January 2, 1979. (The receipt would show the exact date.) It is my understanding that Mr. Keuch also received, around that time, a number of copies of the Committee's Report of January 2, 1979. It was that Report - issued more than 18 months ago - that made the recommendation for testing the acoustical evidence by the Department of Justice and the National Science Foundation. When the Supplementary Report (H.R. 95-1828, 95th Copy. 2nd Sess. (March 29, 1979) (Part II)) was released in July 1979, but only after it has been reviewed along with our other materials for classified information by Departmental Personnel, Mr. Keuch was given a copy of it, as were most of the other members of the Department of Justice staff who had worked with the Committee. In addition, Larry Sticker, our printer, and Ben Guthrie, our liason with the Clerk's office, were instructed at that time to make such additional copies of the Report as well as the other materials available to the Department as the Department needed. When I was contacted in September (I do not remember the exact date), it was in connection with a request for additional sets of the Report and other materials. By that time, the Committee had been out of business since January and the Clerk's office no longer had copies of the Report or the other materials. Mr. Keuch was, therefore, told that the Department would have to obtain additional copies of the Report or the other material from the Government Printing Office.

Frankly, I am at a loss to understand Mr. Keuch's point. It seems to me that the Department has not made a vigorous response to the Committee's recommendations, and it is clear both from the tone and content of Mr. Keuch's letter that only bureaucratic reasons can account for its failure. Both are matters to be regretted.

Sincerely,



G. Robert Blakey  
Professor of Law

GRB/lmh

cc: All members of the Committee