Chapter 6:
Pursuit of Additional Records and Information
C. Pursuit of Private Records and Information

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V. Pro and Anti-Castro Cuban Matters

Both the Warren Commission and the HSCA considered the possibility that pro-Castro or anti-Castro activists had some involvement in the assassination of the President. Both pro and anti-Castro Cuban groups in the United States had contact with Lee Harvey Oswald. The Warren Commission looked into Lee Harvey Oswald's Communist and pro-Castro sympathies, including his involvement with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, and his September 1963 trip to Mexico City during which he went to the Cuban Consulate. In addition, the Church Committee, an internal CIA Task Force, and the HSCA all re-examined the extent to which the Cuban government, or pro-Castro activists in the United States might have been involved in the assassination. With regard to anti-Castro Cuban groups, the HSCA considered the possibility that anti-Castro groups were invovled in the assassination, and they examined the significance of Oswald's contacts with individuals who were activie in anti-Castro activities. The HSCA concluded that anti-Castro Cuban groups did have the motive, means, and opportunity to kill the President.

Given the amount of time that prior investigative bodies spent considering the possibility that either pro or anti-Castro Cuban forces may have played a role in President Kennedy's assassination, the Review Board wanted to collect and process all relevant records that still existed in the Government. To the extent that pro and anti-Castro Cuban groups coordinated their activities in the United States, the FBI would be likely to have investigative records on their activities. As such, many of the Review Board's efforts to uncover records beyond those that prior investigative bodies may have seen focused on the FBI's records.

B. Fair Play for Cuba Committee

The Fair Play for Cuba Committee ("FPCC") was a pro-Castro national organization headquartered in New York. The FPCC had chapters in many cities, but Lee Harvey Oswald was its founding and, it seems, only member in New Orleans. In the summer of 1963, Oswald distributed

handbills that he had printed that advocated "Hands Off Cuba!" and invited members of the public to join the New Orleans chapter of the FPCC. The Warren Commission and the Congressional committees that investigated the assassination discuss Oswald's connection to the FPCC in their respective reports. As such, the Review Board's routine processing of Federal agency records from Warren Commission files and files concerning other Congressional committees contain a number of records on the FPCC. Not all FPCC records, however, found their way into the existing collections. Where Review Board staff noticed gaps in the documentation regarding the FPCC, it requested that Federal agencies provide access to additional records and information.

1. FBI field office files.

As part of its processing of the "core and related" and "HSCA Subject" files, the FBI did not process any records from the FBI's New York and Dallas field office files on the FPCC. Thus, the Review Board staff requested access to these two field office files.

The Review Board staff located eight assassination records in the Dallas field office file, most of which were duplicates of headquarters records that the FBI had already processed as part of its "core and related" files or HSCA files.

The New York field office file proved to be much more voluminous than either the Dallas or New Orleans files and it yielded more assassination records. A number of the records that the Review Board staff designated as assassination records from the New York file involved June Cobb, a woman who was an intelligence asset during the 1960-64 period, primarily for the CIA but also for the FBI, regarding Castro, Cuba and the FPCC. She also has some links to Marita Lorenz' story. Finally, she is linked to the assassination as the asset who first informed the CIA of Elena Garro De Paz's allegation that Oswald attended a "twist" party in Mexico City with Sylvia Duran. For the above reasons, the Review Board staff recommended that any FPCC documents that referenced June Cobb be processed as assassination records. The remaining records that the Review Board found to be assassination-related involved the FBI's efforts to infiltrate and disrupt the FPCC.

The bulk of the remaining records that the Review Board staff

designated as assassination records from the New York FPCC file involve the FBI's investigation of the FPCC. Many researchers view Oswald's role in the FPCC as an indication that he may have been an asset of one or more U.S. intelligence agencies. That is, they theorize that he was a plant, an intelligence asset sent on a counterintelligence mission against the FPCC. Given this theory, Review Board staff designated as assassination records those documents which address the urgency with which the Bureau viewed the FPCC, the priority the Bureau placed on infiltrating the group, and Bureau intentions/plans to initiate counterintelligence activities against the group. The Review Board staff employed similar reasoning in designation records as assassination-related in the Cuban COINTELPRO file referenced below.

2. CIA records on Richard Gibson.

Michelle will fill in.

B. Cuban COINTELPRO

Early in its tenure, the Review Board reviewed the FBI's FOIA "reading room" records on the FBI's counterintelligence program against pro-Castro Cubans -- primarily the FPCC and the July 26th Movement -- during the early 1960s. The Review Board's review of the reading room materials led the Review Board to make a request to the FBI for a Headquarters file entitled, "Cuban Matters -- Counterintelligence Program -- Internal Security -- Cuba" and for any other Headquarters files documenting efforts by the FBI or other agencies of the U.S. Government to disrupt, discredit, or bring into disrepute the FPCC or its members or activities. The FBI made records available and, but for some very recent, unrelated documents, the Review Board designated all records in the Cuban COINTELPRO file as assassination records.

