

MEMORANDUM

January 23, 1996

To: David Marwell
From: Christopher Barger
Subject: Possible projects for Indiana students

After consideration and brainstorming with other staff, I have developed the following possible projects for student interns. In conceptualizing these projects, I took into consideration the necessity or importance of the project to staff and the completion of our mission, the amount of staff time it would take to prepare the project, and the value of the project to the students doing the work, i.e., would they get anything from this exercise.

- **HSCA Staff pay record redactions.** Joe Freeman indicates that the majority of HSCA staff records are ready for release, but by vote of the Board, need to have the SSN's of HSCA staff redacted. This needs to be done before the records can go to Archives, but will take up much of Joe's time that could be used elsewhere. I am not certain of whether this is feasible, due to the restricted nature of the records; however, no classified information is included in these records, and if a satisfactory secrecy agreement can be arranged regarding the Social Security numbers in question, this might be worth our time.
- **Secondary source non-WC witness summaries.** We could make use of our existing library, and request further sources from Library of Congress, to compile a database of versions of the assassination story as told by witnesses not called by the Warren Commission. Those cited could include Dealey Plaza witnesses, Oswald witnesses, and those claiming knowledge of conspiracy plots. The database would provide the staff with an easy-access reference source with which to check stories or base evidence requests. Preparatory work to be completed by me before their arrival would be the compilation of a bibliography of sources to be searched, and a compilation of witnesses to be specifically researched.
- **Secret Service Warren Commission Exhibit Summaries.** Joan Zimmerman has indicated that a series of summaries of Secret Service Commission exhibits would be beneficial to her. I am a little unclear of the details required in this project, but obviously would work closely with Joan in developing it.

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- **Completing the Warren Commission database.** While the majority of Warren Commission

testimony was summarized by the students last year, there are still over one hundred witnesses whose summaries were not completed. This project would take little to set up, since we did it last year and are already familiar with the process.

The problem I continue to run into in this process is that there is not sufficient time to develop enough projects for two groups of students. I am certain that if I had a number of weeks or months to observe and brainstorm, projects would present themselves. However, Mr. Hitchcock requires the most immediate answer we can provide in order to better begin planning. With that in mind, I reluctantly conclude that it is best if we suggest that only one group work with us this summer from Noblesville High School.

Regarding students from last year who wish to return this summer, I see no trouble in their completing brief internships with us. At the moment, I have heard from three students who are definitely planning on coming back (upon getting the go-ahead from us), and two more who are strongly interested but who have not yet solidified plans. These students would be easier to utilize, for several reasons:

1. They have been with us before, are familiar with both our work and our procedures, and thus have a background conducive to an internship.
2. They will all have completed their freshman year of college, making them stronger in both research methods and writing skills.
3. There are a number of projects which these students could complete with indirect supervision from ARRB staff; that is, off-site research at Archives or Library of Congress, which they could then summarize in reports to staff. Indirect supervision takes less staff time and resources; in addition, nearly all staff have small, intern-suitable projects that they wish to complete, but that get left undone due to more pressing duties.
4. These students would benefit greatly from such an internship. They would gain source research and library utilization experience, and would have a true internship to put on their resumes.

With time to more fully develop these projects, I believe that ARRB can successfully grant these returning students internships, both without wasting our time or resources, and in giving the interns an experience of value to them. I await your further instruction.

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