

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

May 12, 2017

To: Jeremy Gunn

From: Irene Marr

Subject: JFK Library Visit June 8-12, 1998

The following is a summary of the highlights of my visit with Megan Desnoyers and Stephanie Fawcett at the Kennedy Library. I also met with Will Johnson and Brad Garrett as part of my review of the Manchester papers.

Review of William Manchester Papers

There were no problems with my reviewing this collection and all staff involved were helpful and accommodating. I was given access to all 20 boxes that are in the custody of the JFK Library. Per Manchester's request, I was not left alone with any of the material and reviewed it all under the watch of a Library staff person. The contents of the 20 boxes matched the inventory of material prepared by the JFK Library in October 1997. These boxes contained files, notes, notebooks, correspondence, galley, manuscripts, loose papers, books and other research materials pertaining to his work on *The Death of a President* (DOAP). There were additional files and detailed notes on Kennedy which appeared to pertain to Manchester's work on *Portrait of a President*. In addition to material related to Kennedy, the boxes contained various papers, notes, correspondence and manuscripts relating to Manchester's other writings, as well as a number of files containing personal financial records and memorabilia.

The records of greatest interest to the ARRB were Manchester's notes of his interviews for DOAP, comments and revisions to the manuscript, and the correspondence between Manchester and Robert Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy at the time of the LOOK magazine serialization controversy and Jackie Kennedy's lawsuit against Manchester. In reviewing the notes, it appears that Manchester conducted most of his interviews in person, however, he also conducted some over the telephone, and still others were in the form of written answers to questions he had sent to interviewees. Manchester's notes were not consistent and were not organized in a cohesive fashion. Some notes were handwritten on yellow legal sized paper which were in good condition. Another set of handwritten notes was written on poor quality paper which has already yellowed and is fragile to handle. He also kept a set of small black notebooks containing his notes of the taped interviews along with personal thoughts and observations, telephone interviews, and additional research notes. Some of the notebooks contained rough transcripts or interview notes of his taped interviews and he noted the corresponding

tape numbers. However, he was not consistent in recording all of the dates of these interviews and in many cases it was difficult to decipher whether he had actually interviewed a person or whether he was just making notes on information obtained from or about the person. Of the 22 black notebooks in the collection, 17 pertained to DOAP. In addition to his handwritten notes on interviews, there was also a set of typed interview notes all of which were designated as “confidential.” It does appear that all of these “confidential” interviews were cited or used in the book. I compared the appendix of Author’s Interviews in DOAP to all the interviews I was able to identify in review the files and notes. I was able to account for most of them, but there are a number that I did not come across in my review of all 20 boxes. Where he interviewed the same individual on several occasions, it was not always possible to account for each separately dated interview as listed in the book, since not all of his notes were dated.

The correspondence documenting the controversy over Manchester’s deal with LOOK magazine and Jackie Kennedy’s objections and suggested revisions was also of interest. Manchester retained copies of proposed edits to the manuscript and Mrs. Kennedy’s requested deletions. There was also correspondence (letters and notes) with other principals involved in the publishing and editing of the book, for example Richard Goodwin, Evan Thomas and Robert Kennedy. Based on what I read, Mrs. Kennedy objected to passages that she regarded as being private and personal information. Some of the modifications were submitted by Goodwin on behalf of Jackie Kennedy. There were also copies of Manchester’s statement defending his version of Death of a President and notes on what he regarded as censorship of his work.

Manchester also kept records regarding the disposition of the sealed tapes and transcripts of his interviews of Robert Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy.

Review of Additional Unprocessed Papers

Upon the suggestion of Steve Tilley, I asked the library about the status of unprocessed papers of Edwin Martin, Chalmers Roberts, Ralph Dungen, Richard Goodwin, Kenny O’Donnell. After reviewing the finding aids at the JFK Library, I identified those items which I thought might be of potential ARRB interest. Much of the material is being processed and some is already available. I was able to review the Richard Goodwin papers and part of the Ralph Dungen. The Library will continue to process these collections, with the exception of Kenny O’Donnell which is a closed collection requiring permission of the family. Based on my review of the O’Donnell finding aid, there were only two items of potential interest and these are available elsewhere as noted below.

Richard Goodwin - Mostly foreign policy matters that fall outside scope of interest to ARRB. The only items of possible interest are:

Box 3: 2 Cuba-related files

Action: nothing of interest, but has been scanned under E.O. project.

Box 4: 10 Cuba-related files

Action: Identified 6 AR's but rest of collection is being scanned under E.O. project.

Ralph Dungen - National Security Files 1961-1963: All Country Files -Nothing of apparent interest

Ralph Dungen - Mostly NBR, from Ambassador to Chile and Chancellor to Higher Education of NJ. The items of potential interest was material listed under category of Special Assistant to President:

Boxes 1-4: Chronological files January 1961-December 1963

Action: Reviewed Nov-Dec. 1963, nothing of interest

Box 27: Select Senate Committee to Study Govt. Operations (Intelligence Activities)

Action: To be reviewed.

Box 29: Under "Personal" Henry Hall Wilson on JFK

Action: To be reviewed.

Carl Kaysen - Subjects listed appear well outside scope of interest, much appears to be Civil Defense and Economics related. The items of potential interest are:

Box 374: Basic National Security Policy, Vol. I-II.

Action: Collection already open, but not yet reviewed for AR's.

Edwin Martin - mostly post- JFK material and deals with Martin's work with OECD.

The items of interest are:

MS 93-3, Box 1 of 4: Cuba-related material (3 folders?)

Action: The JFK Library is in the process of opening these files.

Kenny O'Donnell - Collection is closed, but according to the finding aid, this collection does not have a great deal of substance. For example, there are a number of pre- Kennedy administration papers, news clips, campaign material, personal correspondence 1964-1976, *Johnny We Hardly Knew Ye* material. The items of potential interest:

Box 2: Presidential Appointment Books, 1962 and 1963

Action: Copies of same are in Evelyn Lincoln's collection

Box 8: Oral History for LBJ Library

Action: ARRB will pursue through LBJ Library

Chalmers Roberts - Subjects covered Eisenhower admin, Nixon, Arms control, China, Vietnam, and SALT.

Of possible interest:

Box 4 - Nixon as V.P. and '60 campaign

Box 5 - Great Events Analysis - Cuba '62

Box 9 - Notebooks 1960-1963

Box 12 - JFK Interview in Oval Office Box 12

Action: Collection already open, if possible I will review

- LBJ
- JFK and other data

Box 15 - President JFK, 1961

- Cuba 1961
- Cuba 1962-1963
- Kennedy 1962
- Kennedy (John F.) 1963

Action: Collection is available but not yet reviewed for AR's

Compliance Issues

I had a lengthy discussion with Megan and Stephanie regarding the outstanding compliance issues. We worked through the draft compliance letter prepared by Ron and were able to eliminate a number of items from the list. Megan responded this week with a memo covering remaining outstanding issues. Her memo brings us up to date, however the following issues need to be addressed:

RFK Papers

Although the JFK Library has reassured us that the RFK steering committee will have no objections to releasing the records Review Board previously designated as EHU's, there has been a delay with getting these documents processed under the Executive Order. They have been scanned and are at CIA awaiting declassification. There reportedly is a glitch in the external referral process which may prevent the records from moving through the pipeline in accordance with our timetable. It may be time for the ARRB to intervene with the assistance of Barry Harrelson.

Ted Kennedy Papers

No change since the last update by Tom Samoluk and it is not clear to what extent the Review Board wants to pursue this. Megan Desnoyers recommended that the Review Board use the letter that was sent to Arthur Schlesinger in approaching Senator Kennedy.

Oral Histories

Megan Desnoyers is taking action on the remaining unprocessed histories previously designated by Tom Samoluk. She just informed me today that there might be additional closed portions in some of

Marr H:\ARRB ELECTRONIC RECORDS REVIEW PROJECT 2017\WORKING
COPY\MARRWP-DOCS\JFK-LIB\JFKSTAT2.WPD

File

the oral histories that will need to be referred to third agencies. She is aiming to get those to us next week in time for the joint declassification session.

JFK Autopsy X-rays

No new developments in this regard. Although the family owns the medical records which apparently have been excluded from being assassination records, the X-rays to which the HSCA staff was given access are under the control of Burke Marshall. Megan Desnoyers said she would look into this as I think the last time this was addressed was when Will Johnson was acting as our point of contact.

Presidential Recordings

Stephanie Fawcett has just finished processing 25 hours of meeting tapes which cover the period of August through October, 1962. She has not completed the dictabelts due to a technical difficulty. She prefers to release all the recordings as a package deal rather than separately and has set September as a target date for accomplishing this task. We agreed that if there were any further delays that might prevent the completion of all remaining dictabelts by September, that she would just go ahead and release what she did have done at the time.