Records designated from the COINTELPRO file include membership and mailing lists that the FBI obtained concerning the FPCC and the July 26th Movement. The file further details the FBI's basis for initiating its counterintelligence program against the two pro-Castro organizations. Finally, the file provides details concerning the methods that the Bureau used to disrupt the activities of the FPCC and the July 26th Movement.

C. Anti-Castro Activities; IS-Cuba

In the spring of 1996, the Review Board staff received a letter from a member of the research community noting that one of the "Hands Off Cuba" pamphlets that appeared in the New Orleans FPCC file contained a cross-reference to a file entitled "Anti-Castro activities; IS-Cuba" and numbered NO 105-1095. The Review Board staff determined that this particular file was not already part of the JFK Collection, and then requested that the FBI provide access to all files bearing the above-referenced caption from Headquarters and from the New Orleans, Miami, Tampa, New York, and Dallas field offices during the relevant time period.

After reviewing New Orleans file 105-1095, the Review Board staff recommended that two volumes of the file be designated in their entirety as assassination records.

D. Cuban Intelligence Activities in the U.S.; Cuban Situation

E. Anti-Castro Cuban groups, including DRE, Alpha 66, SFNE, JURE, FRD, CRC, and Comandos-L

In an effort to gather and review records relating to the activities of prominent anti-Castro Cuban groups who might have had some involvement in the assassination of President Kennedy, the Review Board requested the FBI to provide access to files on the above-referenced anti-Castro Cuban groups for HQ and the New Orleans, Miami, Tampa, New York, and Dallas field offices. The FBI kept voluminous files on the anti-Castro Cuban groups. Review Board staff members reviewed hundreds of volumes of records in search of assassination-related material. The files did yield approximately 70 assassination records from various files.

F. Threats against the life of Fidel Castro

1. *CIA DS&T records*
2. *DOJ Balletti file*
3. *FBI file*

G. American Gambling Interests in Cuba

As part of its efforts to gather records relating to a Cuban connection

to the asssassination, the Review Board staff requested that the FBI provide access to any and all Headquarters, Miami, Tampa, and Havana Legat files captioned, "American Gambling Interests in Cuba."

The Miami field office (into which all Havana Legat files were forwarded when the Legat closed) and Tampa field office reported to FBI headquarters that they did not have any files with the above-referenced caption. The Review Board staff did not locate any material in the headquarters files that was related to the assassination of President Kennedy. Most of the files that the FBI located consisted of pre-1959 records monitoring the activities of Florida racketeers who were trying to establish gambling and hotel facilities in Cuba.

H. Sergio Arcacha-Smith, Antonio Veciana and Bernardo de Torres

Sergio Arcacha-Smith, Antonio Veciana and Bernardo de Torres were anti-Castro Cuban activists in the early 1960s. Arcacha-Smith was the New Orleans representative to the Cuban Revolutionary Council until 1962, and in that capacity used an office in the building at 544 Camp Street. The 544 Camp Street address was printed on FPCC literature distributed by Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans in August of 1963. Veciana was the head of Alpha-66, a violent anti-Castro organization that was in paramilitary operations against Castro's Cuba as well as assassination attempts against Castro himself. Veciana testified to the HSCA that he was an agent of the US government, and that he met Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas in 1963 in the presence of his American handler. Torres was a Cuban exile living in Miami who later worked with New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison in his investigation of the assassination. The HSCA reviewed the Headquarters files on Arcacha-Smith, Veciana, and de Torres. The Review Board requested an additional search for files from Headquarters, New Orleans, Houston, and Dallas field office files to determine whether the FBI had any other assassination related information on these three individuals. The Review Board designated 33 documents for processing as assassination records from the many files produced responsive to this request. The designated documents were primarily concerned with reactions to assassination within the Cuban exile community.

VIII. Records on Organized Crime

The question as to whether organized crime played a role in a possible conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy is one that nearly every Government investigation into the assassination has addressed. Thus, the Review Board processed a large number of files on organized crime figures and organized crime activities simply because Federal agencies made their organized crime files available to previous Government investigations. For example, the FBI's "Segregated Collection" contains large portions of the FBI's files on organized crime figures such as Santos Trafficante, Carlos Marcello, Angelo Bruno, Frank Ragano, the Lansky brothers, Johnny Roselli, Nick Civella, Frank Sinatra, and Joe Campisi. The majority of records that Review Board analysts processed in these files were *not* directly assassination-related, but because prior investigative bodies considered these men to be relevant, the records have been included in the JFK Collection. In several instances, however, the Review Board pursued additional records that had not been reviewed by prior investigative bodies.

