

# Proposal Would Open JFK Files

*Boren, Stokes Sponsor Bill to Make All Assassination Records Public*

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Key members of the House and Senate yesterday introduced legislation to require public disclosure of most secret files compiled during the investigation of the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The bill, sponsored jointly by Senate intelligence committee Chairman David L. Boren (D-Okla.) and Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), former chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, is expected to add hundreds of thousands of pages to the public record about Kennedy's murder.

But many experts have questioned whether these files will provide a definitive answer to the continuing controversy over whether Kennedy died as a result of a conspiracy, which was fueled by the Oliver Stone film "JFK" alleging a far-reaching plot and high-level coverup of it.

The bill would create an independent, court-appointed review board of five members to examine all federal records relating to Kennedy's death including those of the CIA, FBI, Warren Commission and congressional assassination inquiry panels.

Even Russia is requested by the



BY RAY LUSTIG—THE WASHINGTON POST

Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Sen. David L. Boren (D-Okla.). FBI, CIA Secret Service heads back assassination files bill.

bill to disclose any records that the former Soviet Union's intelligence agencies may have.

All records are to be released through the National Archives unless the review board determines that the material should be kept secret for national security or personal privacy reasons. The president would be empowered to delay release of any material from executive branch agencies.

While he did not know what the

files contain, Boren said at a news conference to unveil the bill, "It seems to me the time has come to open these files to the public and let them speak for themselves . . . . Let historians and journalists and the people read them and draw the appropriate conclusions."

The lawmakers said directors of the CIA, FBI and Secret Service helped draft the legislation and have pledged full cooperation in releasing the materials.