

Revised July 22, 1997

CONGRESSIONAL AND RELATED RECORDS

A. SSCI Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (This includes Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities Within the United States (SSCIA), aka "Church Committee" (1975-1976)

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley, Martha Murphy
Senate Intelligence Committee: Taylor Lawrence (Staff Director); Jim Wolf (Security Officer); Judy Hodgson (Assistant to Staff; Director); Suzanne Spaulding (General Counsel)

Background

Book V of the Church Committee Report was generated by the Schweiker-Hart Subcommittee and entitled "The Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: Performance of the Intelligence Agencies (released June of 1976)

Underway but stalled. The permanent Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) was established by the Senate at the recommendation of and following the expiration of the Church Committee. The permanent Committee (Senate Intelligence Committee, for short) has jurisdiction over Church Committee records and processed 41 boxes of these records under the JFK Act back in 1993-4. More recently, and after much prodding, the Committee finally turned over the data disks for these processed records (157- series in our "HSCA-Church" database). NARA and the Review Board have identified many additional Church Committee records which remain to be processed under the Act. This has been communicated to the Committee by NARA/Review Board, but with little success to date. A proposal for breaking this logjam was prepared at David's request (see 3/6/96 Memo to File from Joe Freeman, "Church Committee"; 5/17/96 Memo from Joe Freeman to Jim Wolf, "Church Committee and Post-Church Committee SSCI Records"; 7/31/96 Memo from Joe Freeman to Jeremy Gunn, "Church Committee Records/Senate Intelligence Committee" and subsequent undated draft of "NARA/ARRB Proposal to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for the Processing of Additional Records Under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992". Files 4.34.2.1 and 4.34.4). David spoke again with Charlie Battaglia on 9/30/96 and Battaglia appeared open to delegating the task of identifying and RIFing additional Church Committee records to ARRB/NARA. David is preparing follow-up letter.

Although we have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the SSCI regarding the processing of Church Committee records, little progress has been made in addressing the significant number of outstanding records we have identified pursuant to the Act. Moreover, the SSCI has not turned over unredacted versions of the previously processed 41 boxes of records so that the Board may act on those documents with requested postponements. The hold up to this process continues to be delays by Security Officer Jim Wolf, who is responsible for locating and copying the assassination records we have identified. We have only succeeded in obtaining records from Wolf after direct and specific requests to his superiors.

To Do (As of July 10, 1997)

- Previously designated records. We need to get unredacted copies. TJG will call Suzanne Spaulding (and requests master index).
- Electronic records. We are up to date from SSCI. We need disks from NARA for 15 new records.
- Newly provided documents. Have received from SSCI approximately fifteen documents (Rosselli, Angleton, Rowley, Hosty); CLA has RIFFED. We now need to make referrals. TO DO: TJG verify referrals; Sydney send out referrals. Ron draft referral letter. CIA team makes early informal referral to CIA.
- Tilley/Freeman requested records: Ron identifies number of records and calls Wolf and requests expedited.
- Need to follow-up with SSCI records related to JFK that were received after Church Committee went out of business.

B. House Select Committee on Intelligence, aka “The Pike Committee” (1975)

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley, Martha Murphy

HPSCI: Mike Sheehy: Sharon Curcio (225-4121)

Background

In January of 1976, amid much controversy, the House voted not to release the Committee’s report, though most, if not all of it, was leaked to the *Village Voice*

The House’s Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), organized in July of 1977, has jurisdiction over the Pike Committee’s records. HPSCI staffers reviewed Pike Committee records under the JFK Act and forwarded 3 boxes of records to NARA.

These are reflected as the 135- series in our database and seem to consist mainly of Rockefeller Commission records obtained by the Committee./ We still must obtain unsanitized versions of those documents with requested postponements in order for the Board to process them. Steve Tilley recently identified Sharon Curcio as the contact for this request.

To Do (As of July 10, 1997)

- Brian call Tilley to determine who correct contact person is. Ron calls that contact person and requests expedited referral of unredacted records and requests general index. As soon as we obtain unredacted records, we need to refer them.

C. Internal Security Subcommittee of Senate Judiciary Committee, aka the “Eastland Committee” (1963)

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley; Matt Fulgham; Kris Wilhelm

Background

Rsearcher Max Holland alerted NARA and the Review Board about possible assassination records among the records of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, circa 1963. This subcommittee was headed by Senator Eastland of Mississippi. NARA staff have done a scan of these records and have

identified various items (see NARA's memo of 8/26/96, "Additional JFK Records Among the Records of Congress"). NARA staff have been talking to Senate Judiciary Committee staff about processing these records under the JFK Act; current status of these conversations unknown. ARRB staff have examined open 400-page finding aid for this collection and have identified numerous additional *potential* assassination records, but have yet to actually get at the records themselves (see 9/13/96 memo from Joe Freeman to Jeremy Gunn, File 4.21.9 SISS). ARRB staff have also identified other assassination records among SISS files from an examination of Warren Commission files (see 9/18/96 memo from Joe Freeman to Jeremy Gunn, File 4.21.9 SISS, as updated on 9/19). As with other Congressional committees, Review Board/NARA contact needs to be made (meeting/letter) to secure Senate Judiciary Committee's compliance with JFK Act.

