

MEMORANDUM

September 9, 1996

To: Metropolitan Crime Commission File
David G. Marwell
T. Jeremy Gunn

From: Laura Denk

Subject: Metropolitan Crime Commission Records in New Orleans -- Copying

This memo documents my August, 1996 activities with regard to review and copying of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission records.

Records in Records Management and Protection, Inc. Warehouse

On August 12, 1996, I went to the Records Management and Protection, Inc. warehouse (the warehouse), to oversee the copying of those records that Phil, Kevin, and I identified in our June trip to New Orleans. As we previously arranged, the warehouse had hired a temporary employee to work on the copying. The "temp" was slower than we had hoped, and although she began to copy the records that morning, she had not yet finished two full boxes (numbers 81 and 82) of Guy Banister files by the next Wednesday (August 21.) Rather than have her finish the remaining two boxes, I first discussed the issue with Tony Radosti at the MCC, and then we arranged to have CBD Docusource pick up the two boxes from the warehouse and copy them. Tony said that when CBD Docusource finishes copying the two Banister boxes AND the eight Warren DeBrueys boxes, they should return all of the MCC boxes to the MCC offices at 1440 Canal Street, and then Tony will be responsible for returning each box to its proper storage space.

On August 30, 1996, we received from the warehouse three boxes of documents that comprise all of the records that the temporary employee at the warehouse copied from the Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC) files. As we agreed with the MCC, I returned copies of these documents for the MCC's records. Since the MCC still has control of all of the original records, I enclosed only the first page of documents that are three pages or longer. On the first page of these documents, I wrote the total number of pages, thus providing the MCC with a reliable record of those documents that we have here in Washington.

Records in the Possession of Warren DeBrueys

Mr. DeBrueys met me at the offices of CBD Docusource and brought with him the nine boxes of MCC documents in his possession. When Jeremy and Phil looked at his boxes in June, they decided

that the Review Board would only be interested in copying documents from eight of the boxes. I went through the list that Jeremy and Phil created and tagged those documents for CBD Docusource to copy.

Mr. DeBrueys expressed concern about copying the Guy Banister boxes in their entirety for the JFK Collection. I offered to call back to the Review Board's offices to talk to Jeremy and/or Phil about his concerns, which are primarily that the MCC might be sued for any defamatory material that may be released if Guy Banister's materials become publicly available. I called Phil and Phil talked to Mr. DeBrueys about these concerns. Ultimately, Mr. DeBrueys agreed that he would allow us to copy the Guy Banister boxes in full. Phil can fill in the details of the terms of his agreement with DeBrueys, but I believe that Phil agreed to give Mr. DeBrueys an opportunity to review the material in the Banister boxes and propose redactions. In addition, I am fairly certain that Mr. DeBrueys believes that the Banister boxes have not yet been designated assassination records by the Review Board, and that the Board will consider his argument that Banister's police department files from the 1950s are not assassination records.

Records Still in MCC Offices

Rafael Goyeneche and Tony Radosti were helpful in identifying those MCC "criminal organization" files that the HSCA reviewed. I told them that the Review Board would likely want to arrange to have those files copied for the JFK Collection. We discussed several options for copying the files. I told them that if the MCC would like to do the copying of those files itself, we would supply paper, folders, and shipping materials. In the alternative, I told them that we could probably arrange to have an outside copy company, like CBD Docusource, pick up the files to be copied from the MCC offices and then return those files once the copying is complete. I wrote to the MCC and asked them to let me know which option they would prefer. Once they let me know, we will arrange for the copying to start.

Tony told me that the MCC had at least two additional files folder on Guy Banister, but when we looked for them, they were not in the main filing system. He told me that he would look for these files, as he thought they were still somewhere in the office.

The HSCA reviewed some of the MCC's "criminal organization" files. I briefly looked at these files (listed below) and told Tony that we would want to copy them all.

File 4.0.2

Denk e:\wp-docs\orleans\mcc\trip.mem

MCC "Criminal Organization" Files that the HSCA Reviewed	
File HSCA Reviewed	Description of File Currently in MCC Offices
D'Alton Smith	three file folders
Sam Benton	no "Sam Benton" file currently in MCC offices
Jim Braden	one very small file folder containing only two pages
Gil Beckley	one small file folder
Leroy Hines	one small file folder
Joe Merola	one small file folder containing one letter and a rap sheet
Carlos Nicoletti	no "Carlos Nicoletti" file currently in MCC offices
P.J. Martino	no "P.J. Martino" file currently in MCC offices
Santo Trafficante	one file folder

