

Mark Zaid
47 South Lake Ave., #4
Albany, NY 12203

11/23/92

Dear Mark,

Congratulations, counsellor! Bistated yet!! But it is fine and you are to be congratulated. ...Thanks also for the offer to retype the ms., which Wrono has retyped on his computer, about 60% of it. So it is premature and it is a big job. Looks like it will be about 200-250,000 words! And it will need some correcting and cutting, if not more.

I think you are optimistic about the Assassination Records Collection Act and what it will mean and do. I am certain that for a long, long time it will either slow disclosure down, perhaps cut it off entirely for a while, and ~~then~~ then will take forever or result in even more unjustified withholdings. All the agencies at present have people who are familiar with the records and who can, if they desire, learn rapidly what has been disclosed. The new gang will begin with total ignorance and the more eminent they are the less they will want to do the dirty, hard work processing records honestly requires. And they will be a legislated bottleneck, what we now do not have. I'll be surprised if the FBI alone does not have more processors familiar with the subject matter and what has been disclosed than the entire new staff will total. So to begin with I disagree strongly with your concluding sentence, "If anything disrupts the process it will not be the law" (followed by "but the persons involved," which will be true but because of the law.)

I know nothing about Scheck and Sanders, which does not persuade me that they have any real interest in the subject, and I know enough about that miserable Mark North to ask you how you can possibly work with him? What a phony, what a fraud, what a disaster to honest research or honest use of research!

I also know nothing about Kelley and if he has a genuine interest in the subject I would. Judge is an authentic nut, too. and the schedule in your letter to Kelly is dream stuff. Or many records will have been entirely ignored. Get your feet on the ground!!! Or, recognize that there is too much you do not know to postulate such things.

So the Review Board is to give priority treatment to requests that have reached the litigation stage. Please tell me how in the hell this can do anything but slow down disclosure when the board begins with total ignorance of the subject matter and what has been disclosed and withheld?

I've never heard of Organ but how you can have anything to do with the man who reflects himself in his 10/6/92 to you baffles me! He is as ignorant as he is self-important, as in "Some Jews allege that the Pope and Roosevelt knew and ignored the Jews ...plight...." the omitted part suggesting that Hitler killed more non-Jews in the crematoria than Jews. The pope did more than ignore what was happening to the Jews. He and his cronies saved countless Nazi war criminals. And when a ship, the St. Louis, reached the US loaded with Jewish refugees, FDR and those who influenced him refused to let it

unload. it had to return and all those Jews burned. This was true of most countries, and it was particularly cruel with regard to thousands of Jewish children who'd been collected in Vicky France awaiting a place to accept them. "one did! They got burned!"

Who the hell is Organ to say that those who do not believe the official assassination mythology are "a little cult, who have lined up like scavengers to feed off Kennedy's corpse."

Shame on you, Mark!

Years ago I learned, and I learned too late, that we have to be guided by principle and not claimed common interest. The learning taught me that what may seem to be common interest usually too often or in too many important particulars is not that at all. As a result of this painful education I avoid any contact that I can avoid with a fairly large number of those called critics. At the same time, also from principle, I let them have copies of whatever they want of my records.

You have nothing to gain and can lose much, including self-respect, from having anything at all to do with the Organs and with the illusion that you and the Mark Norths have anything in common at all. Having him active in an organization that seeks disclosures taints all the others. And there are more like him.

The sooner you learn to ~~live~~ live by principle, not by what seems to be expediency, the less you'll suffer, the faster you'll mature, and the better you'll feel about yourself. Probably any results will be better, too.

Your first graf concludes, "FBI be forewarned, there is a new FOIA litigator born!"

I've not tried to keep up with all the nonsense and self-delusion in the disclosures campaign, but if all the records are to be transferred to the Archives, will not the suits have to be filed against it, and won't the FBI, the CIA and the others be immune to suit?

Think all this through, please, and wise up! Best of good luck, barrister!

Hamp

MARK S. ZAID, B.A., J.D.
47 South Lake Avenue, #4
Albany, New York 12203

November 19, 1992

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

As always it was a delight to have received your letter of November 5, 1992. It is with pride that I report to you that I have passed both the Connecticut and New York State bar examinations. FBI be forewarned, there is a new FOIA litigator born!

Thank you for the offer of the second JAMA article. Fortunately, a friend of mine in medical school recently sent me a copy. Of course, I am certainly awaiting to read the work you are currently preparing. If you would like someone to review it (critique, spelling, grammar, etc.) or even type set it for a laser printer, please do not hesitate to ask.

Without hesitation, when I next complete my article on Prouty and Lane I shall send you a copy. I have received a great deal of information from an organization called Political Research Associations in Cambridge (specifically, Chip Berlet). I have enclosed a copy of the letter that I mentioned to you that I received from Jerry Organ of Canada.