To Do (As of July 10, 1997)

- Compliance with Act has been secured and Brian Rosen and Kevin Tiernan have reviewed approximately half of this collection and identified some assassination records (largely related to anti-Castro Cuban groups). Once the remaining documents are reviewed and assassination records are identified, the Legislative Archives staff has agreed to process the records under the Act.
- Kevin completes review and either designates records and drafts wrap-up memo saying file has been completely reviewed and describe status.

D. Eastland Papers

Contacts

University of Mississippi Law Center, Oxford Miss. Univ. of Miss. Law Center: John Sobotka

Background

Given the discovery of the Eastland Subcommittee records cited above, the Review Board wrote the Univ. of Mississippi on 8/13/96 regarding the possibility of assassination records among the Eastland Papers (especially since Eastland apparently took some Committee records back to Mississippi with him when he left Washington). We asked for finding aids, etc. As we hadn't heard back, Joe Freeman was tasked w/following up by phone. See 9/24/96 Outside Agency Contacts report. Summary: Sobotka doesn't think there are any assassination records in the Collection (which is closed, by the way), but will send us a copy of a 1,000-pg. folder-by-folder finding aid and will take a look at anything we tag for him./ Brian Rosen received the

finding aid from Sabotka, reviewed it and identified potential assassination records. Sabotka has agreed to look at the records identified for him and should get back to the ARRB in the near future with the results of his examination.

To Do (As of July 10, 1997)

- Ron call Sabotka and determine status.

E. House Un-American Activities Committee (records currently under the jurisdiction of the House Judiciary Committee).

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley
Kris Wilhelm
Matt Fulgham

Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives: John Kornacki

H.R. Office of General Counsel: Mike Stern

Background

A former staff director of the Committee, Francis McNamara, wrote the Review Board indicating he was certain there were assassination records among the files of HUAC. See McNamara's 6/3/96 letter to Chairman Tunheim, in which he recounts pre-assassination contacts with Ed Butler of INCA in New Orleans and a post-assassination trip to Dallas by a Committee investigator. Kris Wilhelm did some searching among the records (all currently closed) and found some records (see 8/26/96 NARA memo cited above), though not all that McNamara suggested would be there. Follow through with House Judiciary Committee remains to be done, re: processing records under the JFK Act (NARA seems to think there could be some resistance, as a recent un-related attempt to open up old HUAC records was shot down). We have a NARA-generated finding aid for the HUAC files. Warren Commission-HUAC correspondence recently discovered in WC files confirms McNamara's recollection of an investigative trip to Dallas. Also, the Chairman of HUAC's successor (the House Internal Security Committee), Congressman Ichord, made inquiries with NARA (which was subsequently in touch with CIA) regarding classified Warren Commission-era documents on March 16, 1972. A contact letter was sent on 11/8/96. Mike Stern of the General Counsel's office telephoned on 12/19/96 in response to the ARRB letter. He promised to coordinate work with the oversight committees and begin the process of identifying records. However, despite follow up

calls from Steve Tilley to John Kornacki, no work in compliance with the Act has begun.

To Do (As of July 10, 1997)

- Ron call Kornacki and get an update. Brian calls Karen Paul.

F. Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee (aka "the Edwards Committee") (1975)

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley
Matt Fulgham
Kris Wilhelm

Background

In October of 1975, this subcommittee (chaired by Congressman Don Edwards of California) held oversight hearings on the FBI, re: destruction of Hosty note and related issues. Phil Golrick independently acquired a printed set of these hearings. Related documents were also obtained by the HSCA and can be found in Box 5 of the HSCA Numbered Files (in our SCIF), folder 000132-000137. To the best of my knowledge, no attempt has yet been made by NARA (and certainly not by the Review Board) to get the House Judiciary Committee to search its files for related assassination records. While it is possible that everything of interest was picked up by the HSCA, the Judiciary Committee should still process the records from their own files under the JFK Act./ No further action taken.

