



# Conspiracy, the Sequel

*RFK Assassination Records  
Go on Display at USC*

By Julie Gladders

With the release of *JFK*, Oliver Stone opened a door to the public that had been silently closed for years. While the people have to wait well into the twenty-first century for JFK records to go public, records of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination will soon be available for viewing in Los Angeles. The University of Southern California's Department of Special Collections has acquired perhaps the richest and most detailed collection of RFK case-related memoranda in existence.

**A**ssembled by the late Gregory Freeman Stone, the collection is undergoing processing and, according to

departmental head Victoria Steele, will be available in the spring. This impressive collection of goods offers a historical odyssey through twenty years of RFK investigations.

Consisting of fifty thousand pages of Los Angeles police files, thirty-two thousand pages of FBI documents, transcripts of the Sirhan trial and grand jury hearings, endless files from the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, letters, analyses, indictments, and thousands of pages of case-related material, this special archival collection brings to life the contradictions found within the RFK investigations. In addition to factual data, hours of audio and videotapes offer a fascinating account of hearings, witness testimonies, official reconstructions, and media programs.

Stone, as described by close friend and associate Andy Boehm, was the "only respectable political figure I've ever known." As a longtime civil-rights activist, aide to Rep. Allan Stein of New York, chief researcher for the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the National Student Association until he went on the CIA payrolls, Stone dedicated twenty years of his life to this collection.

As founder of the Truth and Accountability Foundation, a nonprofit group devoted to investigating political violence in the United States, Stone sought to achieve truth and honesty within the investigations of political assassinations. Foundation members included ACLU activist Paul Schraid, journalist Dan Moldea and professor and writer Phillip Melanson, lawyers and conspiracy buffs.

**G**iven to depression, having always been troubled by perfection, Stone committed suicide in Griffith Park a year ago. Before taking his life, he left instructions that his volumes of files on the RFK case be placed in an academic institution. Nearly a year later, the secrets of an alleged coverup of a Kennedy assassination await on opening at the USC Department of Special Collections.

■ For more information on the RFK collection, contact Victoria Steele, head of USC Special Collections Department, at (213) 740-7113. Library hours are Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.