

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
)  
Petitioner, )  
)  
v. ) Misc. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
)  
HARRY F. CONNICK, )  
)  
District Attorney for the )  
Parish of New Orleans, )  
)  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**DECLARATION OF JOSEPH P. FREEMAN**

1. My name is Joseph P. Freeman. I am a Senior Analyst employed by the Assassination Records Review Board (Review Board), an independent agency of the United States Federal Government. All of the following statements made in this declaration are based upon my personal knowledge.
2. The Review Board currently has in its physical possession records created by the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), a temporary Committee of the United States House of Representatives that investigated the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King during the years 1976-79. I am the Senior Analyst charged with the responsibility of maintaining custody of the original HSCA records.
3. I have carefully reviewed the HSCA records to determine what evidence they contain that HSCA staff members examined records created or obtained by the New Orleans District Attorney's office in conjunction with Jim Garrison's investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy ("Garrison-Shaw material"). In the course of my review I identified the following original documents, true and accurate photocopies of which are attached as exhibits to this Declaration.
4. Exhibit A is an internal staff memorandum, dated February 16, 1978, from Jonathan Blackmer, Staff Counsel, to G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel of the HSCA. Mr. Blackmer's memorandum recounts his initial efforts to obtain some of the Garrison-Shaw material from

the New Orleans District Attorney's Office, and documents conversations with District Attorney Connick and with Assistant District Attorney William F. Wessel and Mr. Blackmer's request for "information that would lead to the acquisition of all materials generated by the prosecution of Clay Shaw." Mr. Blackmer recounts that: "I asked Wessell [sic] if the D.A.'s office maintained any records on the case. He told me he would check, but felt that the 'court' would have charge of these records."

5. Exhibit B records HSCA Investigator Martin J. Daly's meeting with Mr. Connick in New Orleans on March 20, 1978. The document states that Mr. Connick personally assigned Lt. Raymond Comstock, Chief Investigator for the District Attorney's office, to assist Mr. Daly. Lt. Comstock is quoted as having "informed the undersigned [Daly] that he had in his office a (5) five drawer file cabinet containing papers, tapes, statements and interviews pertaining to the original investigation . . . ." The document reports that Daly reviewed these files, copied some of them, and returned to Washington with the copies. The document reports that 12 documents were copied.
6. Exhibit C is a document prepared by HSCA staff member Betsy Palmer documenting her review of the "five file drawers of material salvaged by Lt. Comstock . . . ."
7. Exhibits D and E include memoranda by Betsy Palmer and Patricia Orr describing their review of the Garrison-Shaw materials. Inventories of the five file drawers are attached to the memoranda.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on March 6, 1996.

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Joseph P. Freeman