

MEMORANDUM

July 25, 1995

To: File

cc: David Marwell, Jeremy Gunn

From: Joan Zimmerman

Subject: VISIT TO SECRET SERVICE ARCHIVES, 1800 G Street, JUNE 1, 1995

Mike Sampson, Secret Service Archivist

I visited the Secret Service Archives at 1800 G Street (8th floor) on Thursday. I asked Mike Sampson about his collection and about Secret Service holdings in general. He said that he had not seen any Secret Service materials at Suitland or Centre Pointe. He only maintained the Archives on the 8th floor at 1800 G Street.

Sampson showed me the Archives room, which contained 3 walls of archives boxes from floor to ceiling. He was prepared to show me two boxes of JFK assassination materials; *The Record*; 2 file boxes of material marked "James J. Rowley;" a cardboard box containing recordings (tape reels and cassettes); and boxes of news clips.

The 2 boxes marked "JFK Assassination" contained file folders including:

- one folder containing the Secret Service final report from December 1963 marked "Confidential"
- one folder containing information on President Kennedy's trip to Philadelphia
- several folders on President Kennedy's trips abroad
- folders containing Secret Service agents' comments on William Manchester's book
- folders containing information on assassination attempts on President Kennedy
- a file on transcripts of doctor's testimony
- color photographs of President Kennedy's limosine taken in a garage (and negatives). There were *no* notes accompanying these photos indicating date or location
- photographs and a description of the follow-up car (a Lincoln limosine) and a discussion of the refurbishing of the Kennedy limo. Simpson said the limosine was used by President Johnson, and it is now on display in Dearborn, Michigan at the Henry Ford Museum

Simpson showed me several bound volumes of *The Record*, an internal Secret Service newsletter. The entry for November 22, 1963, was brief and uninformative. *The Record* was published between 1938 and 1969, and it contained news of arrests, personnel changes, and various news items about events of interest inside the Secret Service.

The James J. Rowley boxes (2) had been donated by Chief Rowley's family. They contained

photographs noting major events in Mr. Rowley's career as he moved up the ranks in the White House detail, especially in the 1940s and 1950s. These boxes also contained information on events where Mr. Rowley accompanied Presidents (mostly Eisenhower and Truman) on notable occasions. Some folders contained logs of the White House detail. These boxes were part of "the Director's Collection." James Rowley was Chief of the Secret Service from September 1, 1961 to (specific date unknown) 1973.

The box of recordings contained some speeches by Chief Rowley according to Mike Sampson.

Sampson showed me a two-drawer file cabinet in the Archives room. One of the drawers contained 4 file folders with material/correspondence by Chief Rowley. Most, if not all, of this was described by Sampson as ceremonial correspondence regarding invitations to dinners, speech engagements, etc.

The Archives room also has several large, flat gray boxes containing newsclippings covering the Kennedy assassination.

A separate box in the Archives room, which I asked Sampson to show me, contained thick binders marked "Personnel Strength Logs." These were donated by a former head of the personnel division, and they included numbers of agents in the White House detail during the Kennedy years.

I had asked Mike Sampson to show me guides or manuals used by Secret Service agents in 1963. He showed me a volume entitled *Investigative Studies no. 18; White House Advanced Manual Detail* (1964 and 1967); and USSS *Evaluation of Protective Policies, Practices and Procedures*. None of these (based on a very hasty glance) seemed very specific or detailed.

The Archives room, which is internal to the Secret Service and not open to the public, does contain assassination records.

Sampson showed me the Secret Service "museum." This is a separate room with several glass cases containing weapons--mostly guns and various types of billy-clubs--and descriptions of the history of their use. One case contained the types of guns used by Secret Service agents in the 19th and 20th centuries. Another case contained a replica of the Mannlicher-Carcano used by Oswald. Another case contained a rear door window from President Reagan's limosine that had been hit--but not penetrated--by John Hinkley's bullet. This case also had a replica of Hinkley's gun and the actual gun used by "Squeaky" Fromme during her attempt to assassinate President Ford. These cases also contained photographs of Secret Service agents with Presidents. The museum housed a tiny video viewing area where an introductory film is shown to new agents and visiting dignitaries.

One of the cases is devoted to photographs of the White House detail, and the uniform of the White House detail is also on display. Inside one case is the *Field Manual* for Secret Service agents. This is the volume I was looking for. Sampson did not seem to have a copy in his library outside the Archives room. The *Field Manual* is certainly an assassination record.

Sampson indicated to me that the museum and the Archives room were his responsibility. His supervisor is the head of the Governmental Affairs Office on the 8th floor at 1800 G Street--next to Director Bowron's office. Sampson said he is in the same group with Latita Roseboro and John

Machado. Sampson was not familiar with our statute or with the ARRB. Sampson said he would speak to John Machado and contact me again about my returning for a closer look at the materials in the Archives room.

Added note: Jeremy Gunn had called John Machado to obtain Mike Sampson's telephone number before my visit. John Machado knew we would contact Mike Sampson to set up a visit to the Archives yet later complained that we were using a "shotgun approach" with the Secret Service. Machado insisted that he alone is the POC.