

MEMORANDUM

June 21, 1995

To: Anne Buttimer

From: Joe Freeman

Subject: Los Angeles Police Department records (RFK assassination)

Attached for your review are several documents relative to the HSCA's interaction with the LAPD concerning the latter's RFK assassination investigation records. As you will see, the HSCA was interested in LAPD RFK records which might be of relevance to the JFK assassination. What's unclear is how many documents they decided were relevant, and which of these they actually got hold of or otherwise reviewed. My understanding is that the autopsy report for RFK is in the collection, for instance, but I haven't located a RIF for it yet. In any case, the chronological file on HSCA/LAPD communications is as follows:

- 5/12/78 OCR of a telephone call between Andy Purdy of HSCA and LAPD staff regarding request to access the latter's records; the OCR suggests that the U.S. Attorney General was given a copy of "An Investigative Summary of the Senator Robert F. Kennedy Assassination," consisting of ten volumes (008297, attached).
- 5/15/78 OCR of a phone call in which a Lt. Moore tells Purdy that Chief Daryl Gates has suggested the department is unlikely to cooperate with the HSCA (008381, attached).
- 5/25/78 cover letter from Blakey to Chief Gates which references an enclosed **subpoena** (which I haven't seen yet). The letter also references a 5/19 phone call between Blakey and Gates -- I didn't come across a separate OCR for the 5/19 call: maybe Blakey didn't write up OCRs for his *own* calls (008694, attached).
- 5/31/78 OCR of three phone calls between Jim Wolf of HSCA and LAPD personnel. This time, the OCR suggests that the FBI has a duplicate copy of the LAPD report (the FBI contact is listed as someone named Coulson). Initially, the LAPD was apparently going to tell the FBI which pages to give to HSCA, but then it was decided that the LAPD would xerox the pages themselves and forward them directly to HSCA. The key LAPD contact appears to have been Lt. F.J. Patchett of the Major Crime Investigation Section (008818, attached).
- 5/31/78 letter from Blakey to Lt. Patchett (attached) enclosing a list of 182 names (which appear to be, for the most part, organized crime figures) that the HSCA "believes might be within the scope of the subpoena... we would be interested in determining whether or not the

investigation into the assassination of Senator Kennedy referenced them at any point.”
These 182 names are apparently in addition to “the first item of the subpoena concerning Mr. James Braden.” (008855)

- Security Classified letter (not attached) and associated attachments from Gates to Blakey in which Gates forwards six pages from the investigation summary volumes concerning Jim Braden, approximately 50 pages from the summary volumes in response to Blakey’s list of 182 names and, lastly, a one page index of references to JFK in the RFK investigation volumes. Remember, these are simply copied pages from the investigation summary volumes, *not* original files. **As an aside, NARA staff indicated this letter and attachments may not have been referred to LAPD as of yet, but would have to be.**

This appears to be the current extent of the collection’s holdings from the LAPD and the RFK assassination file.

Lastly, Dan Moldea’s recently-published book, *The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy*, recounts how, in June of 1987 (almost a decade after HSCA), the City of Los Angeles decided to turn over all its RFK assassination records to the California State Archives in Sacramento. The Chief Archivist responsible for cataloging, indexing and preserving the case file was (is?) a John F. Burns. A microfilm edition was released on April 19, 1988. There were the usual controversies about documents and photographs that were apparently destroyed by the LAPD before the case file was turned over. Nonetheless, the RFK collection is in Sacramento. So if the ARRB wants to readdress the issue of whether or not some of that collection should be in ours, it should be possible to do so.

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