

## MEMORANDUM

June 27, 1995

To: Betsy Bossart, Office of Congressman Steny Hoyer

From: Joe Freeman, ARRB

Subjects: ARRB Funding/Talking Points  
Summary of Meeting with Michelle Mrdeza

Attached are the talking points we spoke of. I hope they're helpful; if you or your staff have any questions, please call. One note on the sunset date: the amendments to the JFK Act approved in 1993 give the Board a sunset date of Sept. 30, 1996, but also permit the Board to vote itself a **one-year extension** (subject to Congressional appropriation, obviously) to Sept. 30, 1997. We use the latter date in the talking points. Since the Board members weren't sworn in until April of 1994, and the agency didn't have any Congressional appropriations until Oct. 1, 1994 (the White House gave the Board \$250,000 in start-up monies from its own accounts), the earlier date is just unrealistic.

Also, it's worth mentioning that, if the ARRB is zeroed out, the authorizing statute will still be in effect and, short of passing a new one, it's difficult to see how NARA could simply "take over" the task.

The meeting with Michelle Mrdeza went pretty well. She told Jack Tunheim, our Board's Chairperson, and David Marwell, our Executive Director, that she is expecting that Congressman Hoyer will be offering an amendment on the ARRB's funding tomorrow at the mark-up. She offered this, saying she had heard it "around." David and Jack did not suggest it. She indicated that she thought her boss would be supportive. She stopped short of an outright commitment -- saying she had to talk to her boss again -- but implied that she found our arguments convincing. But her boss didn't want to offer the amendment, so it is obviously critical that Congressman Hoyer do so.

Despite my earlier promise, I'll probably call you to confirm you got this and ask if there's anything else you want us to do. Sorry to be a pest. Thanks again for your help.