A. Sam Giancana

From the time he was a young man, Sam Giancana rose within the Chicago organized crime syndicate until he became syndicate leader in 1957. After an 8 year stint in Mexico, Giancana was deported back to Chicago where he was murdered in 1975, shortly before he was scheduled to testify before the Church Committee. The Review Board considered Giancana to be of historical interest with respect to the Kennedy assassination for a number of reasons: (1) Giancana was involved in the CIA plots to assassination Fidel Castro, (2) Giancana expressed hostility toward the Kennedys because of the Kennedy's war against organized crime, (3) Giancana had associates in common with President Kennedy (namely, Frank Sinatra and Judith Campbell Exner), (4) Giancana allegedly contributed to Kennedy's 1960 presidential campaign, (5) Giancana was allegedly linked to Joseph P. Kennedy through the illicit liquor trade.

The FBI's Headquarters file on Sam Giancana consists of 37 volumes of records dating from 1954 to 1975. When the Review Board staff began to review the FBI's "main" file on Sam Giancana (FBI file number HQ 92-3171) in early 1995, it realized that the FBI had only designated for processing under the JFK Act sections 17-18 and 20-37 of the Giancana file. Section 17 of the file began with the year 1963, and so the FBI had not designated for processing any volumes of records that predated January 1, 1963. Apparently, the HSCA had requested access to the entire FBI file on

Giancana, but the FBI provided only portions of its file to the HSCA. The Review Board staff requested and received access to sections 1-16 and section 19, spanning the years 1958-1962. After reviewing the additional volumes, the Review Board determined that the earlier dated material would make a valuable contribution to the JFK Collection. The FBI agreed to process volume 19, and the Review Board designated volumes 1-16 as assassination records in the summer of 1995.

B. BriLab

Many of the books on the assassination of President Kennedy discuss the possibility that Carlos Marcello, alleged organized crime boss of New Orleans, was involved in the assassination. In the late 1970s, the FBI investigated Marcello on an unrelated matter -- the bribery of organized labor. As part of the "BriLab" investigation, the FBI conducted approximately eight months of electronic surveillance on Marcello's home and on his office at the Town and Country Motel. According to several sources, the "BriLab" tapes contained conversations in which Carlos Marcello or his brother Joseph admitted that they were involved in the Kennedy assassination.[1]

The FBI maintains its tapes and transcripts from the surveillance, but because the FBI's source of authority for the surveillance was 18 U.S.C. § 2501 *et seq.* ("Title III"), the "take" from the surveillance was under court seal. Thus, the assassination research community was not able to confirm or reject allegations that the tapes or transcripts contain information relevant to the assassination.[2] Once the Review Board staff obtained a court order

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[1]*See, e.g.,* G. Robert Blakey and Richard Billings, *Fatal Hour* (page) (1981); Anthony Summers, *Conspiracy* 503-504 (1980); Gerald Posner, *Case Closed* 459-460 (1993); John H. Davis, *Mafia Kingfish*, 519-524 (1989); Ronald Goldfarb, *Did the Mob Kill JFK?,* Washington Post, Dec. 10, 1995 at C3:1.

[2]When the FBI determines that electronic surveillance is a necessary component of a particular investigation, the FBI goes to a Federal court and obtains authorization pursuant to Title III to establish the surveillance. Title III operates to automatically place *all* materials obtained from the overhear under court seal. Then, if the U.S. Attorney wants to use the tapes in a prosecution, they have to petition the Federal court to have the seal lifted only for the portions of the tapes that will be played at trial. The practical effect of this procedure is that everything that is *not* played at trial remains under seal. Thus, in order for the Review Board staff to obtain access to the BriLab surveillance, it had to move to unseal the materials for the purpose of its review. Then, when the Review Board staff located assassination records within the BriLab materials, it requested the Title III court to unseal the records for the purpose of public disclosure.

allowing it access to the materials, the staff reviewed all of the transcripts from the FBI's surveillance on Marcello in New Orleans. Although the staff did not locate the specific conversations that the researchers mentioned, it did locate thirteen conversations that it believed to be assassination records. Most of the conversations took place in the summer of 1979 during the period that the HSCA released its report. The conversations primarily focused on Marcello's reaction to the HSCA's allegations that he may have been involved in the assassination. With the help of the U. S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New Orleans, the Review Board staff obtained an order to release transcripts of the thirteen conversations to the public.

C. Metropolitan Crime Commission

The MCC is a private, anti-crime organization which, since the 1950s, has investigated public corruption and organized crime in the New Orleans area. HSCA staffers Patricia Orr and Ann Taylor reviewed the MCC's records on the organized crime figures such as Carlos Marcello and MCC records on the Garrison investigation. The Review Board believed that the MCC records involving organized crime figures in the New Orleans area were of particular interest and contacted the MCC to determine whether the MCC would allow the Review Board staff to review its records. The MCC agreed to provide access to the records, and in the summer of 1996, Review Board staff members traveled to New Orleans to review MCC records. Reviewers identified a number of records that they believed should be included in the JFK Collection. The Review Board and the MCC agreed that the MCC would allow copies of the MCC records to become part of the JFK Collection.

