

SECRET SERVICE

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Agency Compliance

Since January, 1995, when ARRB staff first contacted representatives of the Secret Service regarding compliance with the JFK Act, the Secret Service has sent a total of 159 White House detail shift reports for the period November 1, 1963-November 23, 1963, to the National Archives. The Chief of the Policy Analysis and Records Systems section, John Machado, sent these shift reports on September 22, 1995. In spite of repeated inquiries, personal meetings, and letters, John Machado has not only failed to undertake a thorough search of all Secret Service holdings; he has also misrepresented the content and nature of Secret Service materials to ARRB staff. The most serious delinquency demonstrated by the Secret Service was the destruction of two boxes of Protective Reports for President Kennedy in the 1961-1963 period, as well as the destruction of similar materials from the Johnson and Eisenhower presidencies. John Machado and others (whom he has repeatedly refused to name) authorized the destruction of the Kennedy Protective Reports *after the passage of the JFK Act*: these records were destroyed at the Washington National Records Center in January, 1995, only 8 days before the first ARRB contact with the Secret Service. The Assassination Records Review Board is continuing its investigation of this matter.

While the destruction of records is the most dramatic instance of Secret Service resistance to the requirements of the JFK Act and to the ARRB's efforts to encourage compliance, additional examples suggest a pattern of noncooperation. Since the Secret Service has denied direct access to ARRB staff to its holdings at Centre Pointe as well as other records sites, it is impossible to say how many assassination records remain to be identified and reviewed. Although ARRB staff were shown some materials from Centre Pointe and were allowed to suggest that these materials included assassination records, we still have no evidence that any records from Centre Pointe are under review by the Secret Service. The Secret Service has limited its estimate of potentially reviewable records to its still surviving holdings at the National Records Center and has suggested that 100 cubic feet of material remains to be examined. At a meeting attended by ARRB staff with 5 representatives from the Secret Service held on August 16, 1995, Assistant Director W. Ralph Basham stated that the Secret Service (through its FOIA office) would begin to send materials referred to the Secret Service from the House Select Committee on Assassinations back to the National Archives at the beginning of September, 1995. The ARRB has only recently learned that some of the referred HSCA materials have been returned to the Archives. None of these materials have been stamped with the appropriate classification status, and the Secret Service has not provided the ARRB with RIFs or computer discs. We have no indication of how many records from the HSCA may contain redactions. Since the Secret

Service, at the apparent suggestion of John Machado, seems to be developing a pattern of avoiding the ARRB as much as possible, no representative has submitted any Secret Service records for review at ARRB meetings(despite an invitation to do so) nor has anyone from the Secret Service ever provided any discs listing the status of Secret Service documents. In short, the Secret Service has yet to establish an efficient internal structure designed to meet the requirements of the JFK Act in a timely manner.

In spite of Secret Service reluctance to cooperate with the Assassination Records Review Board, ARRB staff have continued to request that Secret Service materials from Centre Pointe and from the internal Archives at Secret Service headquarters be reviewed. ARRB staff are in the process of examining Secret Service materials (two archive boxes) from the Warren Commission at Archives II that contain postponements. As the Secret Service returns HSCA material to the Archives, ARRB staff will issue requests for evidence for any postponements taken.