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PROPOSAL FOR SUPPORT OF

THE ASSASSINATION INFORMATION BUREAU (AIB)

Submitted by

The Assassination Information Bureau, Inc.
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October 1, 1977

THIS PROPOSAL INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

Foreward by Norman Mailer

I. Introduction

II. Project Proposals

1. Congressional Monitoring

2. Public Information

3. AIB Research Center

4. Legal Action Project

5. AIB Conference

III. Organizational History

IV. Organizational Structure & Funding

V. Appendix and Budget

FOREWORD

So long as we believe that it is impossible to learn the truths of Dallas or the truths of the murders of Martin Luther King and of Bobby Kennedy, then their deaths are too depressing to contemplate. Yet we pay an incalculable price for living with these unsolved crimes. A clear idea of the character of the past is essential to a democracy: without knowledge of what actually happened in an event, how can one debate its meaning?

Now we have a new administration seeking to take America out of the historical despondency of the last decade. How promising if this new administration and Congress will recognize that the assassinations of the sixties are not old scars to be covered, but unseen bruises that still deaden the confidence of America.

Yet even as we hope to see in the Government a will to find the truth, we do well to remember that this new will was born in large part by the refusal of Americans to accept the incongruities of the cover-ups. So the involvement of popular forces is as important to this question--now that it has been re-opened--as it was when Congress was still resting determinedly behind the Warren Report.

I believe no organization has done more to force the assassination question back on the agenda of the Congress than the Assassination Information Bureau, indeed there may be no better way to keep Congress keen to the liveliness of these issues than to keep the AIB's functions intact. The work of the AIB office in Washington is essential to maintaining pressure on Congress: for instance, the House Select Committee on Assassinations ought to be monitored closely by a knowledgeable outside conscience; the media can use help in dealing with the intricacies of these killings and their cover-ups; and the researches of independent critics of the lone-assassin theory also need a place where they can concert their findings during this re-investigation.

The AIB has been doing these things and I think doing them well. It wants to continue its work and expand it. Naturally the next year and a half will be a decisive period. We will either fight our way closer to a few powerful revelations or be thrown back further by the failure of such an effort. If the latter, it will probably be years or decades before such lost ground can be recouped. For these reasons financial support for the AIB now offers more acceleration of its powers and possibilities than at any time in its history.

Cheers,

Norman Mailer
Norman Mailer

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In a piece called Thinking the Unthinkable about the

Nixon Scandal, ("The Atlantic", 1976) Kenneth Adler advanced an unforgettable thesis: was it conceivable, she asked, that the war in Vietnam could continue through four years of the Nixon administration without immense sums of money being sent ^{overseas} surreptitiously to various South Vietnamese high officials? In return, was it possible that such huge sums had been handed over without a large fraction being just as secretly turned ^{back} to high American officials? To support this argument, there was no evidence; it is speculation on a grand scale. Yet ^{what} a speculation! Once contemplated, it is difficult to see how such gigantic ^{payoffs} would not have taken place given the well-established character of some of the principals.

Speculation, when salient, has the strength of Uckham's Razor which would state ^{that} theory ^{is most a ble to} that explaining a set of separate facts is likely to be the correct explanation. One is tempted therefore, to speculate on the recent troubles of the House Select Committee on Assassination. Would it be, we can wonder, to the interest of high officials in the CIA and the FBI to cooperate with such a committee when such questions as Oswald's link to the CIA or the FBI's alleged malfeasance in the investigation of the slaying of Martin Luther King, could be patiently, even authoritatively, explored while new evidence "damning the

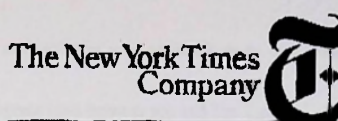
FBI and CIA further could also be discovered?
(Indeed, who in these organizations ^{would} ~~could~~ be certain
there was no such damning evidence?) Under these cir-
cumstances, how could it fail to be in the interest of
the CIA and FBI not to ^{be obliged} ~~have~~ to live with the Select
Committee on Assassination and so be ready to apply
pressure and sabotage on its workings?

It is, however, to the interest of the American
public to have the Committee in existence. ¹ The Select
Committee on Assassination may be imperfect, impractical,
a demon for poor publicity ^{who is} ~~and be~~ riddled, for all we
know, with undercover men working in the Committee against
the interests of the Committee itself, but it is the
only investigating body we have in the House of Representatives
~~today~~ with the ^{obligation} ~~desire~~ to subpoena recalcitrant witnesses
on these matters and ^{the duty} ~~to~~ listen to witnesses who have
studied the flaws in the Warren Commission Report for
years. By its existence, therefore, the Committee rep-
resents a threat to anybody who would hope to maintain
public apathy about the assassinations.

Such public apathy exists for good cause. So
long as we believe that it is impossible to learn the
truth of Dallas or the truth of the murders of Martin
Luther King and of Bobby Kennedy, then such deaths are

too depressing to contemplate. Yet we pay an incalculable price for living with these unsolved crimes. A clear notion of the events of ~~its~~ ^{the} recent past is essential to a democracy, ~~For~~ without ~~such~~ knowledge of what actually happened in an event, how can one debate its meaning? If we do not know whether Jack Kennedy was killed by the demented act of an isolated man, or by the lonely act of a man driven to insanity by his continuing tangle of relations with half the secret police agencies of the world, or ^{whether} by the concerted act of a group of conspirators who employed Oswald [#] as the set-up; if we do not know whether the murder of Oswald by Jack Ruby was an attempt to spare the First Lady all the discomfort of appearing at a trial, or an order that came to Jack Ruby out of the chain of communication that ran between the CIA and the Mafia, then we do not know which history we are talking about, nor which history we can act upon. A man or woman can live with the avowed unfaithfulness of a mate longer than they can endure the total ignorance of not knowing whether the mate is a monster of betrayal or an angel of fidelity who is being accused only by one's own paranoia. In such a painful situation apathy replaces obsession. This does not mean concern for the question ~~is~~ gone; only that it is virtually suffocated by despair.

Now we have a new Administration seeking to take America out of the historical despondency of the last decade. How promising if this new Administration and Congress will recognize, ^{and} that the assassinations of the sixties are not old scars to be covered, but unseen bruises that still deaden the confidence of Americans. For the shadow of the assassinations keeps us thinking we do not have a history that can survive every exposure, ~~and~~ ^{that} is a deadening suspicion. Basic to renewing our confidence in this country is our ability to believe ~~that~~ ^{that} our representatives are brave enough, and serious enough, to undertake thoroughgoing investigations of the role of government itself at failing to solve the immense crimes of our era--no matter where that may lead! Such a need will obviously not be satisfied by stopping the work of the House Select Committee on Assassination, and we the undersigned send this letter to President Carter and to the House of Representatives in the hope it will serve the idea that the continuing life of the Select Committee, and the voting of an appropriation adequate to its needs is a matter not without significance to the continuing ^{well-being} psychic life of this Republic.



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