

COPY

Memo to Representative Chris Dodd:

The resolution creating the Select Committee directs the Committee to begin its work by investigating the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The resolution also empowers the Committee to examine certain other assassinations at its discretion. It seems prudent, therefore, for the Committee to take simple steps to safeguard important materials in case it subsequently decides to investigate the assassination of Senator Kennedy. These steps can be taken at minimal cost, and without distracting staff hours from the two investigations now underway.

The disappearance of significant evidence in the Robert Kennedy case makes it important to act before more evidence is lost. Among the items that have disappeared or have been destroyed are:

- 1.) Ceiling panels booked into evidence from the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel and described by the police as containing bullet holes.
- 2.) Wooden door frames from the pantry area, also booked into evidence, and containing what are described in the FBI report as "bullet holes."
- 3.) The results of spectrographic and other tests said to have been performed on bullets.
- 4.) Notes and detailed documentation from other physical evidence tests alleged to have been performed by the chief LAPD criminalist in the case.
- 5.) Two bullets that may have had considerable evidentiary significance.
- 6.) Iver Johnson Cadet revolver number H18602, reportedly used for evidence tests in the case.
- 7.) The report of Sergeant Paul Schraga of the Los Angeles Police Department describing statements by witnesses leaving the Ambassador Hotel immediately after the shooting.
- 8.) The left sleeve of Senator Kennedy's suit coat.

Also unavailable is the report submitted to the District Attorney by Thomas Kranz, who was appointed Special Counsel in 1975 by the D.A. to investigate the assassination. A summary of this report that appeared in the Los Angeles Times on March 1, 1976 included startling statements about the way the authorities have handled the case, but it has been impossible to obtain a copy of the report itself.

It should be noted that the fact that some of these items disappeared or were destroyed was concealed by authorities long after questions had been raised about them, and despite repeated official assurances that all relevant evidence would be preserved.

These facts should make it clear why steps must be taken immediately to safeguard existing materials. These materials are located in Los Angeles and Washington, and include physical evidence, official records, and various reports.