

exemption to the Act -- I believe I'm correct in saying that -- that the Board should at least publicly implore the John F. Kennedy Library to allow its staff members to listen to all White House tapes made during the Kennedy Administration and especially conversations between John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy and any other individuals concerned with U.S.-Cuban relations during that period.

The same, by the way, could be true -- I'm not aware of the existence of such -- of any tapes from the Eisenhower presidency since these activities, of course, originated in 1960 under Eisenhower's Administration.

One record, one potential record comes from a rather surprising source, H.R. Haldeman. In his memoirs, "The Ends of Power," Haldeman actually refers to the Kennedy assassination as the underlying topic of the infamous smoking gun Watergate tape of June 23, 1972, in which Haldeman and Nixon discuss the payment of money to certain Cuban associates of E. Howard Hunt, which was the primary subject of that conversation, although not the specific reason that Nixon got himself into very deep trouble and resigned a few days later, money that originally came from some of Nixon's campaign contributors.

I recommend that the Board research Mr. Haldeman's papers, as well as those of the Nixon White House tapes to determine the source of Haldeman's rather surprising reference to the Kennedy assassination within the context of that smoking gun conversation.

As Mr. Tyler briefly mentioned the name of Guy Banister, certainly Guy Banister remains an enigmatic figure in this case for the relationship, if any, between Oswald and Banister during the spring and summer of 1963. As I have in my book and I'll repeat it here today, I myself saw Banister and Oswald together in New Orleans in the summer of 1963.

On the first occasion, Banister was debating President Kennedy's civil rights policies with a group of college students, including myself. Oswald was in the company of Banister. At the time -- this is the late spring of 1963 -- I was a senior at what at that time was the Louisiana State University in New Orleans, although today it's called the University of New Orleans.

Banister was not discussing anti-communism, for which he is most widely known, but rather racial integration, and Banister was certainly a rabid segregationist to say the least, virulently critical of President Kennedy's civil rights policies.

Now the possible racist connections of Lee Harvey Oswald to Guy Banister lead to another recommendation of the Board to peruse the FBI files on such topics as Leander H.J. Perez, Sr., the Citizens Council of Greater New Orleans and a title that, of course, only the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover could have developed, "Communist Infiltration of the NAACP." There is an actual FBI file with that title. References to Guy Banister may be found also in various papers from the DeLesseps Morrison Collection from Tulane University and from the New Orleans Public Library.

And speaking of Tulane University, I'd like also the Board to investigate whether any of the papers of Leon Hubert, who was a law professor at Tulane School of Law, are at the Tulane Library because Mr. Hubert was a junior counsel for the Warren Commission and that is a possible source of material. Congresswoman Boggs' testimony earlier made me think of that.

My time has expired. With no time limit, I could easily provide the Board with innumerable other potential sources of information concerning the availability of records pertaining to the assassination.

In conclusion, I would like to state for the record that the more than three decade long history of obfuscation and suppression of records about the assassination of President Kennedy needs to be ended as expeditiously as possible. In that light, I urge this Board to exercise its authority under the Act, to release all records pertaining to the assassination without exception, and to instruct the National Archives to make them available for immediate public inspection. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you, Dr. Kurtz. Appreciate your testimony today and your advice to us. And certainly additional advice that you have that you weren't able to pass along today, we'd certainly appreciate it in writing because we will follow up on your suggestions.

DR. KURTZ: Yes, for example, Mr. Samoluk of your staff has contacted me about reproducing the preliminary hearing transcripts of the Clay Shaw trial, which we have at our library at Southeastern Louisiana University. We're trying to figure out the logistics of doing that right now.

They don't lend themselves to Xeroxing, probably an optical scanner, but be assured that we will provide the Board with copies of all of those transcripts of those Clay Shaw preliminary hearings and a few other pieces of materials that our library has and I, myself, have in personal possession. We'll certainly share copies with the Board.