

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

April 10, 1964

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, we are planning an oral history program on the Kennedy Administration -- i.e., a systematic effort to interview President Kennedy's colleagues and contemporaries about the issues and decisions of the Administration. Such a program is unprecedented in American history. Its significance can be easily grasped when one considers the treasures which would have been available to historians if similar programs had been carried through for earlier Presidents -- Jefferson or Lincoln or Wilson or F.D.R.

You are obviously one of the persons who ought to be interviewed in order to get a full record of the Administration, its policies and its achievements. I emphasize the fact that the interviews will receive exactly the same treatment in the Library as any personal papers deposited -- that is, the man who agrees to an interview can decide on security classifications, if any are necessary, as well as make any stipulations he desires about access to the transcripts. The interviews will be seen by no one except the interviewer and the transcriber without your permission; and a copy of the transcript will be deposited in your possession.

I well know the demands on your time, and, assuming your willingness to join in this effort, would hope that the process can be made as efficient and expeditious as possible. It would help us immensely in planning the program if you could let me have your views on the following questions:

1. Are you willing, in principle, to grant interviews for this program?

2. What are the issues on which you think your testimony would be most valuable?

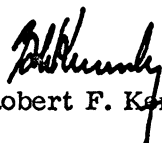
3. How would you prefer to be interviewed -- by a single interviewer on a range of problems? or by several interviewers, each on a particular problem?

4. What sort of person would you prefer as interviewer -- someone who is or has been in the Administration? an outsider with historical training? Are there any names which occur to you as an interviewer in whom you would have particular confidence?

5. Under what conditions would you prefer to be interviewed -- during the working day? on week ends?

I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Robert F. Kennedy

The Honorable
William McC. Martin, Jr., Chairman
Board of Governors
Federal Reserve System
20th & Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.