

Technical Matters

The Archives Building is between Penna. & Constitution, at 7th. Hours are 9 to 5, except that material previously checked out can be used in the central research room until 9pm. A research card must be obtained in room 201W before one begins work; as far as I can tell this is a formality.

To get material from the stacks, call 3-4092 (using the phone at the desk in the East Search Room) and tell Mr. Simmons or Mr. Johnson which documents you want. It takes 45 minutes to 2 hours to get the material. Anything brought up before 5 can be transferred to the central research room & used until 9, and/or held over until the next day.

Material can be Xeroxed, at 20¢ per page. Mark the desired pages with a piece of paper & a paper clip; the copies will be sent to you or brought up after a moderate delay. Apparently, you can get a few pages Xeroxed while you wait in the evenings, if you pay cash. It is advisable to open a deposit account in the cashier's office. Material will be sent air mail, upon request. Microfilm can be made of papers at 5¢ per page.

Personnel

Mr. Rhoads is in charge of civil archives. The work on the W.C. is apparently done by Newton Johnson and FNU Simmons. Johnson appears to outrank Simmons, but both of them will go to the stacks to get material. They appear to know pretty much what is going on, but they are not at all hostile. They will do favors for you but they take their time.

Material Available

There is a 100-page "list of source materials," which gives the titles, dates, reporting agent & agency and security classification for all CD's, and indicates which are withheld from researchers at the archives. This list does not indicate the size of the various CD's, unfortunately. (I can get you a copy of this index cheap, made from a microfilm copy for much less than the \$40 or so the Archives charges.) Not all CD's are CE's, and not all CE's are CD's. I believe that if you ask for a specific CE or Deposition Exhibit, you can see it. The working papers of the Commission have not been cataloged yet, and are being (slowly) worked on. I don't know about the testimony itself.

One can see the Zapruder film if arrangements are made in advance, also the slides corresponding to CE 885. However, the slides can not be reproduced. One can arrange to use two slide projectors, and study the motion of people in the film by superimposing two slides on the same screen. For the other films, one must obtain written consent from UPI to see them.

Material Withheld:

All material on Ruby is withheld. Sometimes such a document is marked "x (Ruby)" on the index list, sometimes not. Often, when some pages of a document deal with Ruby, the entire document is withheld because the staff has not yet gotten around to removing the relevant pages.

*From Paul Hodge
1966 (?)*

The FBI submitted three lists to the Archives: documents that can be made available, those from which pages must be withheld, and those which must be withheld entirely.

Almost all the CIA stuff is classified Secret and withheld. I guess there are lots of goodies there.

N.B.: The x's on the index list are flexible! Do not hesitate to ask Johnson or Simmons if you can see part of a withheld document, especially if you think it is withheld because it deals with Ruby. Be nice to them, they are on our side. My experiences:

I asked for CE 208 by accident; it is marked x, but Mr. Simmons noted that this was because of a trivial reference to Ruby, so he let me see the entire document.

I asked for one CD which was marked "X (Ruby)", although part of it had been published as a CE. I got the document with the pages on Ruby removed, but with some pages that had not been previously published.

Mr. Simmons agreed to look through CD's 5 and 7 (i.e., through their indexes and tables of contents) to see if there was anything on the autopsy. He mailed me copies of pp. 280-288, which includes (p. 281-5) the report of Sibert & O'Neill of the FBI.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that he had looked for the Betzner pictures, without success.

Misc.: Incidentally, you can't really tell from the title what a C.D. is about. Far too many of the FBI reports are entitled "Lee Harvey Oswald."

The most informative CD's, in general, are Secret Service Reports. Also, the material sent up from Texas should not be ignored; I found among this the plat map for the SS reconstruction of Dec. 5, with trajectories; the authorization for the Kennedy autopsy; the results of the Tippit autopsy, 7c. FBI reports are generally very difficult to read & interpret. State & CIA, I think, were quite careful not to let anything slip out.

MEMO of conversations with SS & FBI agents.

