

Assassination Records Review Board
Salaries and Expenses
OBJECT CLASSIFICATION (in thousands of dollars)

		1997 Estimate	1998 Request
11.1			
11.3			
11.5			
11.9	Total personnel compensation	1,625	1,668
12.1			
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	65	48
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	292	298
23.3	Communications, utilities, misc.	18	18
24.0	Printing and reproduction	31	32
25.2	Other services	10	6
25.3	Services from government accounts	60	48
26.0	Supplies and materials	30	24
31.0	Equipment	23	10
99.9	Total obligations	2,154	2,152

Budget Request and Justification

Object Class 11.1- Full-time staff - 1,226

The amount requested for full-time permanent staff represents the requirement to fund 28 full-time positions. We plan full-scale operations through July 31, 1998. The remaining two months of FY98 will be consumed with drafting our final report that will reflect the benefit of the additional year, completing the review of records, documenting the compliance of federal agencies, and closing down our operations. Additionally, we have included \$50,000 for severance pay and unused annual leave cash-out.

Object Class 11.3 - Other than full-time permanent staff - 148

The amount requested in this category represents compensation to Board members and 3 intermittent employees. Each paid member of the Board will be compensated at the rate of level IV of the Executive Schedule (443.52/day) for each day the member is engaged in work for the Board. In January of FY96 the Chair of the Board converted to non-pay status. It is estimated that during the year each of the four paid members will attend ten Board meetings and/or public hearings. The estimate represents 20 work days for each member of the board. This estimate also includes approximately \$113,000 for intermittent employee salaries.

Object Class 12.1 - Civilian personnel benefits - 294

The estimate in this category represents the government's contribution for employee benefits at the current rate of 25%.

Object Class 21.0 - Travel - 48

The amount requested for this object class includes travel costs for Board members and staff to attend Board meetings and public hearings, travel for staff to visit records repositories and relevant individuals, meeting expenses, and local travel.

10 Meetings (5 Board Members)	22000
Staff Travel	20000
Meeting Expenses	3000
Chair Travel	2000
Local Travel	1000
TOTAL	48000

Object Class 23.1 - Rental Payments to GSA - 298

The estimate for this object class represents the amount the Board will pay to the General Services Administration for office space rental totaling 10,000 sq. ft. at an annual rate of **28.87** per sq. ft. (FY97cost). This estimate includes an increase of 3% for inflation.

Object Class 23.3 - Communications, utilities, misc. - 18

The requested amount represents estimates for telephones, postage, express intercity service, and local delivery service. Since Board members are located in other parts of the country, it is important to distribute information to them on a timely basis. In addition, the Board anticipates intense public interest in its activities. In an effort to meet this public demand, the Board intends to continue its active public information program that includes regular mailings.

Telephone	9000
Postage/Postage Equipment/Delivery Services	9000
TOTAL	18000

Object Class 24.0 - Printing and reproduction - 32

The major items in this object class are costs related to copying and copier maintenance, the publication of reports to Congress, ARRB public information items, *Federal Register* publication of ARRB notices, and the Final Report of the Review Board.

Federal Register Notices (175 columns)	22000
Public and Press Information	5000
Copier Costs - Lease/Maintenance/Copies	5000
TOTAL	32000

Object Class 25.2-Other Services - 6

The major items in this category include media services and on-line services.

Object Class 25.3 - Services from other Government agencies - 48

This category includes GSA administrative support services and moving expenses reimbursed to GSA.

Object Class 26.0 - Supplies and materials - 24

Anticipated expenses include routine office supplies, subscriptions and library materials, ADP software. This estimate is based on current operating costs and the additional expenses related to closing an agency.

Object Class 31.0 - Equipment - 10

This estimate includes the cost of maintenance contracts for computer hardware, software, and other office equipment.

Assassination Records Review Board

The Assassination Records Review Board recommends that the JFK Act be extended for one additional year. Although it has accomplished much in its first two years, the Review Board still has a great deal of important work to do. The additional year will allow the Review Board to review and release the remaining secret assassination records to the public and to complete a final report.