My quality time with Marina had nothing to do with the aspects of the assassination. We spoke particularly about her recent trip to Russia and since I visited there in 1988 it was a very interesting conversation. Regardless of what she does or does not know, I found her to be a very sweet woman. By the way, Cyril Wecht has suggested that he and I might collaborate on an article. I have sent him some suggestions and hopefully something will work out. Additionally, I enclose materials on the "Assassination Records Collection Act" which I thought you might wish to review.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. Give my best to Lil. I trust all is well and that the winter cold is not treating you too harshly. With continuing best wishes and the warmest of regards, I am,

Sincerely,



Mark S. Zaid

MEMORANDUM

Mark Allen, Esq.

To: Roger Feinman, Esq., Jim Lesar, Esq., Edward Lopez, Esq., David Lovitt, Esq.,
Mark North, Esq., Richard Scheck, Esq., Charles Sanders, Esq., Cyril Wecht, Esq.

From: Mark S. Zaid, J.D., Board of Advisors, Committee for an Open Archives

Subject: ABA Nominations to the Assassination Records Review Board

Date: November 14, 1992

As you all know on October 27, 1992, President Bush signed into law S. 3006, more commonly known as "The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992". Pursuant to § 7(b)(1),(2) the President shall appoint five citizens, no later than 90 calendar days after the date of enactment, to serve as members of the Review Board. This responsibility effectively falls upon President-elect Clinton to complete within one week of his January 20, 1993 inauguration.

Furthermore, nominations for membership on the Board are being solicited from several respected organizations of historians, archivists and, of course, attorneys. § 7(b)(4)(A). In fact, as contained in the law, one member of the Board must be an attorney. § 7(b)(5)(C). A minimum of two recommendations from each of the professional organizations must be delivered to the President within 45 days of enactment of S. 3006. § 7(b)(4)(B). This deadline falls on or about December 12, 1992.

The American Bar Association is preparing to recommend several nominees. This task is being handled by the president of the Association, J. Michael McWilliams, whose office I have been in contact with during the last few days. Mr. McWilliams is willing to accept outside recommendations for consideration. I am in the midst of drafting a potential list of nominees for the ABA to consider and would like to solicit your suggestions.

Please send me, ASAP, a list of attorneys you feel merit selection to the Review Board. Include as much biographical information as possible. Be aware that each nominee must fit the following criteria, as addressed in the law:

Persons nominated to the Review Board:

(A) shall be impartial private citizens, none of whom is presently employed by any branch of the Government, and none of whom shall have had any previous involvement with any official investigation or inquiry conducted by a Federal, State, or local government, relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy;

(B) shall be distinguished persons of high national professional reputation in their respective fields who are capable of exercising the independent and objective judgment necessary to the fulfillment of their role in ensuring and facilitating the review, transmission to the public, and public disclosure of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and who possess an appreciation of the value of such material to the public, scholars, and government.

§ 7(b)(5)

As the deadline is approaching rapidly please fax the information to **(518) 427-8674**. I can be reached at (518) 426-1122 if you wish to discuss the matter further. My mailing address is 47 South Lake Avenue, #4, Albany, New York 12203.

Page 2
Re: Memo from Mark Zaid
November 14, 1992

Finally, please begin to consider persons whom you would recommend to serve on the advisory committee to the Review Board. There are no applicable restrictions to appointment on the committee so long as there is compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.). Thus, choose which assassination experts you feel would best serve society's interests. Furthermore, approximately 35 staff positions will be created and I intend to apply for one. Your assistance and support would be appreciated. If you have additional suggestions about any of the aforementioned statements, do not hesitate to contact me.

I realize your schedules are all quite busy, however, I do not need to explain to any of you how important this could be. You are all well aware of the significance of this law. The Justice Department's April criticisms caused concern and eventually led to changes in the law but after reviewing the legislation carefully it is a landmark achievement. If anything disrupts the process it will not be the law, but the persons involved. Let's do our part to see that does not happen.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

bcc: Harold Weisberg

MARK S. ZAID, J.D.
47 South Lake Avenue, #4
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(518) 426-1122

November 11, 1992

William Kelly
819 Wesley Avenue
Ocean City, New Jersey 08226

Dear Bill:

Per our discussion this morning I am outlining for you some of the steps we need to immediately focus upon if we are to accomplish our goals with respect to the JFK Records Collection Act of 1992.

