

## **Chapter 3**

### **The Review Process**

#### ***Part 1: Introduction and Background***

the JFK Act require of the agencies

The JFK Act instructed Federal government agencies to identify and review all of their assassination records within three hundred days of the passage of the Act.<sup>1</sup> The Act instructed the Archivist to develop and make available to Federal agencies a computer program capable of tracking each assassination record.<sup>2</sup> Federal government agencies used the NARA-created program to track each assassination record and the Review Board used the data produced by each agency to track the progress of review of records slated for inclusion in the JFK Assassination Records Collection.

Part 1 will explain what the Act required the agencies to do and what they actually did. Part 1 will also explain what the JFK Act required the Review Board to do. What the Review Board actually did will be thoroughly explained in other parts of the Final Report.

**Records Identified by the JFK Act**  
**Executive Branch Records**  
**Legislative Branch Records**  
**Judicial Records**

- what was done before the Review Board got rolling
- what does the JFK Act require of the Review Board

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<sup>1</sup>Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each Government office shall review, identify and organize each assassination record in its custody or possession for disclosure to the public, review by the Review Board, and transmission to the Archivist. 5(c)(1)

As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, each Government office shall identify and organize its records relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and prepare them for transmission to the Archivist for inclusion in the Collection" 5(a)(1)

<sup>2</sup>"Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Archivist, in consultation with the Appropriate Government offices, shall prepare and make available to all Government office a standard form of identification of finding aid for use with each assassination record subject to review under this Act." 5(d)(1)(A)

- Review Board desire to see every document at first
- I. Paper Sheet Review
- II. The Databases
  - A. Source Databases
    - 1. Development of RIFs System, Floppy Disc as Lowest Common Denominator
    - 2. Keeping Data Updated
  - B. Review Track
    - 1. Document Level Control
    - 2. Postponement by Postponement Control
    - 3. Development of Red Issue, Yellow Issue, Green Issue System
      - a. Green Issue become dominant as Staff understands Review Board concerns
  - C. Fasttrack
    - 1. Streamlining the Process of Segregated Collections
  - D. Review Track Archive/Consent Release Database
- IV. Additional Records Identified by the Review Board
  - A. What does the Act require/allow the Review Board to do
  - B. What did the Review Board do
- V. Problems/bottlenecks
  - A. Referrals
    - 1. Securing Evidence from the Agencies and presenting it to the Review Board
    - 2. Third Agency Equities
    - 3. Foreign Government Equities
    - 4. Agency and Review Board Staff processing following Review Board vote