MCC: MARCELLO CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION FILES		
DRAWER/ FOLDER TITLE/ DATES	DESCRIPTION of DOCUMENTS	COPY?
K1 Vol. 1 1954-1959	news articles on deportation, hearings, etc. . . in the early 1950s; 8/9/56 letter from Kohn to OCR/DOJ about Marcello; Kohn investigative reports on Marcello activities in clubs; 1/15/58 letter from Kohn to Hanson (Chief of Police in DL) about Marcello not at Apalachin; 5/8/58 letter from Kohn to INS re: Marcello; 8/6/58 letter to RFK as Comm'n staffer on Apalachin/Marcello; 8/11/58 letter from Kohn to Regis Kennedy on Marcello; more correspondence with RFK from 1959 about McClellan Comm.; 2/20/59 investigative report by Kohn on McClellan Comm.	YES
K1 Vol. 2 1959-1959	mostly about gambling & vice in New Orleans & Marcello involvement in late 1950s; 3/59 copy of "requested questions for cross-examination for McClellan Comm." (questions Marcello wanted the Comm. to ask Kohn re: whether Kohn had evidence to back his accusations of Marcello); 3/16/59 memo from Kohn to RFK on Mafia in New Orleans (38 pp.); correspondence to RFK from Kohn	YES
K1 Vol. 3 1959-1960	news articles and investigative reports on local corruption; correspondence between Kohn & La. U.S. Attorney about trial of Vincent Marcello; 4/5/60 investigative report about Oster & Southern Research Co. about local corruption	? not as relevant as Vols. I, II
K1 Vol. 4 8/60-8/61	news articles and investigative reports on local gambling; 12/28/60 letter to RFK congratulating him on appointment as AG; 12/28/60 news article entitled "Marcello's Ouster Goal: Bob Kennedy"; 4/11/61 investigative report by Kohn reporting that Regis Kennedy told Kohn that RFK is hot on Marcello's trail	copy at least the 3 docs. listed -- maybe the whole file for time period
K1 Vol. 5 9/61-11/62	news articles and investigative reports on local gambling and corruption, deportation & INS proceedings	maybe entire file for time period
K1 Vol. 6 11/62-12/63	news articles and investigative reports on local corruption and deportation; 11/7/63 investigative report by Kohn about FBI efforts to reign in Marcello activities; news articles about November deportation trial in New Orleans	YES
K1 Vol. 7	100+ page interview with Catherine Miller (?) on local corruption; 12/23/63 investigative report about Marcello activities on day after assassination;	YES

MCC:
MARCELLO CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION FILES

DRAWER/ FOLDER TITLE/ DATES	DESCRIPTION of DOCUMENTS	COPY?
11/63-3/64	12/13/63 investigative report about Marcello activities 11/30/63-12/10/63	
K1 Vol. 8n	Testimony of Carl I. Noll (only one deposition on the deportation matter)	?
K1 Vol. 8 12/64-7/64	long interview with informant who ran the Curve Inn about Marcello (includes a few mentions of Trafficante); news articles & inves. reports on local gambling; 6/10/64 letter from Kohn to OCR/DOJ about Marcello	?
K1 Vol. 9 8/65	9/2/64 investigative report by Kohn reporting on call from OCR/DOJ attorney (2 pp.) (cross-reference to Orleans Parish/DA/Garrison files)	at least this article
K1 Vol. 10 8/65-8/66	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K1 Vol. 11 10/66-12/67	news articles & investigative reports	
K1 Vol. 12 8/67-10/67	news articles & investigative reports	
K1 Vol. 13 1968	news articles & investigative reports	
K1 Vol. 14 10/67-1/68	news articles & investigative reports	
K1 Vol. 15 1/68-3/68	news articles & investigative reports	
K1 Property Acquisition	all property deeds of the Marcello organization	
K1 Marcello	MCC charts of the Marcello organization	

MCC:
MARCELLO CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION FILES

DRAWER/ FOLDER TITLE/ DATES	DESCRIPTION of DOCUMENTS	COPY?
History		
K2 1	U.S. Senate Hearing Transcripts 3/59-4/59 Marcello Criminal Organization	
K2 2	BRILAB no files -- index card only card says "see current files Mr. D's office" (DeBrueys?)	
K2 3	ABSCAM no files -- index card only card says "see current files Mr. D's office"	
K2 Vol. 16 5/68-8/68	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K2 Vol. 17 8/68-1969	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K2 Vol. 18 1969	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K2 Vol. 19 1970-1971	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K2 Vol. 20 1969-1970	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K2 Vol. 21 1970	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K2 Vol. 22 1970	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K2 Vol. 23 1970	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	

MCC:
MARCELLO CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION FILES

DRAWER/ FOLDER TITLE/ DATES	DESCRIPTION of DOCUMENTS	COPY?
K2 Vol. 24 1970	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K2 Vol. 25 1970-1971	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K2	Marcello Organization Arrest Records -- rap sheets, court records, etc. . .	
K2	Marcello Organization Financial Data	
K2	Marcello Organization Telephone Records for Town & Country	
K3	Carlos Marcello Deportation, Vol. 1	YES
K3	Carlos Marcello Property Records/Criminal Organization	
K3	Carlos Marcello/Tax Cases/Criminal Organization	
K3	Carlos Marcello Deportation, Vol. 2	YES
K3	Vincent Marcello Files -- several volumes	
K3 Vol. 29 1971-1972	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello	
K3 Vol. 30 1972-1973	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello organization	
K3 Vol. 31 1973-1974	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello organization	
K3 Vol. 32 1974-1975	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello organization	
K3 Vol. 33 1976-1977	news articles & investigative reports on Marcello organization; no documents referencing HSCA	

MCC:
MARCELLO CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION FILES

DRAWER/ FOLDER TITLE/ DATES	DESCRIPTION of DOCUMENTS	COPY?
K3 Vol. 34 1977	some news articles on HSCA	YES
K3 Vol. 35 1978	case files on Marcello's assault of Federal officer in Miami at airport	
K3	remainder of drawer -- files on Joseph Marcello	
K4 drawer has only transcripts	transcripts from IRS prosecution of Marcello organization; McClellan Comm. hearings and reports; 1961 hearings on gambling & organized crime; transcripts from 1973 INS hearing	
K5 empty drawer		