Here is a rough time table that we must be aware of when determining our plans. The dates represent approximately the deadlines for the prescribed actions to have occurred. John is attempting to determine when the Senate session begins as that is the initial date that will initiate the voting time frames. In this calendar I have used January 27, 1993 as the starting date of the session. "Set date" indicates that the event has to have occurred no later than that date, i.e, it could conceivably occur at a time earlier than that. "Moving date" means that it is an estimated date and the actual date depends on additional factors that will be determined later.

October 27, 1992--President Bush signed S. 3006 into law.

December 12, 1992--Archivist shall have prepared a standard form of identification for agencies to use for each assassination record. §5(d)(B)(1)(A). ABA, AHA, OAH and SAA must have submitted at least 2 nominations each to the President § 7(b)(4)(B). SET DATE

December 27, 1992--NARA shall establish JFK Assassination Collection § 4(a)(1). SET DATE

January 27, 1993--Nominations for Review Committee must have been submitted by President § 7(b)(2). SET DATE

February 27, 1993--Confirmation hearings will have begun by Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs [date is 30 days after Senate is in session] §7(5)(d)(1). MOVING DATE

March 13, 1993--Vote of Committee § 7(5)(d)(2). MOVING DATE

March 27, 1993--Vote of full Senate § 7(5)(d)(3). MOVING DATE

June 27, 1993--Publication of schedule of review records §9(b)(1).MOVING DATE

August 27, 1993--All assassination records must have been reviewed, identified and organized by each government office § 5(c)(1). SET DATE

September 27, 1993--Board begins review of records § 9(b)(2). SET DATE

October 27, 1993--First report due § 9(f)(2). SET DATE

October 27, 1994--Review Board term terminates unless extended. SET DATE

October 27, 1995--Absolute last date of life of Review Board. SET DATE

October 27, 2017--All assassination records must be disclosed. SET DATE

I am attempting to discover whom the ABA is considering for nomination to the Review Board. Charles Sanders, an attorney in New York City, is looking into which person on the Clinton transition team will be reviewing the recommendations. When these persons are determined I will notify you and John. Furthermore, after a document is approved for release by the Review Board it is then to be sent to the President for

Page 2

November 11, 1992

Re: Assassination Records Collection; Letter from Zaid to Kelly

approval or denial. We should determine which persons on Clinton's staff will be handling this aspect of the procedure.

As you can see by the schedule there are several dates that will be fluctuating with respect to the Review Board. Others are not included such as nominating the Executive Director, Staff, the depositing of records in the Archives, publication of records in the Federal Register, etc., because there is no way these dates can be determined at this time. Most of them depend on when the Review Board is finally established and has its first meeting. In fact, it is important to realize that the September 27, 1993 date for the Review Board to begin its review of the documents is set by law, regardless of even if there is actually a Review Board in existence. The expiration period began to run from the date of enactment of the law, thus more than likely the Review Board will have been established. Probably, we are looking at an April or early May date.

I doubt that any of the nominations to the Board will be controversial. Barring a problematic background check I would be willing to bet that each nominee proceeds through the Committee and the full Senate without much difficulty. Of course, if any of the nominees are rejected we could be facing the possibility of up to an additional two months to place the new nominee on the Board.

It is imperative that we begin to formulate our plan of action immediately. Once nominees are selected we should be prepared to send them a detailed plan of action from the COA for their review. This is regardless of whether that particular person will be chosen to be placed on the Board. There will be at least eight persons nominated for the five member Board. Each should be apprised of what we are trying to accomplish so that they can ask questions regarding their responsibilities. We also want to start planting suggestions in their minds as to possibilities for staff and the advisory committee.

Once the Board has been determined we should be prepared to send a more detailed plan of organization which outlines our immediate priorities. In my opinion the following items need to be organized and requested from researchers as soon as possible.

1. A list of persons, public and private, who should be subpoenaed to disclose information and records;
2. A list of private organizations that should be compelled to disclose records regarding the assassination. Ex. CBS Television, Life Magazine;
3. A list of government documents that have been destroyed and the agency responsible for those records;
4. A list of all records presently under seal of a U.S. or foreign court. Ex. trials of Shaw and Nagell, French Corsicans;
5. A list prioritizing the documents we hope to have released;
6. A list of people who should be recommended to serve on the advisory panel.

Also, take note of the following factors we need to be aware of for future consideration:

1. Nothing in the law disturbs the CIA or HSCA secrecy oaths still binding members of the HSCA staff;
2. FOIA requests that have reached the litigation stage are to be given priority by the Review Board.

Page 3

November 11, 1992

Re: Assassination Records Collection; Letter from Zaid to Kelly

The Congressional Budget Office projects that the Review Board will require approximately 35 staff members. As I have indicated I am willing to drop whatever I am doing here in Albany if I can secure a position. We need to utilize any contacts we might have, particularly those in Congress, so that we can get some of our people involved with this process. Obviously, the same thought applies to the Advisory Committee. Keep in mind that there are no restrictions as to who can serve on the Advisory Committee while there are several restrictions regarding appointment to the Board and the Executive Director and staff positions.

