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HSCA file

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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

14 April 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Operations

FROM : Norbert A. Shepanek  
Office of the Special Assistant  
to the DDO for External Oversight

SUBJECT : Problems With the House Select  
Committee on Assassinations



1. This is for your information. Mr. Scott Breckenridge is urging the Inspector General to take action with the DDCI.

2. At a recent meeting with Mr. G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) and his senior staff members, DO representatives agreed to deliver certain sources and methods documents to the Committee so that they could clarify specific points during their interview of witnesses. The documents were to be held by one counsel and there was to be no duplication. The documents were to be returned to the DDO.

3. Ms. Anne Goodpasture, a retired DO employee in her sixties and a bit hard of hearing, was invited by the HSCA for an interview which was to take place in Headquarters. She arrived on 11 April 1978 from her home in Tennessee and was advised that the Committee wanted her to report to their offices at 8:00 a.m. on 12 April 1978. She came to Headquarters instead, and HSCA staffers came to interview her. They convinced her to accompany them to the House Office Building and she went with them. Mr. Scott Breckenridge, Deputy Inspector General, informed me that Ms. Goodpasture reported the following to him:

- A. She was subjected to a hostile interrogation at the House Office Building;
- B. She was not advised of her rights, of her right to have an attorney, or other HSCA rules and regulations;

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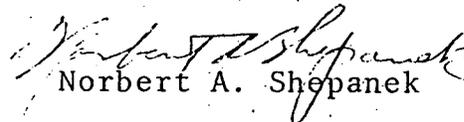
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- C. She was interrogated all day without even a break for lunch;
- D. The documents we provided to the HSCA were duplicated with copies available to all present;
- E. The documents were not used to clarify any issues but were used in an effort to trip her up on fine details.

4. Mr. Breckenridge will report the incident to Mr. Waller and they may in turn take it to the DDCI. We have been bending over backwards to try to accommodate the requirements levied on us by the HSCA staff. There have been over 400 traces requested, and we are permitting direct access to our files except for third agency material and exceptionally sensitive sources. We have been arranging for interviews of our staff personnel and retirees as well as addresses of those retirees outside the Washington area.

5. Comment: Mr. Blakey has frankly admitted that there are members of his staff who are hostile toward the Agency and his own requirements for sampling our files make the adversarial position quite clear. I can see no way that the HSCA staff will be convinced or appeased despite our best efforts. There are about 120 staffers working for the HSCA, many of them fresh out of school and reminiscent in many ways of the Pike Committee staff. While Mr. Blakey has instituted comprehensive secrecy agreements and security measures, I find it difficult to see how these will be effective judging by the caliber and training of the people. The HSCA goes out of existence on 3 January 1979, so on a personal plane, it is obvious that the staffers have to act quickly to make a name or skim off what they might need for the future. I am really worried about the possibility of a serious leak or misuse of our files and information in open hearings. (HSCA plans an open hearing TV spectacular in September--twenty days for President Kennedy and twenty days for Martin Luther King.)

6. Attached is a copy of a memorandum from Mr. Breckenridge related to this topic which we have just received.

  
Norbert A. Shepanek

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