

## MEMORANDUM

June 4, 1998

To: Church Committee File

From: Ronald G. Haron

Subject: Church Committee Records --  
Interview of Joan Higdon

On May 27, 1998, Irene Marr and I interviewed Ms. Joan Higdon, a former staff member of the Church Committee, to assist us in identifying any additional Church Committee records possibly unaccounted for under the JFK Act (or otherwise confirm that we have identified all important records for release). The interview was held at the Review Board offices for approximately three hours.

Ms. Higdon was hired by Senator John Tower, ranking minority member of the Committee, to work as an administrative assistant to the Assistant to the Minority Counsel. In this capacity, Ms. Higdon assisted in reviewing testimony and records, preparing index cards for reference, typing, and preparing issues/questions for prospective witnesses. Ms. Higdon did not conduct interviews or independent research, and did not have substantive responsibility for the conduct of any investigations by the Committee. Ms. Higdon's work encompassed the JFK assassination, JFK-organized crime links, and the Castro assassination plots. Prior to working for the Committee, Ms. Higdon worked for the Navy and for the Director of Action (which oversees Vista and Peace Corps). Ms. Higdon commenced her tenure with the Church Committee in March 1975 and worked for approximately 14-15 months. Thereafter, she went to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where she continues to work.

Ms. Higdon gave an overview of the staff and the workings of the Committee. She also spoke of a conversation she overheard between certain Church Committee staffers regarding allegedly new information about the Kennedy assassination. However, Ms. Higdon could not state the substance of the information, the source, or whether or not the information was ultimately disclosed by the Church Committee.

From her work on the Church Committee, Ms. Higdon identified four categories of records: (1) White House telephone logs allegedly maintained by Evelyn Lincoln and inspected in Boston by Church Committee staff; (2) subject index cards created and maintained by the Church Committee; (3) a detailed staff memo (20-50 pages) that dealt with JFK's alleged connection to organized crime and Judith Campbell Exner; and (4) another detailed staff memo regarding the Castro assassination plots. I believe the index cards are in the JFK Collection; I personally do not know whether or not the other record categories are in the JFK Collection. We may want to check with the JFK Library as to the

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existence and status of any White House telephone logs maintained by Evelyn Lincoln .

Ms. Higdon did not identify any Church Committee interviews or transcripts of which we were unaware.