During my discussion with John earlier this morning we spoke about the possibility of COA hiring a staff if the funds become available. I indicated to John that I would be seriously interested in such a position and that I will begin to search for possible foundations that might approve grants for this project. I will send you a list of foundations that COA should approach.

In the Senate Committee Report on the bill it was indicated in reprinted correspondence that the Ford Library will attempt to offer the records of the Rockefeller Commission by June 1992. I have not seen any news reports pertaining to any such release. Perhaps someone should look into this as soon as possible. Also, the 1995 mandatory review of the approximately 3000 pages still classified from the Warren Commission was moved up to this year and it is expected that at least 2500 pages will be released. Someone should inquire whether this has occurred or not.

You might also wish to contact Research Publications, 12 Lunar Drive, Woodbridge Connecticut 06525, (203) 397-2600. They publish the Declassified Documents Catalogue on microfiche which discloses in full all documents declassified by the government within the past year. A printed abstract is published in book form every two months with a cumulative index printed at the end of the year. A subscription to the microfiche is \$1710 and the cost for just the abstracts and index is \$920.

I spoke with a representative of the company today and suggested they might wish to market released assassination records only. They are going to examine the situation further. Perhaps we can work out some sort of financial arrangement with them that would cut down on costs for us. It might be worth a look. In any event any large university or state library more than likely subscribes to their service.

As John hopefully remembered to inform you during your discussions today, I need for you to send me a copy of your MacWrite program. I can not access your files because your version is newer than mine. Finally, I am moderating a panel on Sunday, November 22 here in Albany. The panelists include Walt Brown, Dick Russell, George Michael Evica and Dr. John Lattimer. The program begins at 1 pm. If you can make it up here that weekend, we can discuss further our Oswald project and plan for all of the above mentioned.

We should talk again very soon. Call me if you have any questions or need something done. With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,



Mark S. Zaid

cc: John Judge

bcc: Harold Weisberg

October 6, 1992

Dear Mark:

Why should you be surprised that Fletcher Prouty and Mark Lane have embraced the IHR? After all, Holocaust-deniers and JFK conspiracy theorists practice the same methodology to cast doubt on historical facts.

What galls me is that you self-righteously reject the Warren Commission, while having us believe that the Nuremberg trials, conducted by a conquering military, was far more objective and accurate. The fact that perhaps a million German POWs under their care died horrible starvation-exposure deaths following the war, suggests a less than honest determination.

If a re-opening of the Kennedy assassination is warranted, surely an unemotional evaluation of the Holocaust is overdue - it may be that the genocide will be shown to be worst that we ever imagined or not as severe, but the Nuremberg Trials or Jewish "estimates" shouldn't define our perceptions.

Talk about revisionism. Some Jews allege that the Pope and Roosevelt knew and ignored the Jews' (and as many, if not more, non-Jews) plight, or that the awful anti-Semitism (a term applied correctly here) of Nazi Germany was rampant throughout the free world, as well. Such cheap speculation is as offensive to my parent's generation (even the Arabs died in large numbers to shorten the war and save Jews) as the IHR's wild charges to yours.

Prouty is probably more a McCarthyist (like every other critic) than a "Nazi," another term so overused it has lost most of its punch. If you recall, I was the first to expose the fantastic charges he had written into the JFK park-bench scene, with a nod to Sam Donaldson. The Secret Team could have served as a model for the IHR to manipulate evidence and deny the truth. Principals over pennies? Tell that to the members of your little cult, who have lined up like scavengers to feed off Kennedy's corpse.

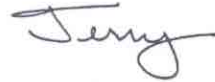
You speak of: "... the type of society... John Fitzgerald Kennedy would have wished for us had he lived." Ponder this: "... Kennedy would be the last to desire that blame be ascribed to anyone who is blameless." (The Third Decade, July, p. 14)

One of your ilk, Robert Groden, sold pictures of the President's corpse, with enhanced red colour and removal of background distractions no-less, to a supermarket tabloid that was on display during Christmas week. Apparently, that callous act failed to enrage you as much as the IHR. Perhaps someday you will see the enemy and it will be you.

The autopsy photographs and X-rays were recently validated by the Bethesda pathologists and nearly all the Parkland doctors.

Of course, like the Holocaust-deniers, conspiracy buffs conveniently ignore or disingeniously manipulate such evidence to their benefit. Your paranoid accusations sadly confirm, in a way, that a violent malcontent like Lee Harvey Oswald could have struck out at authority.

Kind Regards,



Jerry Organ
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