The Review Board copied and 12 boxes of MCC records in New Orleans. Approximately half of the MCC records that the Review Board staff copied consisted of information concerning former District Attorney James Garrison's investigation into the assassination. All Garrison investigation files became part of the JFK Collection. The remaining half of the records consisted of files that formerly belonged to Guy Banister. Despite the enormous interest in Banister activities during the late 1950s and early 1960s, the vast majority of the MCC's Banister material date from the early 1950s when Banister worked for the New Orleans Police Department. A large number of the MCC's Banister records are N.O.P.D. "Internal Affairs" investigative files that detail small time corruption of N.O.P.D.

police officers. Because the internal affairs investigative files were not relevant to the assassination of President Kennedy, Review Board staff members designated as assassination records only those documents that were *not* exclusively related to the internal affairs of the N.O.P.D. Ultimately, the Review Board added approximately 3000 pages of MCC records to the JFK Collection.

IX. Warren Commission Staff and Critics

Given that the Warren Commission constituted the first official investigation into the events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, the Review Board clearly had an interest in ensuring that all Federal agency records on the Warren Commission and its activities became part of the JFK Collection. Although the agencies processed a large number of Warren Commission era documents as part of the core files, the Review Board staff wondered whether Federal agencies such as the FBI and the CIA opened and maintained files on the Warren Commission staff members because they were working for the Warren Commission. Likewise, the Review Board staff wondered whether Federal agencies such as the FBI and CIA opened and maintained files on critics of the Warren Commission because they were criticizing the Warren Commission's conclusions.

A . FBI files on Warren Commission staff

In an effort to determine whether the FBI opened or maintained files on Warren Commission staff, the Review Board made a request for any FBI headquarters file references on Warren Commission Assistant Counsel Norman Redlich. While reviewing the files provided in response to the Review Board's request for Norman Redlich's files, the Review Board staff observed a reference to General Counsel J. Lee Rankin's request that the FBI conduct a background investigation on Redlich and also on Assistant Counsel Joseph A. Ball. The staff then asked for FBI headquarters file references on Rankin and Ball, as it seemed that the FBI may have maintained a file on Ball's investigation. Redlich's file also showed that the Civil Service Commission ("CSC") had conducted a background investigation on Redlich *before* Rankin asked the FBI to do an investigation, so the Review Board staff wondered whether the CSC may have done background checks on other Warren Commission staff members. In an effort to determine whether similar files existed at the FBI for other Warren

Commission staffers, the Review Board extended the request to include Assistant Counsel Leon D. Hubert, Jr. (whose file the Review Board thought may also contain references to Hubert's career in New Orleans politics.) In addition, the Review Board asked the FBI to provide a statement on whether it opened any files, individually or collectively, on other individuals who worked as Warren Commission Assistant Counsels or staff members, because of their employment by the Warren Commission.

In response to the Review Board's request, the FBI provided all of its headquarters file references on all of the Warren Commission staff members. From the Redlich request, the Review Board did designate as assassination-related a group of records on Redlich within the FBI's file on the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. Otherwise, although Review Board staff did locate some assassination-related records, the FBI had already processed most of the records as part of the core files. The Review Board staff did *not* locate any information to indicate that the FBI systematically kept records on Warren Commission staff members simply because they were employed by the Warren Commission.

B. CIA and FBI files on Warren Commission critics

In an effort to determine whether the FBI opened or maintained files on Warren Commission critics because they criticized the Warren Commission's work and findings, the Review Board requested access to all records on Mark Lane and to all pre-1973 Headquarters file references to the other Warren Commission critics listed below.

1. Mark Lane

When the Review Board began to process the FBI's "core and related" files, it noted that a number of records that mentioned the name Mark Lane cross-referenced the FBI's main file on Lane. Because the main file was not in line for JFK Act processing, the Review Board requested acess to all file references to Mark Lane or to Lane's Citizens Committee of Inquiry in the files of FBI Headquarters and the New York field office. The Review Board staff's examination of the Lane main file revealed that approximately eight volumes of the file contained a significant percentage of documents relating to the Kennedy assassination. The Review Board identified those volumes as records that should be processed under the JFK Act. In addition to the Lane main file, the Review Board designated as assassination-related the entire file on the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry, as

well as records in the FBI's Communist Party COINTELPRO file, and a select few records about Lane that appeared in the files of other individuals. The Review Board's inquiry revealed that the FBI did maintain substantial files on Lane's professional and personal activities, and kept detailed files on Lane's political activism.

