

## MEMORANDUM

May 9, 1997

To: File

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: US Secret Service File on Raymond Broshears [CO-2-42269]

At its April 23-24, 1997 meeting, the Assassination Records Review Board examined the Secret Service file on Raymond Broshears. The Review Board determined that 32 pages of this file are related to the assassination of President Kennedy and that most of the Broshears file did not contain relevant documents. This memo offers a summary of the Broshears file and its relevance to the assassination.

In interviews with an investigator from Jim Garrison's office in 1968, and again in his interview with House Select Committee investigators in 1978, Raymond Broshears claimed that he knew David Ferrie and Clay Shaw. Broshears offered a scenario in which Ferrie was to fly two of the assassins from Houston through South America to South Africa. Broshears also stated that Ferrie knew Lee Harvey Oswald. Since Broshears claimed in these interviews that he had been questioned by the Secret Service, I requested his Secret Service file in order to learn more about what Ferrie had allegedly told Broshears.

When Secret Service agents asked Broshears about Ferrie beginning in 1965, Broshears denied knowing him or anything about him. There is no reference to David Ferrie in the Broshears file. Broshears offered nothing to the Secret Service about Ferrie's assassination scenarios or associations. Instead, the Secret Service file focuses on a threat made by Broshears to President Lyndon Johnson in September, 1965. Broshears subsequently founded an organization called "Freedom Now," which was based on the theory that President Johnson had orchestrated the assassination of President Kennedy. The nine documents from this file that will be available to researchers provide the basic framework of the Secret Service's interest in Raymond Broshears. These records will provide researchers with an additional context in which to analyze the character of Broshears' assertions and his circumstances when he made various claims about the assassination of President Kennedy. The file contains documents that detail Broshears' personal activities in the late 1960s and 1970s without presenting anything conceptually beyond the issues outlined in the earliest investigative reports. The file ends in 1981. Because the "not included" records were too far removed in time and relevance from the assassination, they have been returned to the Secret Service.

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