

The Board has an obligation to examine the records of former public officials who participated in any aspect or phase of investigation concerning the assassination, or of former public officials closely allied with Kennedy. . . .

--Anna Nelson, Review Board Nomination Hearings.

I believe the major issues include, first, how will agencies and others who hold records define the universe of, quote, “relevant” Kennedy assassination materials.

It is important to be able to go beyond the frame of reference of previous inquiries of Commissions and Committees, but the question must be asked, where will the search for documents end. In other words, what is relevant?

--Senator Glenn, Hearings on JFK Act

One involves setting the boundaries of, quote, “assassination material.” The joint resolution defines the term “assassination material” as “a record that relates in any manner or degree to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.” Given the wide ranges of theories that have developed as to who killed President Kennedy and why, many types of records arguably relate in some way to the assassination. What records regarding, for example, Cuba, Vietnam, and organized crime should be covered? This matter requires careful consideration.

--Senator Boren, Hearings on JFK Act

Bob Quotes for the Final Report:

Experts' Conference, April 14, 1998

Aftergood: "Every success of the Review Board demonstrates the failure of the system as a whole."

Halpern: "A structure like the Board may be useful for records less than 25 years old."

Garrow: "The real question about the impact of the Board: How much impact has the Board had on the way the agencies behave?"

Leary: "It is exceedingly optimistic to presume that the agencies will apply actions of this Board. It is not likely to have modified behavior."

Roan: "No crossover between JFK Act review and FOIA."

Martain: "The (JFK) Act has some answers to the question what is a secret."

Garfinkle: "Need to separate sources from methods. Could be the most lasting effect of this Board."

Martain: "Write specifically about the objections made by national security agencies and the problem of having an independent Board with the authority to declassify. Some here consider this a constitutional problem. Separation of powers is not effected. In fact it advanced the balance of power."

Board meeting quote:

Henry Graff, reacting to one of the many protracted debates on records: "This is not Magna Charta."

Irene

Suggested Quotes for Final Report by Irene Marr

(Some of these are rather humorous, but they might lose something out of context)

1. Russ Holmes

(The Russ Holmes Collection, chock-full of really explicit assassination records, was initially not considered an assassination record by the CIA. Review Board staff interviewed Mr. Holmes several times in December 1996. These quotes are from those meetings.)

Russ Holmes: “At the time of the HSCA investigation, [I] was the most knowledgeable on JFK, but not everybody saw it that way. For example, when Gates went before the Senate on the release of records, [I] was not consulted, but caught a mistake in his report.”

Holmes Collection was created mainly in response to FOIA requests on the assassination
“ I tried to put some order to it. There were inconsistencies in the sanitized versions.”

(this is where it starts to get humorous)

Holmes “Believed he had everything, did not suspect missing records, [but] never was involved in going to individual components of the Agency to get records.”

“CIA was not interested in Lee Harvey Oswald as an operational target.”

Jeremy Gunn asked Russ Holmes about any Agency contact with Lee Harvey Oswald in Moscow and allegations that James Angleton ran agents in the Soviet Union. Russ Holmes responded: “I have no knowledge [of that], I don’t believe it; I had no need to know.”

Jeremy Gunn asked Russ Holmes, “How could we find out whether any CIA agents met Lee Harvey Oswald [in Moscow] even if it was innocuous?”

Russ Holmes responded: “Ask the Agency.”

Jeremy Gunn: “How do we believe them?”

Russ Holmes: “There is no reason for them to withhold.”

SUGGESTED QUOTES FOR MEXICO CITY SURVEILLANCE SECTION

Regarding the existence of photographs of LHO:

Russ Holmes: “After the assassination, when they went through all the photos, but they didn’t know what they were looking for.”

Jeremy Gunn: “What explanation is there for the surveillance logs being incomplete?”

Russ Holmes: “It’s not there.”

SUGGEST FOR CUBA SECTION

Jeremy Gunn asked about records on the Castro assassination.

Russ Holmes says of the CIA “We are pack rats; if its an official paper, it doesn’t get destroyed.”

2. Anne Goodpasture

CIA officer assigned to Mexico City Station. Worked very closely with Win Scott, COS. Wrote first cable on Oswald. Deposed by ARRB December 1995.

SUGGEST FOR THE ANNE GOODPASTURE SECTION OF MEXICO CITY

Jeremy Gunn asked Ms. Goodpasture if the station provided any information to CIA headquarters regarding Oswald’s visit to Mexico.

Anne Goodpasture stated that: “The Oswald visit was not, certainly to my knowledge, ever an operation, so it was just a flash in the pan, a product of something that happened. . .”

(i love this quote)

HSCA Investigators Dan Hardway, Ed Lopez and Gaeton Fonzi met with Review Board staff in October, 1996.

According to Dan Hardway, at that time they had no real preparation to work with the CIA, they did not understand how intelligence agencies worked, the CIA “gave [us] nothing more than what was asked for.”

According to Ed Lopez, every time they asked for a file, they had to write a letter, “there were no fishing expeditions.”

Lopez and Hardway believed “Silvia Duran was pitched by the CIA; they probably pitched everyone there.”

3. Peter Dale Scott Deep Politics II

“There is nothing in this new evidence, still partly censored, to implicate these CIA elements in the Kennedy assassination. What is indicated rather is some embarrassing secret or series of secrets about Oswald or his CIA file, which would appear

SUGGEST FOR MEXICO CITY SURVEILLANCE SECTION

“[T]he CIA, with thorough photographic surveillance of both the Cuban and Soviet Embassies, had at least ten opportunities to photograph Oswald, yet CIA records at the time of the assassination allegedly did not contain a single photograph matching the man arrested in Dallas.”

“The newly declassified Lopez Report and CIA cables reveal that CIA translators who listened to the tape identified the caller as someone who had phoned the Embassy three days earlier and spoken “broken,” indeed terrible, hardly recognizable Russian.”

“Once we question the account of the destruction of the tapes, all CIA accounts of when they were destroyed become more suspect.”