

MEMORANDUM

June 12, 1995

To: David Marwell
Jeremy Gunn

From: Joe Freeman

Subject: Documents received from the Center for Legislative Archives

In our meeting of 6/2 with representatives of the Center for Legislative Archives (CLA) and others, David asked for the documentary history of contacts between the CLA and the House Administration Committee regarding the implementation of the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act, as well as internal CLA memoranda generated in the course of the Center's work with the Committee. On 6/7, Diane Dimkoff of CLA left a message with David that the documents had been collected. They were picked up that day.

The CLA file consists of about one inch of documents, dating from 2/3/92 through 4/21/94. Some of the early documents reflect the CLA's concern over the level of resources necessary to complete the task it was charged with by the House Administration Committee; still others are in the nature of progress reports from the CLA to the House Administration Committee or other interested parties as the work went forward. These types of documents do not seem to be of immediate interest to the ARRB at this point. But there are other documents which you may find of interest, and the purpose of this memo is to highlight and forward them. They are:

- 2/4/92 memo from Kenneth Thibodeau detailing electronic HSCA records held by NARA; a copy is attached and will also be shared with Anne.
- 4/3/92 draft and 5/15/92 copy of Archivist Don Wilson's statement on H.J. Res. 434. Copies of these will be forwarded to Jeremy as the author of our internal analysis of the JFK Act; you may find the Archives' take on an earlier form of the legislation interesting.
- 11/16/92 letter from Michael Gillette to Charlie Howell of the Committee in which the CLA "agrees to perform this review [of HSCA records] as the instrument of the House Committee on Administration." In the *Transmitting Documents to the Review Board* section of this letter, Mr. Gillette does not reference

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sending documents **back** to the Committee before sending them on to ARRB.

In Chairman Charlie Rose's subsequent 12/21/92 letter to Don Wilson (which we already had in our possession), however, the Chairman specifically states: "Any records which the [CLA] staff believes should not be disclosed at this time, are to be transmitted to this Committee for determination and referral to the review board."

- 12/17/92 memo of Michael Gillette's, referencing David Halperin and Don Mitchell as staff contacts on the Senate Intelligence Committee. Gillette references Mitchell's and Halperin's estimate that the Kennedy assassination portion of the Church Committee records consists of "only five or so record center cartons." The memo also states that Senate staff would create all the RIFs for Church Committee documents, even those to be referred to agencies of origin. Document not attached.
- 1/29/93 memo for the record from Diane Dimkoff after a meeting she and Michael Gillette had with Charlie Howell, in which she paraphrases Howell's "basic advice" as: "the default is to disclosure." Additional Howell guidance: "if we cannot locate enough information to confirm or deny if specific information is in the public domain, let the Review Board make the call. We can't know it all." Not attached.
- 5/19/93 memo from Charles Dollar to Michael Gillette laying out proposed criteria for categorizing documents as either *disclosable*, *third party review*, or *non-disclosable*. This memo was written in anticipation of a meeting with the House Administration Committee and was an attempt to secure direction from the Committee. Attached. The example documents (or portions thereof) listed in the memo were also among the documents contained in the packet forwarded to us by CLA.
- 5/24/93 letter from Chairman Rose to Mike Gillette
6/14/93 memo from John Pereira (CIA) to Charles Dollar
8/15/93 memo from Charles Dollar to Charlie Howell and Roman Buhler (HCA)
8/20/93 memo to file from Charles Dollar

These four documents all relate to the tug of war between the Committee and the CIA over documents. The Lopez Report is prominently mentioned, as is the

issue of the staff notes. Attached. I will also provide Mary with copies of these four documents.