MEMORANDUM

September 30, 1996

To: Jeremy Gunn
                cc - Brian Rosen, Steve Tilley (NARA), Kris Wilhelm (NARA)

From: Joe Freeman

Subject: Possible Assassination Records Within the Jurisdiction of the Senate
                Commerce Committee (Kefauver Committee Files)

The HSCA received permission from the Senate Commerce Committee to examine various Kefauver Committee (formally known as the *Senate Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce)* files stored at NARA. The attached 7/17/78 letter from Chairman Stokes to Senator Warren Magnuson lists the specific files the HSCA wished to review.

The HSCA's interest in these documents concerned the issue of Jack Ruby's links to organized crime and the attempted move by the Chicago mob into Dallas. Luis Kutner, a former Kefauver Committee counsel, told the HSCA that Ruby had contacted him (the two knew each other slightly from their respective early days in Chicago) during the Kefauver investigation and asked him to keep the investigation "out of Dallas." Relevant interview summaries with Kutner are attached. The Kefauver Committee conducted extensive work on organized crime in Chicago.

I haven't found, to date, any records corroborating or reflecting that the HSCA actually *looked* at the files -- as opposed to having received permission to look at them -- but we can probably assume that they did. Corroboration might be found in Trudy Peterson's files at NARA II.

According to Kris Wilhelm of NARA, Kefauver Committee records are still closed (50-year rule for investigative committees) and the Senate Commerce Committee still exercises authority over them. While the 50-year time limit will elapse relatively soon for these records (after which they will be opened, as it were, automatically -- though not as part of the JFK Collection, and unRIFed), it may be wise to include staff from the Senate Commerce Committee in any high-level meetings set up on the Hill to discuss compliance with the JFK Act.

Freeman e:\wp-docs\093096
File 4.21.9 Kefauver Committee