2. Harold Weisberg

FBI files containing the name Harold Weisberg contained documents concerning Weisberg's previous employment with the Department of State (including a 1940s loyalty review and records regarding his resignation), Weisberg's public participation in political issues, and Weisberg's published work as a journalist. A significant majority of the documents on Weisberg were dated before 1960. The only assassination-related file on Weisberg that the FBI produced in response to the Review Board's request was the FBI file on a FOIA lawsuit that Weisberg brought against the Department of Justice. This FOIA litigation file, number 197-636, contains ten serials. The Review Board recommended that the FBI process the FOIA litigation file as an assassination record under the JFK Act.

3. Josiah Thompson

FBI files containing the name of Josiah Thompson dealt primarily with Thompson's activities as an anti-Vietnam war activist, and especially with Thompson's alleged violation of Selective Service laws. Review Board staff located one assassination-related document that the FBI had processed as part of the "core" file on the JFK Assassination. The document was about the book *Six Seconds in Dallas*. The Review Board instructed the FBI to process the document as a duplicate of the record that appeared in the "core" files.

4. Edward J. Epstein

FBI files containing the name Edward Jay Epstein addressed Epstein's general journalistic activities, including a significant amount of information on his work related to the Black Panther Party. The few assassination-related records in Epstein's file were processed by the FBI as part of their "core" files on the JFK Assassination Investigation and the Warren Commission. Thus, the Review Board staff did not designate any additional records as assassination records.

5. Paul Hoch

FBI files containing the name of Paul Kenneth Hoch dealt solely with Hoch's activities as an anti-Vietnam war activist. The few assassination-related records in Epstein's file were processed by the FBI as part of their "core" files on the JFK Assassination Investigation and the Warren Commission.

6. David S. Lifton

The name David S. Lifton appeared only in the FBI's "core" files on the JFK Assassination Investigation and the Warren Commission. The FBI did not produce any additional files that contained Lifton's name.

7. Sylvia Meagher

FBI files relating to Sylvia Meagher contained five documents that the Review Board believed to be assassination-related. The FBI processed these five documents as part of the "core" files on the JFK Assassination Investigation and the Warren Commission. One of the five documents was an internal FBI document that discussed purchasing Meagher's Warren Commission index. Two of the five documents were letters that Meagher wrote to Director Hoover in 1966, and the remaining two documents related to a letter that Meagher wrote to *Time* magazine in 1966. The Review Board instructed the FBI to process these five documents as duplicates of records that appeared in the "core" files.

XIV. Name Searches

A. John Abt

Following his arrest on November 22, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald stated to representatives of the media, that he wanted to be represented by John Abt. Abt was an attorney who had represented the Communist Party, USA.[3] Abt's primary residence was in New York City, but he was spending the weekend of November 22, 1963 at his cabin in Connecticut. Thus, the

[3] *The Worker* newspaper, to which Oswald subscribed, often mentioned Abt.

Review Board requested access to the FBI's files on John Abt from FBI headquarters and from the New York and New Haven field offices. Although the New Haven office reported that it had no file references to Abt, the FBI made available records from headquarters and from the New York field office. The Review Board designated twenty-four records (all dated after November 22, 1963) for processing under the JFK Act. Some of the designated records primarily relate to whether Abt and Oswald knew each other prior to President Kennedy's assassination. The remainder of the records involve Communist Party meetings at which attendees discussed the Kennedy assassination.

B. Edward Becker

Edward Becker has made claims that, in September 1962, he met with Carlos Marcello and three other men, and heard Marcello threaten to have President Kennedy killed. The HSCA reviewed the FBI's headquarters file on Edward Becker (92-9927) and, as such, the FBI processed it under the JFK Act. The Review Board requested access to the Los Angeles field office file on Edward Becker, as well as access to the control file on the Los Angeles informant who discredited Becker's allegation. The Review Board designated two documents from the Los Angeles field office file on Becker and one document from the Los Angeles informant's control file. All three of the designated records concerned Becker's allegation that Marcello threatened President Kennedy.

C. Carlos Bringuier

D. Ed Butler and Information Council of the Americas (INCA)

Edward Scannell Butler debated Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans in the summer of 1963 on the radio station WDSU. The radio debate occurred shortly after Oswald was arrested for disturbing the peace in August 1963. Following the assassination, but before President Johnson formed the Warren Commission, Butler testified before a Senate Internal Security Subcommittee regarding his contact with Oswald. Butler has long been associated with the Information Council of the Americas (INCA), a New Orleans-based clearinghouse for anti-communist information, and particularly for anti-Castro Cuban information.

The Review Board requested access to all FBI headquarters and New Orleans field office files on Edward Scannell Butler and the Information Council of the Americas. The Review Board designated five records to be processed under the JFK Act. All of the designated records concern Butler's contact with Oswald in August of 1963.