To Do (As of July 10, 1997)

- Ron call Kornacki and get update

G. Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee (aka "the Abzug Committee") (1975)

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley
Matt Fulgham
Kris Wilhelm

Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

John Kornacki

House of Representatives Office of General Counsel:
Mike Stern

Background

Chaired by Bella Abzug, this subcommittee held a hearing in November of 1975, re: "National Archives - Security Classification Problems Involving Warren Commission Files and Other Records." In addition to witnesses' testimony, the published hearing, which the Review Board has obtained, includes appendices which contain various relevant subcommittee-generated documents. But no post-JFK Act search of Committee records has been undertaken by Committee staff or NARA. There is also a HSCA OCR with a former subcommittee staffer which references a CIA communication w/the subcommittee, re: interception of Oswald letters from USSR. The subcommittee also interviewed William Sullivan at one point in 1975, not long before he was killed. The old House Government Operations Committee was renamed the Government Reform and Oversight Committee after the last election cycle. A contact letter was sent on 11/8/96. On 2/7/97, Steve Tilley reported by telephone that the ARRB/NARA have received tentative permission to review the records. We are waiting for an official confirmation letter.

To Do (as of July 10, 1997)

- Ron call Kornacki and get update.
- Brian call Steve Tilley.

H. Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field, aka the "Senate Rackets Committee" or the "McClellan Committee". The Rackets Committee's records are now under the jurisdiction of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley

I. Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee

Contacts

Sally Kribs

Background

Then-Senator John F. Kennedy sat on this Committee in the latter 1950's; Robert F. Kennedy was its Chief Counsel. It was here that the celebrated confrontations w/Jimmy Hoffa and others took place. Insofar as some believe the Mafia and possibly Hoffa himself played some role in the assassination of President Kennedy, some of the McClellan Committee's records might be considered assassination records under the JFK Act. These records are presently closed. Their owner, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, happens also to be the Review Board's authorizing Committee on the Senate side. Steve Tilley has talked to Subcommittee staff, but no game plan is as of yet worked out for how or whether to approach this large body of records./ Brian Rosen, Kevin Tiernan, Steve Tilley and Kris Wilhelm reviewed the indices to these records and then performed a cursory review of the potential assassination records themselves. This review identified no assassination records. The records largely contain pre-assassination background information on Mafia members and are assassination-related only in the sense that they relate information regarding individuals sometimes alleged to have played a role in the assassination. Steve Tilley has suggested another quick review of the records. This follow up is unlikely to be any more productive unless the definition of assassination record is considerably broadened.

To Do (as of July 10, 1997)

- Kevin (in conjunction w/Tilley) complete review and write wrap-up memo.

J. Rockefeller Commission (1975)

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley

Ford Library: Steve Tilley

Background

The JFK Collection contains 6 boxes of Rockefeller Commission material, forwarded by the Ford Library under the Act (178- series). There are also significant amounts of Rockefeller Commission material in the Collection's Church and Pike Committee files. Many of these records were opened as Consent Releases.

To Do (as of July 10, 1997)

- All records have been referred. We have heard back from State; 80% returned from FBI; CIA coming slowly (30%); nothing from NSC; DOD ongoing; Justice ongoing.
- TJG calls Dave Van Tassell about approximately 30 NSC referrals. Ron drafts letter informing agencies Board will review at August 5 meeting. Sydney keeps process moving along.

L. Senate Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce, "aka the Kefauver Committee" (circa 1949-1951)

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley

U.S. Senate Office of the Historian: Karen Paul

Background

See 9/30/96 Joe Freeman memo to Jeremy Gunn (File 4.21.9 Kefauver Committee). The HSCA received permission to look at selected Kefauver Committee files (re: Ruby and organized crime); it also talked to a former Kefauver Committee staff counsel twice.

These records are under the jurisdiction of the Senate Commerce Committee. No contact has yet been made with the Committee. / ARRB sent a contact letter and received permission to review the files. Brian Rosen and Kevin Tiernan reviewed the indices to the collection and determined that the likelihood of the existence of assassination records was very remote. Regardless, the records are due to be opened in full in by Congress in 2001.

To Do (as of July 10, 1997)

Brian write wrap-up memo. Done.

M. Russell Papers, Russell B. Russell Memorial Library, University of Georgia at Athens, GA

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley
Gale Peters (NARA-East Point)

Russell Library: Sheryl Vogt

Background

These are Congressionally-related records, re: Sen. Russell's membership of the Warren Commission. The Russell Papers at Athens are all open, and we have a finding aid to them. They clearly contain assassination records, though no one from the Review Board has as of yet visited the Library, nor have any steps been taken to date to secure copies of Russell Library material for the JFK Collection. A small portion of nominally classified records were withdrawn from the Russell Papers and stored at the NARA facility at East Point, GA, prior to the opening of the Russell Library.

