

## MEMORANDUM

September 20, 1996

To: David Marwell  
cc: Douglas Horne

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: Floyd Boring Interview of September 18, 1996

Floyd Boring was the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the White House Detail at the US Secret Service in November, 1963. Doug Horne and Joan Zimmerman interviewed Mr. Boring at his home from 10 AM to Noon, and the conversation was tape recorded. Mr. Boring said that he understood that our conversation was being taped. Mr. Boring said he had never been questioned about his work at the Secret Service at the time of the Kennedy assassination by any representative from the government. He said he had not signed any pledge not to discuss the assassination, and he felt free to talk with us.

Mr. Boring offered that he had assigned SA Winston Lawson to do the advance for the Dallas trip because Lawson was available. Since he had just been traveling with President Kennedy on trips to Delaware, Hyannisport, Palm Beach, Miami, Tampa, and Washington, D.C., Mr. Boring had the day off on November 22, 1963. He was at home washing windows when he heard about the assassination on the radio. After calling the security room at the White House, Mr. Boring went to Andrews Air Force Base, talked to Gerald Behn, and met the planes from Dallas. Mr. Boring accompanied President Johnson to the White House by helicopter and then went home. The next day (November 23, 1963), Mr. Boring went to the White House to assume his normal protective duties.

In response to our questions, Mr. Boring made the following observations about White House Detail records: He made a daily report, and he submitted shift reports. The inactive files that were not destroyed on a regular basis were sent to St. Louis. Mr. Boring implied that he did not receive a packet from PRS containing photos and information on threatening individuals. [In his interview, Robert Bouck said the Protective Research Service created such a packet for all out of town presidential trips.] Mr. Boring said that the Secret Service had received quite a few threats before the Texas trip, some of which contained abusive language. Such threats were routinely turned over to the FBI. If an overt threat came to the White House Detail, it was sent on to the Field Office.

When asked about communications in the motorcade, Mr. Boring said that the Signal Corps set up two direct lines: "Charlie" and "Abel." Through relay stations the motorcade was linked with the White House. The Signal Corps set up a base station in the city where the motorcade was taking place. Mr. Boring stated that the Secret Service agents in the motorcade could communicate from car to car but not directly to the White House. Only the President had direct contact with the White House.

[Compare Gerald Behn's description of communications between motorcades and the WHD-HQ in Washington in his HSCA interview.]

Mr. Boring stated that he was issued one commission book when he was hired at the US Secret Service, and he still has it. He never had any other ID card from the USSS. Mr. Boring said he was not personally aware of any internal investigation of agents after the assassination, and no credentials were recalled and then reissued in 1964. Mr. Boring did say, however, that he assumed some sort of internal investigation must have been conducted at the Secret Service. The most likely person to have been in charge of such an investigation was Inspector Thomas Kelley.

On the question of whether the Secret Service ever requested military backup: Mr. Boring said that President Kennedy had three military aides who made arrangements for transportation (airplanes, helicopters, etc.). Mr. Boring said the Secret Service had no regular contact with military intelligence; he did have contact with the CIA and DIA when the President traveled overseas. The only regular military contact Mr. Boring had was with the Signal Corps. When asked about his listing of "military" on his checklist of contacts for presidential travel, Mr. Boring said that referred to transport of automobiles on the airplane (C-40).

With regard to protective matters, Mr. Boring said that he met regularly with Robert Bouck. According to Mr. Boring, Gerald Behn would have talked about the Texas trip with Robert Bouck, and there would be notes from this meeting. Bouck and Behn were not in favor of going to Texas. Mr. Boring said it was not unusual for Gerald Behn not to go on the Texas trip. Behn would accompany the President on foreign trips.

Mr. Boring stated that he never discussed the assassination with Roy Kellerman. Mr. Boring also stated that he never discussed the assassination with anyone at the US Secret Service.

When asked about the Secret Service's procedure for placement of motorcycles near the limousine in a motorcade, Mr. Boring said that the Secret Service had no rule about this. He said the Secret Service accommodated itself to the wishes of the local police department; the Service did not tell local police where to place motorcycles. Mr. Boring said he did not recall whether motorcycles were involved in the Tampa motorcade.

When asked about Gerald Behn's reference to "Special Services" in his HSCA interview, Mr. Boring said that this was the same as a "manpower pull."

When asked about SA Ernest Aragon's remark in his HSCA interview that there were weaknesses in presidential protection, Mr. Boring observed that Aragon should not criticize others. When asked about Aragon's reference to a conflict between SA John Marshal (Miami office) and Gerald Behn (Head of White House Detail) regarding presidential protection in Florida, Mr. Boring commented that

this seemed true: This problem had been “solved” many times. The issue of who took priority--the advance agent from White House Detail or the SAIC of the Field office-- was a continuing tension.