## The Standard-Times

555 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02742 Telephone (617) 997-7411

July 10, 1985

Mr. Stephen D. Yslas, President Los Angeles Police Commission Suite 144-150 Parker Center 150 North Los Angeles Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Yslas:

I am writing in regard to releasing to the public the Los Angeles Police Department files gathered during the investigation of Senator Robert Kennedy's death.

In particular, I wish to support the Commission's view, stated in August 1975: "that the public should have full and free access to all information gathered during the department's investigation so long as the rights of privacy of individuals involved are protected and the ability of the department to effectively enforce the law is not seriously impaired..."

Full disclosure of the files and documents relating to Senator Kennedy's death is necessary to preserve the information gathered for the historical record.

The public interest will be greatly served when the records are made available to the public.

Enough time has passed since the incident to render useless any argument in favor of keeping this critical information under lock and key.

I also urge the Commission to consider carefully the testimony of Dr. Philip Melanson, professor of political science at Southeastern Massachusetts University, planned for the Commission's July 30, 1985 hearing on this matter.

-2-

Sincerely

James M. Ragedale

Editor

JMR: cs

cc: Barbara L. Schlei Los Angeles Police Commissioner Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather and Geraldson 2029 Century Park East Los Angeles, CA 90067

> Jennie Howard Southeatern Massachusetts University Old Westport Road North Dartmouth, MA 02747