In addition to FBI files referencing Butler, the Review Board learned that Mr. Butler's organization, INCA, had records that may be relevant to the JFK Collection. In an effort to learn more about the INCA Collection, Review Board staff members made contact with Mr. Butler to request any records or information he may have that would be useful to have in the JFK Collection. The Review Board staff did speak to Mr. Butler by telephone several times, and when staff members were in New Orleans working on other matters, Mr. Butler allowed the Review Board staff to view the INCA files that were in storage. The INCA Collection had been moved a number of times and was not well-catalogued when Review Board staff reviewed it. Mr. Butler's position throughout the Review Board's talks with him was that, until he could arrange for the cataloguing of the material, he would not be willing to donate materials to the JFK Collection. Mr. Butler declined the Review Board's offer to send staff members to New Orleans to sift through the material to determine what was relevant, but said that he might consider donating the material to the JFK Collection when he was finally able to catalogue it.

E. Lawrence Cusack

The late Lawrence Cusack was a prominent New York attorney in the 1950s and 1960s who represented, among other clients, the Archdiocese of New York. The Review Board received information that Mr. Cusack performed some legal work for Joseph P. Kennedy and that Mr. Cusack's son was engaged in an attempt to sell a group of allegedly salacious documents regarding Mr. Cusack's professional (but secret) relationship with John F. Kennedy. The documents at issue allegedly contained information regarding John F. Kennedy's relationship with Marilyn Monroe and with various mafia figures. When the media became aware that Mr. Cusack's son was trying to sell the records, they questioned the authenticity of the documents. The media reported that the documents were forged.

In an effort to determine whether the FBI had any information on Lawrence Cusack's relationship with the Kennedy family, the Review Board

requested access to all FBI headquarters and New York field office files on Lawrence X. Cusack. The Review Board did not find any assassination records in the materials provided by the FBI.

F. Adele Edisen, Winston de Monsabert, Jose Rivera

Dr. Adele Edisen has written several letters to the Review Board and has also provided public testimony before the Review Board. In her letters and testimony, Dr. Edison has stated that, in New Orleans on November 24, 1963, she recounted to an FBI agent and a Secret Service agent her knowledge of apparent dealings between Dr. Jose Rivera, Mr. Winston de Monsabert, and Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963. The Review Board requested FBI records on these individuals from FBI headquarters and field offices in Baltimore, Dallas, Denver, New Orleans and Washington, D.C. The FBI retrieved only a few records relating to the the individuals referenced above, all of which were designated as assassination records.

G. Billie Sol Estes

In the 1980s, Billy Sol Estes made allegations that Lyndon Johnson was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. Estes was reportedly a con artist who claims to have had a financial relationship with Lyndon Johnson. The Review Board requested access to all FBI headquarters files on Billie Sol Estes. The Review Board designated eight serials for processing as assassination records under the JFK Act. All of the designated records concern Estes' alleged knowledge of persons connected to the assassination of President Kennedy.

H. Judith Campbell Exner

Judith Campbell Exner claims to have been the link between President Kennedy and the Mafia, specifically Sam Giancana and Johnny Roselli. She was introduced to JFK by Frank Sinatra during the Presidential primary campaign in the spring of 1960. She claims to have had a love affair with JFK that lasted from the winter of of 1960 until March of 1962. In 1975 she gained attention in the national media when she made these allegations in testimony before the Church Committee in its investigation of the CIA plots to assassinate Fidel Castro. Between 1976 and 1997, Ms. Exner filed numerous lawsuits against the FBI seeking access to all information held in government records on her. The Review Board

requested access to all FBI headquarters and field office main files on Judith Campbell Exner. The FBI produced several small field office files containing press clipping collected on Ms. Exner, as well as several files which reflect Ms. Campbell's efforts to gain access to information on her in the FBI's files. The FBI also produced several files with references women with names similar to Judith Campbell Exner. The Review Board designated as assassination records all serials which were either main files on Ms. Exner, or made reference to Ms. Exner. The Review Board also designated the entire FBI file on the murder of Johnny Roselli which was produced under this request.

I. H.L. Hunt and family and Clint Murchison and family

There have been allegations that the assassination of President Kennedy was masterminded by wealthy Dallas oilmen H.L. Hunt and Clint Murchison. The Review Board requested access to all FBI headquarters and Dallas field office files on the following individuals during the period 1960 through 1969: H.L. Hunt; Nelson Bunker Hunt; Lamar Hunt; Clint Murchison, Sr.; Clint Murchison, Jr.; and Paul M. Rothermel. There were many documents with references to the Hunts, the Murchisons and Rothermel, but the documents were primarily concerned with their business dealings or their political activities. The Review Board designated ten documents from the files produced in response to this request. Each of these newly designated assassination records were dated after President Kennedy's assassination, and were concerned with allegations that either the Hunts or the Murchisons were involved in the assassination.

