

MEMORANDUM

To: Jeremy Gunn

From: Joe Freeman

Date: June 7, 1995

Re: HSCA/Garrison Records

This is an **interim memo** relative to the assignment you gave me Monday afternoon: Garrison records that ended up with HSCA. You were most interested in grand jury testimony/minutes and staff interview notes. To date, I have worked from our data base and open records at Archives II.

Relative to the **grand jury**: HSCA appears to have had the same kind of problems we are having. Below is a quick summary of documented HSCA contacts on the issue (I have a copy of each of these documents).

11/7/77 Jim Wolf of HSCA calls Patrick Quinlan of NODA office requesting access to grand jury minutes. Quinlan says he'll get back to Wolf after speaking with Connick. Apparently, he never does get back to Wolf, because a subsequent notation on the same OCR indicates Wolf called Quinlan on 11/15/77. Wolf 's notes from 11/15 indicate that Quinlan told him to call 1st Asst. DA Ralph Capitelli.

11/8/77 Garrison letter to Jonathan Blackmer of HSCA, reconstructing for Blackmer who testified before the grand jury. Garrison suggests Blackmer get in touch with Connick for "specific records." Nothing in Garrison's letter implies that he believes Connick will give Blackmer any trouble about accessing them. On the other hand, the fact that Blackmer contacted Garrison on the subject implies HSCA already knew it might have trouble with Connick.

2/16/78 OCR by Wolf indicates a call with Lt. Comstock in which Comstock appears to give Wolf the bad news that the relevant grand jury minutes were destroyed two months previously as part of a general housecleaning of all grand jury records 10 years old or older. This destruction was authorized by the aforementioned Asst. DA Capitelli. Wolf's "Recommended Follow-up" notation is "investigators should check if minutes have been destroyed." This OCR is attached to a memo from

File: 4.21.5

Blackmer to Blakey in which Blackmer documents his previous contacts with NO officials in pursuit of grand jury records and trial transcripts. At the end of this memo, Blackmer references a legal memorandum prepared by the Legal Unit of HSCA in July of 1977 relative to "the privacy laws of Louisiana with respect to the Grand Jury minutes." I haven't come across this latter memo anywhere as of yet.

4/16/78 OCRs from Patricia Orr and Betsy Palmer (**these are the documents you started me out with**) regarding their April 11-14 trip to NO to review Garrison files at DA's office. In her 4/19 "Memorandum for the Director", Palmer references attached copies of "two cover sheets of Grand Jury testimony which *we were not allowed to read* [emphasis added]." On the other hand, clearly not everything had been destroyed if Palmer could still be denied access to it.

Finally, on grand jury minutes, I need to connect with Tom on HSCA staffer phone #s. I talked to Jim Lesar who suggested I talk to Jim DiEugenio (I got his number from Anne this afternoon) and Bill Davy. Jim Lesar also suggested NO Garrison era reporters Dick Billings and Rosemary James as possible sources on the topic.

Relative to **staff interviews**: the open records at Archives II contain what seems like a lot of Garrison material. NODA documents are sprinkled throughout the HSCA numbered series, but the mother lode is agency file number 008269 which consists of three boxes (Box 150, 151, 152) of materials which are almost exclusively Garrison investigation-related (the beginning of 150 and the end of 152 are unrelated). These boxes and other documents found in the HSCA numbered series contain various types of Garrison-era documents: letters from interested public citizens form a large percentage of the total, as do news clippings. But there are also a large number of staff memos to Garrison and his assistant DA's, many of which summarize phone or person-to-person interviews with relevant individuals. There are also a number of actual transcripts of formal interviews by Garrison and/or staff of potential witnesses. These would include transcripts for interviews of Carlos Quiroga, Loran Hall (several), Lawrence Howard, Jimmy Earl Butt (Tippitt witness, part of Garrison's Dallas investigation), Layton Martens, Alvin Beaubouef and Perry Russo (under hypnosis). A RIF also indicates that a interview transcript with Gary Patrick Hemmings also exists, although it is referred.

Hope this helps. I'll let you know what my phone calls yield.