These are in the hands of Gale Peters. Peters has agreed to send copies to Steve Tilley so that Steve/the Review Board can process them. As of this writing, these copies have not arrived. Joe Freeman placed a follow-up call to Peters on 10/3/96./ Steve Tilley has received copies of the records withdrawn from the Russell Papers (less than one box). NARA staff has organized the records but they have not been "RIFed" or entered into the database. Steve Tilley estimates that about half of these records will need to be reviewed by the CIA (largely because of Mexico City material) but all are likely to be released in full.

To Do (as of July 10, 1997)

- ARRB needs to look at records and determine: (a) originals or copies; (b) have they been referred; (c) when will they be RIFFED; (d) anything else?
- TJG and Marie will examine records on Monday, July 14.

N. Other WC or Congressional papers (Boggs, Cooper, Dulles, Schweiker, etc)

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley

Background

The JFK Collection contains some minimal records from the Dulles (Princeton) and Boggs (Tulane) Papers which came to NARA before passage of the JFK Act. No post-JFK Act processing of these collections has been done. Steve Tilley doesn't think there's anything in the Collection from the Cooper Papers. Accordingly, we have sent a letter to the University of Kentucky at Lexington, asking for finding aid, etc. Max Holland is a good resource from the research community on these WC-era papers. Schweiker's Papers are at Penn State -- we've not written there; to date, we have no

reason to think it likely that assassination records ended up there, but we may have a better sense for it when and if we get a chance to delve into the Church Committee hoard./ No further action taken.

O. Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service (CRS)

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley

LOC: Librarian of Congress
James H. Billington

CRS: Director Daniel Mulhollan

Background

Neither the Library of Congress nor its subsidiary, CRS, ever responded to NARA under the JFK Act. The holdings of both clearly contain assassination records (e.g., the Earl Warren papers at LOC contain three boxes of Warren Commission files/correspondence, and we know that CRS did work for both the Abzug Committee and the HSCA). The Review Board wrote separate letters to Billington and Mulhollan on 8/13/96 in an effort to get them moving. As of 10/3, we have had no response. Our letter to Billington specifically requested that he designate a contact point for the Review Board./ No further action taken.

To Do (as of July 10, 1997)

- (a) Eric provide current status; (b) evaluate next steps.

P. Administrative Practices and Procedures Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee (also: the Edward Long papers)

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley
Diane Dimkoff

Senate Judiciary Committee:
Phil Shipman

Senate Office of the Historian:
Karen Paul

Q. Long Papers

Contacts

Univ. Of Missouri: Diane Ayotte

Background

Steve Tilley got a lead from somewhere indicating that this Senate subcommittee, then under the chairmanship of Missouri's Senator Edward Long, held assassination-related hearings in 1968. Steve and Diane Dimkoff tried to run this down with both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the University of Missouri (where Long's papers are located). Neither lead panned out, and this file is currently "closed" at NARA./ No further action taken.

To Do (as of July 10, 1997)

What can Eric determine about this.

To be handled by Joan Zimmerman

R. House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) 1976-1979

Contacts

NARA I: Kris Wilhelm, Matt Fulgham
NARA II: Steve Tilley, Martha Murphy
House Oversight Committee: Roman Buhler

Background

Underway. For background see, among others, 7/30/96 memo from Joe Freeman to Jeremy Gunn: "Referred Material in Miscellaneous HSCA Record Series" (File 4.1.7). Major outstanding issues in this collection include Security Classified Files (were never physically referred by NARA) and making sure CIA and FBI get to these (we are copying CIA records in these files for Barry Harrelson; Jeremy has secured House Oversight Committee permission for us to walk FBI records over to the Bureau)./ See attached breakdown of outstanding records by record series and equity (Chet needs to update this as progress continues). All Security Classified Files have been referred and most have been processed. We are still waiting for some of the more difficult documents to be returned by the FBI and CIA.

S. Warren Commission

Contacts

NARA: Steve Tilley

Background

To the best of our knowledge, as vouchsafed by Steve Tilley, all WC-generated material is now open. Within the 50+ boxes of referred records at NARA II, however, there are numerous WC-era documents which are not yet open. Many of these boxes have been gone through by relevant agency personnel and, in many cases, previously referred records have been stamped and opened. However, these changes in status have not yet been incorporated into any electronic database, nor interfiled with already-open material. Thus, it is difficult to say precisely how many WC-era, agency-generated records are still unopened. For background, see 9/5/95 memo to Jeremy Gunn, "More on Referred Records at Archives II" (File 4.23.5)./ Joe Freeman and Brian Rosen visited NARA and copied for referral all WC-era records not yet

processed under the Act. The referral and review process is ongoing and Sydney Reddy is the best source for a current status update.

File 4.21.9

Haron e:\wp-docs\congregc.cht