Accomplishments of the Review Board

Through October 1996, the Review Board acted to transfer nearly 10,000 documents to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in the JFK Collection. At the end of 1996, that collection totaled approximately 3.1 million pages and was used extensively by researchers from all over the United States .

Government Records related to the Assassination — By the end of this year, the Review Board will have reviewed and processed nearly all of the assassination records that have been identified by Federal agencies, with the important exception of the FBI and the CIA. The overwhelming majority of previously redacted information will have been made public.

These records include:

- thousands of CIA documents on Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination of President Kennedy that make up the CIA's Oswald File
- thousands of once-secret records from the investigation of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, including the controversial Staff Report on Oswald and Mexico City
- thousands of records from the FBI's core and related assassination files
- the original Marine Corps personnel file on Oswald

Private and Local Records — The Board has identified and secured significant assassination-related records in the hands of private citizens and local governments, including copies of the official records of District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of the assassination, the personal papers of Warren Commission Chief Counsel J. Lee Rankin, as well as long-lost films taken in Dallas on November 22, 1963 that the public had never seen and that shed new light on the events of that day.

The Review Board Needs Additional Time

The Review Board will not be able to complete its work within the original three-year timetable set by Congress for the following reasons:

Unrealistic Time Limit —The authors of the legislation believed that the task would take three years. That estimate was based on the best available information at the time, but the legislation established an unprecedented process. There was no way of knowing the problems of scale and complexity that the Board has encountered, nor was there any way to factor in the comprehensive approach taken by the Board in fulfilling its mandate.

Delay in the appointment of the Board — The Board was not appointed until 18 months after the legislation was signed into law. Federal agencies had to define for themselves the universe of records that should be processed under the Act and to speculate about the kind of evidence that would be needed to sustain the redaction of assassination-related information. Once the Board was in place, agencies needed to revise a considerable amount of work. In fact, many agencies have yet to complete their review and the Board is still seeking their compliance.

Protracted Start-up — Congress imposed several restrictions on the manner in which the Board could operate. Unlike other temporary agencies, the Board could not hire or detail experienced federal employees, but rather had to hire new employees who had to undergo background investigations and be cleared at the Top Secret level. Locating and renovating space that was suitable for the storage of classified materials was required. As a result, the Board could not begin an effective review of records until the third quarter of its first year.

The Job Ahead

An additional year will permit the Review Board to finish its task by completing the following:

Sequestered Collections — Additional time will permit the Board to complete its review of the huge and critically important collections of records at the CIA and FBI that were requested by the HSCA in the course of their investigation.

The Records of Some Agencies and Congressional Committees — Additional time will allow the Board to finish its work with several agencies and Congressional Committees (NSA, Secret Service, Senate Intelligence Committee).

Search for Additional Records — Additional time will permit the Board's search for additional records held by government agencies, private individuals, and local governments to be concluded with greater confidence. Some of these records have been identified, but not yet acquired by the Board.

Foreign Records — The Board has started the process of collecting and reviewing records held by a number of foreign countries (Russia, Belarus, Mexico, England, Germany, France, Japan, Cuba). Contact has been made with several countries. Additional time will increase the likelihood of success.

The Cost

As a result of the Board's necessarily protracted start-up, it has a budget carryover of \$500,000 in no-year funds from its first year, a sum that would fund a full quarter of continued operation. The Board would consequently require \$1.6 million of additional funds to operate for one more year. In considering this cost, it is important to assess the cost of not completing the job.

The Review Board was conceived of as a means of eliminating uncertainty and speculation about the contents of government files relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. A premature termination of the Review Board would surely generate intensified doubts within the general public about the commitment of Congress to release all information that relates to the assassination of President Kennedy, as well as renewed speculation about the conduct of our government and its institutions and personnel. If appropriate closure is not reached now, the identical issues will have to be addressed again in the future—at even greater cost. The recommended additional year will allow for a confident conclusion of this important task.