J. Joseph P. Kennedy

In the years following the assassination of President Kennedy, rumors have stated that Kennedy's 1960 campaign for the Democratic nomination and the Presidency were funded by Joseph P. Kennedy's organized crime connections. Given that Joseph P. Kennedy was a prominent American who served in many high-level government positions, the Review Board limited its request for FBI files on Joseph P. Kennedy to: (1) a list of file numbers and case captions of files where Mr. Kennedy was the main subject of the file; and (2) field office files for the 1956 FBI investigatons of Mr. Kennedy in connection with his appointment to the Presidential Board Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities of the U.S. Government. The Review Board singled out the 1956 background investigation because of

its proximity to the 1960 presidential election, and the allegations of organized crime influence during that election. The Review Board also requested that the FBI provide a list of file numbers and case captions that contained documents mentioning Joseph P. Kennedy. The vast majority of records that the FBI produced concerning Joseph P. Kennedy were not related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board found only three records that it believed to be assassination-related, all relating to threats that were made by private citizens to Joseph P. Kennedy and his sons.

K. Oswald LeWinter

L. John Thomas Masen

John Thomas Masen was a Dallas area gun dealer who was arrested on gun smuggling charges two days before the assassination of President Kennedy. During the fall of 1963, Masen supplied arms to the Directorio Revolucianario Estudiantial (DRE), an anti-Castro group based in Miami. The FBI interviewed Masen during the assassination investigation regarding allegations that he may have sold 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano ammunition to Lee Harvey Oswald. Masen's alleged connections to Lee Harvey Oswald are detailed *Oswald Talked* by Mary and Ray La Fontaine, which was published during the Review Board's tenure. The Review Board requested access to FBI files on John Thomas Masen from the following locations: Headquarters (105-12547); San Antonio (105-2886); Dallas (105-1686); and Miami (105-8229). The FBI reported that the Miami field office file had been destroyed, but the Review Board designated as assassination records the Headquarters, San Antonio, and Dallas field office files in their entirety. These files describe the FBI's investigation of Masen in 1963 and 1964, and his association with the DRE.

M. John McVickar

N. Elizabeth Catlett Mora

Elizabeth Catlett Mora was a prominent American communist who lived in Mexico City in the early 1960s. Mora was an associate of Vincent T. Lee, head of the FPCC, and traveled to Cuba with him in December of 1962. The Review Board requested access to Headquarters and Mexico City files references to Mora to determine if the Communist community in

Mexico City had any contact with Oswald during his trip to Mexico City in the fall of 1963. The Review Board designated twelve serials from the Headquarters file on Mora which concerned the Oswald investigation in Mexico City.

O. Richard Case Nagel

P. Gordon Novel

Q. Orest Pena

Orest Pena was New Orleans bar owner and an anti-Castro activist. Pena and Oswald obtained passports on the same day in the summer of 1963. Pena testified before investigative committees, and claimed he was an FBI informant. In an effort to verify his claims that he was an informant, the Review Board requested access to any headquarters or field office files under the "134" or "137" classification (the FBI file classification for its informant source files). The FBI found no files responsive to this request.

R. Carlos Quiroga

Carlos Quiroga was an anti-Castro Cuban activist in New Orleans who had contact with Lee Harvey Oswald in the summer of 1963. Quiroga received Oswald's flyer on the FPCC, contacted Oswald, and feigned interest in the group. In addition, Quiroga spent time with Oswald in an effort to determine whether the FPCC was a serious pro-Castro group in New Orleans. The Review Board requested access to all Headquarters and New Orleans field office files regarding Carlos Quiroga. The Review Board designated six serials from New Orleans file 105-1095.

T. Charles Small

Charles Small was a prominent American communist who lived in Mexico City in the early 1960s. The Review Board requested access to Headquarters and Mexico City files references to Small to determine if the Communist community in Mexico City had any contact with Oswald during his trip to Mexico City in the fall of 1963. The Review Board designated as assassination records eighteen serials from the files produced in response to this request. These documents were primarily concerned with the Mexico City communist community's reaction to the assassination and to the

fact that Oswald had visited Mexico City shortly before the assassination.

U. Clarence Daniel Smelley

Clarence Daniel Smelley was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in Birmingham, Alabama who alleged in 1964 that he had information in his possession that Teamster President Jimmy Hoffa had conspired to and carried out the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board requested access to FBI Headquarters file 72-1561, "James Riddle Hoffa; Clarence Daniel Smelley; Unknown Subjects", as well as the corresponding Memphis and Birmingham field office files. The Review Board designated the entire headquarters file, 72-1561, for processing under the JFK Act. This file documented the Bureau's investigation of Smelley and his allegation. The corresponding Memphis and Birmingham field office files were destoyed in the 1970s.

V. Richard Snyder

W. Marty Underwood

Marty Underwood was a political operative who worked for both President Kennedy and President Johnson. He traveled to Texas with President Kennedy in November of 1963. It has been alleged that Mr. Underwood was charged with following Judith Campbell on a trip she made in April of 1960 from Washington to Chicago carrying a satchel full of cash to be delivered from then-candidate Kennedy to Chicago mafia boss Sam Giancana. The Review Board requested access to any and all file references to Marty Underwood. The FBI produced two documents responsive to this request, and neither records contained any assassination related information.