On June 21, 1966, I spoke with Mr. Thomas Coll of the FBI, Room 4706, FBI building. He was temporarily manning the office of a Mr. Burns (or O'Brien, or such). His job is to talk to people who drop in, without an appointment, and ask stupid questions.

He did not seem to know what I was getting at; he didn't indicate that he knew about the discrepancy between the autopsy report & the FBI reports. He was very polite, but he didn't tell me much. He was sure that the FBI had good liason with the SS; he was sure that the Summary report was based on a report (oral or written) of the autopsy; yes, I may quote him. I indicated that I would like to have written confirmation of his remarks; he indicated that if I wrote him a letter he would reply to it.

On June 23, I wrote a letter to Mr. Coll, indicating my recollection of his statements, and also asking if he could tell me where the reports of Sibert & O'Neill on the autopsy would be. (***) I received a reply with Hoover's signature, dated June 28, indicating that the FBI and the SS enjoyed excellent relations. My other points were not mentioned, but "inasmuch as all the information in the possession of the FBI has been made available to the President's Commission, I am sure you will understand that it is not possible for me to furnish any additional information to you in this matter." (***)

Also on June 21, I spoke with Mr. Jack Warner, Assistant to the Director of the Secret Service (1800 G St., Rm. 819). His job is called "Liason," or the like. Unlike Mr. Coll, he knew immediately what I was after. After checking with someone on the phone that it was OK to tell me, he said that the autopsy report was given to the FBI by the SS on December 23, 1963. (This is before the Supplemental Report was written.) He also gave me a written statement (***) concerning the disposition of the X-rays & films. It is consistent with the rumor that Bobby Kennedy has them. He also told me that he is sure that the SS reconstruction of Dec. 5 in Dallas was not done alone, but with other agencies, including the FBI. (The trajectories in the SS plat map and the FBI Visual Aide Brochure are different.)

We chatted at some length, relatively frankly. He is a nice guy, and I don't think he was trying to get anything out of me. He knows quite well what the critics are up to. He mentioned that Epstein's book has some flaws, but he was certainly not abusive about it. My impression is that the SS has nothing to lose (unlike the FBI or the W.C.), and the Mr. Warner will tell as much as he can.

The date Dec. 23 was also given in Knebel's article in Look, July 12.

*** Copies of these 3 1-page items available on request.

GEMBERLING

The following CD's are (all of the?) FBI reports where the reporting agent is identified on the index as Gemberling. (Dallas)

CD	Title (Abbreviated)	Date	Orig. Classif.	Present Classif. (from index)
5	Oswald	11/30		x
7	O	12/10		x
205	O	12/23		x
206	O	1/7		x
301	Ass. of Pres. J.F.K.	12/18		x
329	LHO-IS-R-C	1/22	S	x
385	LHO	2/11		x
470	LHO	2/22		x
735	LHO-IS-R-C	3/10		x
897	LHO-IS-R-C	4/15	C	x
913	Ass.... Misc.--	3/30		(Available)
1066	LHO-IS-R-C	5/28		x
1107	5-vol. rept. captioned "Ass. of Pr.J.F.K.,..."		C	x
1179	2 vols. "Re results of inv. re allegations against persons other than O."	6/19		x (Ruby)
1245	LHO-IS-R-C	7/2		x
1295	LHO-IS-R-C	7/17		x
1347	(Approx. same as CD1179)	7/16		x
1395	LHO-IS-R-C	8/5		x (Ruby)
1396	(Approx. same as CD1179)	8/7		x (Ruby)
1408	LHO-IS-R-C (On publication of O. diary)	8/10		x
1481	(Approx. same as CD1179)	8/28		x
1512	On FBI Item D-232	9/18		x
1518	" D-234-5	9/19		x
1548	" D-251,C-323,C-324	10/8		x

CD's 5 and 7, and probably 1107, 1179 et al., are quite long.

The following message appears whenever pages are withheld from a CD:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has requested that certain pages of this document not be disclosed. This request was incorporated in a letter of August 13, 1965, to Dr. Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States from Norbert A. Schlei, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice.

Commission Document Number:

Pages Withheld: