

MEMORANDUM

April 4, 1997

To: File
From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: Article in Winter 1996 issue of *Kennedy Assassination Chronicles*

This brief memo might clarify two assertions appearing on page 21 and page 28 of an article entitled "An ARRB Update." Most of this article summarizes HSCA interviews with Secret Service agents.

On page 21, Joseph Backes comments that he had never seen charge out cards on assassination records before, and he particularly noted that David Marwell's name appeared on some charge out cards dated September 19, 1995, which were attached to HSCA records. Backes concluded that Marwell had charged out these documents and read them in September 1995. This is not what happened.

At a meeting with Service personnel in August 1995, ARRB staff had requested that the Secret Service respond to NARA's 1992 referral of HSCA records either by returning them to NARA with an indication that they are open or to ARRB with postponements. Secret Service staff subsequently returned as "open" a large portion of these referred documents. For those documents on which the Service took postponements, Service staff created a charge out card and wrote David Marwell's name. The ARRB did not know that the Service had initiated this procedure until ARRB staff received Secret Service postponement requests on Secret Service documents submitted in November 1995. For its own reasons, which have never been explained, the Secret Service charged out its documents internally to David Marwell, who had not seen them until the Service presented them to our offices for Board review in late 1995 and early 1996. Backes's conclusion that "Mr. Marwell looked at this material on September 19, 1995" is incorrect. In fact, Marwell has not examined most of the records that the Service "charged out" to him.

On page 28 of his article, Backes noted a missing word in 180-10099-10491, the HSCA interview with SA William Greer. Backes quotes the following sentence: "In regard to the Miami trip of November 18, 1963 Greer says he was in Palm Beach with the President and went to _____, then to Miami." Backes concludes that a word was "whited out." I checked the original typed copy in the Center for Legislative Archives collection and found that no word had been "whited out." There is simply a blank space.

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