X. General Edwin Walker and the Minutemen

General Edwin Walker was a retired Major General who was a right-wing political activist. He was forced into retirement from the U.S. Army in 1961 for distributing right-wing literature to soldiers under his command. General Walker was involved in organizing the protests of James Merideth's matriculation to the University of Mississippi in the fall of 1962, as well as protests of Adlai Stevenson's visit to Dallas in October of 1963. General Walker lived in Dallas in 1963, and after the events of

November 22-24, 1963, Marina Oswald alleged that it was Lee Harvey Oswald who shot at General Walker's home in April of 1963. The Review Board was interested in whether the FBI had any information which indicated that Walker or his followers had: 1) expressed any desire to assassinate President Kennedy; 2) any contact with Lee Harvey Oswald; or 3) any information regarding Walker shooting. The Review Board requested access to Headquarters and Dallas field office files on General Walker, the Minutemen, the Headquarters file number 100-439412 and the Dallas field office file number 105-1475. The FBI produced numerous files in response to this request, and the Review Board recommended 191 documents from the various files produced. These documents concerned threats against President Kennedy and members of the Kennedy administration, or reactions within the right-wing political community to the assassination of President Kennedy.

XV. Miscellaneous

B. FBI

1. "Research Matters" file on John F. Kennedy

The Review Board requested access to file number 94-37374 in the summer of 1995. The file was one of the 164 files that comprised J. Edgar Hoover's "Official and Confidential (O&C)" files, which were removed from Hoover's office after his death and are currently maintained by the FBI as a group to maintain their integrity. The file consists of five volumes, and three "EBFs," or enclosures behind file. The Review Board believed that the entire file should be processed under the JFK Act standards. The FBI agreed, and the file was placed in the JFK Collection in the spring of 1998. The file consists of a mix of material relating to John F. Kennedy. Volumes 1, 2, 3, and the first half of Volume 4 are all dated before the assassination. The second half of Volume 4 and Volume 5 contain documents that are dated after the assassination and consist of condolence letter and later-dated miscellaneous material relating to John F. Kennedy. The earliest documents in the file are dated in the late 1940s, when John F. Kennedy was running for and was elected to Congress. The pre-assassination file contains social and professional correspondence between Kennedy and Director Hoover. It also contains a significant number of newspaper articles and information about elections in which Kennedy ran. Once Kennedy became President the file began to catch information about Presidential protection and liaison

with the Secret Service. Newspaper articles continue to appear with some frequency. The file also contains letters, call, and comments from members of the public to the FBI generally and Director Hoover specifically relating to President Kennedy. The file also contains typical FBI reports from informants and other sources who made comments about the President in the course of reporting to FBI agents.

2. Liaison with other Federal agencies

In his Warren Commission testimony, Secret Service agent Rowley commented that, had Federal agencies shared their information relating to Lee Harvey Oswald, the Government could have compiled a list of at least 18 items that would have alerted the Secret Service that Oswald was a threat to the President. In light of the allegations that Federal agencies neglected to adequately share law enforcement information, the Review Board staff members believed that 1960s era information relating to liaison between Federal government agencies on law enforcement matters generally and matters affecting Presidential protection specifically would be relevant for purposes of the JFK Collection.

a. Secret Service/Protection of the President

b. Treasury/Dillon Commn.
c. CIA
d. NSA
e. Customs
f. ATF
g. ONI

XVI. Pursuit of State and Local Records and Information

B. Private Papers and Records

6. Warren DeBrueys

In June of 1996, Review Board staff travelled to New Orleans and, while there, interviewed Warren DeBrueys, retired FBI agent and current member of the Metropolitan Crime Commission ("MCC") in New Orleans. **Jeremy should write the section about the interview with DeBrueys since I was not there.** In addition to the interview, Mr. DeBrueys was in

possession of eight boxes of MCC records relating to the Garrison investigation and the Kennedy assassination. The Review Board did obtain copies of the MCC records for the JFK Collection, as explained in the "MCC" section under the "organized crime" heading in this chapter.

I. Records Related to Lee Harvey Oswald

A. Pre-assassination records

2. FBI (mainly on $$ transferred to USSR)

As per 6/11/98 e-mail, we will fill this in once Michelle provides us with her first draft of section I.

B. In Mexico City

5. Legat Administrative files

As per 6/11/98 e-mail, we will fill this in once Michelle provides us with her first draft of section I.

IV. Records of Senior Agency Officials

B. FBI

1. Hoover and Tolson Records, including "Official and Confidential" files, chronological files, and phone logs.

As per 6/11/98 e-mail, we will fill this in once Michelle provides us with her first draft of section IV.

2. Miscellaneous administrative files from the Director's Office.

As per 6/11/98 e-mail, we will fill this in once Michelle provides us with her first draft of section IV.