

MEMORANDUM

TO: G. d'Andelot Belin File
Treasury Department File
Secret Service File

FROM: Ronald G. Haron

DATE: December 12, 1997

SUBJECT: Telephone Interview with G. d'Andelot Belin

On November 18, 1997, I conducted a brief telephone interview with G. d'Andelot Belin, who was General Counsel for the Department of Treasury from the Fall of 1962 to January 1965. Mr. Belin now lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. As General Counsel, Mr. Belin worked on Secret Service/Warren Commission issues. I called Mr. Belin to ascertain whether he had, or could identify, any files relating to his work with respect to the Warren Commission.

Mr. Belin said he took no records with him when he left the Treasury Department and returned to private law practice (except for a file of personal materials). While General Counsel, Mr. Belin worked with agents of the Secret Service in connection with their testifying before the Warren Commission (at the time, the Secret Service did not have its own in-house counsel so that Mr. Belin essentially acted as counsel for the Secret Service in the 1963-64 period).

Mr. Belin confirmed that there would have been a subject file or files in his office dealing with the Secret Service and with the Warren Commission. He did not know where that file would be today. However, he recalled that the White House had ordered all agencies to assemble documents relating to President Kennedy, presumably to go to the JFK Presidential Library. The person in Mr. Belin's office responsible for assembling these files was Charlotte T. Lloyd, Mr. Belin's Assistant General Counsel. Mr. Belin does recall that the General Counsel's office did send files to the JFK Library, but he did not know if they included the Warren Commission/Secret Service materials.

Regarding his substantive work, Mr. Belin recalled that Secretary Dillon had asked him to assemble a chronological account of what was known about the assassination. Mr. Belin did not think this chronology was intended specifically for the Warren Commission. In addition, Mr. Belin met with Secret Service Chief James Rowley and Secret Service agents prior to their testifying before the

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Warren Commission. He did not recall if notes were made or what records existed regarding these preparation meetings.

Mary Maxfield was Belin's secretary. In addition, Mr. Belin recalled that there was another person, whose name he could not remember, who had maintained the files in his office and who had retired before Mr. Belin left the Treasury Department.

On December 11, I called Mr. Belin again to clarify if there were other attorneys in his office who worked with him on Secret Service/Warren Commission matters. He could not recall specifically, but said Edwin Rains, an Assistant General Counsel, or Fred B. Smith, the Deputy General Counsel (who Mr. Belin thought may live in Chapel Hill, North Carolina), may have worked with him on this matter.

On December 11, I contacted Fred B. Smith by phone to ascertain whether he would have any additional information. Mr. Smith worked at the Department of the Treasury from February 1943 to January 1969; he became General Counsel in April 1966.

Mr. Smith said he did a "slight amount" of work in connection with the Secret Service. He specifically recalled accompanying the Secret Service agent in charge of Kennedy's Secret Service detail when the agent testified before the Warren Commission. (He could not recall the name of the agent, but thought it might be Gerald Behn when asked.) Mr. Smith accompanied the agent to assure that protective methods were not disclosed to the public.

Mr. Smith had no information relating to files kept by the Warren Commission. Nor did Mr. Smith have any information regarding Secret Service files. Mr. Smith was asked specifically if he knew of any audio or visual materials that the Secret Service had from Dallas on the day of the assassination. Although Mr. Smith referenced that "they had audio in the Presidential vehicle," he made clear that these were audio communications and he knew of no audio recordings or visual recordings by the Secret Service.