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Subject: Draft Memo: 6/2/95 Meeting with Archives, Re: HSCA documents
Jeremy. This is tough, but I wanted you to have something first thing so you'd have sufficient time to: a) throw it out, or, b) hone this beast into a work of art. I'll be in between 8:00 and 8:30 AM. Meeting Goal Our goal is to ascertain the current status of the Archives' review of referred HSCA documents and how the Archives intends to proceed vis-a-vis the Legislative Branch. With this knowledge, the ARRB can move forward on a possible Memorandum of Understanding with the Center for Legislative Archives (CLA) on the Board's relationship to this process. Further, the understanding we hope to gain as a result of today's meeting will shape our subsequent approach to relevant Members of Congress. Core Issues 1) What recent inputs, if any, has the CLA or Congressional Liaison Office received from Capitol Hill relative to the implementation of the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, in specific regard to HSCA and other "Congressional" records? a - How have the changes occasioned by last year's elections altered the playing field on Capitol Hill in terms of: level of interest in the Act's implementation, new players whose views must be taken into consideration, general orientation to the Act and the ARRB's mission, etc.? 2) In his letter of 12/21/92, former House Administration Committee Chairman Charlie Rose tasked the CLA with making recommendations to the Committee on possible postponements. Clearly, the CLA thus has the "first cut" at determining what records should be postponed. But the Committee, under former Chairman Rose, just as clearly reserved final determinations and ultimate referral to the ARRB to itself. This is especially relevant where agency-equity documents are concerned. a- How does the CLA presently view its role in postponement determinations for HSCA and other Congressional assassination records? Does it intend to simply act as a conduit to Capitol Hill for agency postponement requests (passive role)? Or, does it intend to rigorously review agency requests, overruling them where appropriate (active role). b- If the latter, does the CLA envision a strong advocacy role for itself once it has forwarded its recommendations to Congress? c- Related to question 1 above, what sense does the CLA or Legislative Liaison Office currently have as to whether Congress wants to be an active player in postponement decisions vs. ceding initiative, first to the CLA and then to the ARRB itself? How does their current reading on this issue impact how they intend to proceed? Related Issues 1) House vs. agency equity. Who decides? What is the CLA's current read? 2) Confirmation of Congressional responsibility for non-HSCA documents. Is our understanding correct relative to which Committees will have jurisdiction over Church, Pike and Abzug Committee documents, and how does the CLA envision its role relative to these non-HSCA collections? 3) Securing other documentation on Congress' understanding, or preference, as to how this process should work. Can we get copies of other relevant Congressional correspondence on this subject

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