

Assassination Records Review Board Final Determination Notification

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10068-10316
RECORD SERIES : STAFF PAYROLL RECORDS
AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

Released under the John F.
Kennedy Assassination
Records Collection Act of
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#: NW 68261 Date:
09-01-2022

December 8, 1995

Status of Document: Postponed in Part

Number of releases of previously postponed information: 20

Reason for Board Action: The Review Board's decision was premised on several factors including: (a) the significant historical interest in the document in question; (b) the absence of evidence that the release of the information would cause harm to the United States or to any individual.

Number of Postponements: 4

Postponements: All the postponements in this document represent Social Security numbers.

Reason for Board Action: The text is redacted because the public disclosure of the redaction could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and that invasion of privacy would be so substantial that it outweighs the public interest.

Substitute Language: SSN

Date of Next Review: 2017

Board Review Completed: 10/24/95

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : HSCA
RECORD NUMBER : 180-10068-10316

RECORDS SERIES :
STAFF PAYROLL RECORDS

AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : HSCA
FROM :
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 10/18/76
PAGES : 31

SUBJECTS :
HSCA, ADMINISTRATION

DOCUMENT TYPE : PRINTED FORM
CLASSIFICATION : U
RESTRICTIONS : 3
CURRENT STATUS : P
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/07/93

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :
Box #:1.

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3342 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

mailed 3/31

March 24, 1977

Mr. Kenneth E. Brooten
3301 N.W. 27th Terrace
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Dear Mr. Brooten:

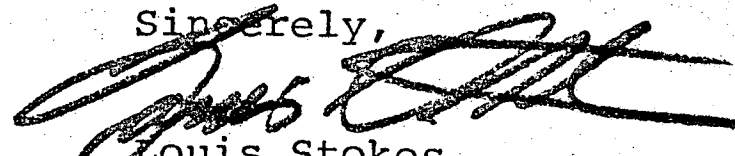
The Committee has decided to accept your letter of resignation dated March 8th. As stated in your March 8th letter, the Committee accepts your resignation effective that date. As a consequence of this Committee action, you may disregard the letter mailed by myself to you on March 8, 1977.

Your letter of March 8, 1977, also requested reimbursement for certain phone calls and restoration of the pay reductions you agreed to for January and February of 1977. The Committee will reimburse you for the phone calls, which you represent were made in pursuit of Committee business. I have enclosed a voucher for \$40.24, the total of the listed calls, for your signature. If you sign and return the voucher to me, I shall sign and forward it to the House Administration Committee so that you may be paid.

In the Committee's view, however, you have no valid claim for restoration of your voluntary pay reduction for January and February of 1977. Among other reasons for this is that there never was a firm commitment that the lost pay would be restored. Furthermore, at the very least, a condition for you to receive the lost pay was that you would be on the payroll in April and a sufficient number of subsequent months to enable you to recoup it via a temporary pay increase during that period. You were fully aware that if it was decided to restore the lost pay, this was the mechanism to be utilized. Since you have resigned effective March 8, and by your own action will not be on the payroll in April, the Committee does not believe you are entitled to restoration of your voluntary pay reduction.

If you wish to discuss any of these matters further, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Louis Stokes
Chairman

LS/jwb

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION FORM

(Please Use Typewriter
or Ballpoint Pen)

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C. 20515

(Any erasures, corrections, or changes
on this form must be initialed by the
authorizing official.)

To the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

I hereby authorize the following payroll action:

Employee Name (First-Middle-Last)	Effective Date
Kenneth Edward Grooten, Jr.	3/8/77
Employee Social Security Number	Type of Action
519 42 7339	<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Salary Adjustment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Termination (At close of business on effective date)
Employing Office or Committee	
Select Committee on Assassinations	

(If type of action is an Appointment or Salary Adjustment, complete the following information.)

Position Title	Gross Annual Salary

(If Committee Employee, complete appropriate item below.)

- Standing Committee: Staff— Clerical or Professional.
- Special or Select Committee: Authority—H. Res. 222 of 95th Congress.
- Joint Committee.

(If Employee of an Officer of the House, complete item below.)

Position Number _____ If applicable, Level _____ Step _____

I certify that this authorization is not in violation of 5 U.S.C. 3110(b), prohibiting the employment of relatives.

Date March 8, 1977

(Signature of Authorizing Official)

Louis Stokes, Chairman

(Type or print name of Authorizing Official)

Select Committee on Assassinations

(Title—If Member, District and State)

All appointments and salary adjustments for employees under the House Classification Act and for Committee employees, except those of the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on the Budget, and the Joint Committees, must be approved by the Committee on House Administration.

APPROVED: _____

Chairman, Committee on House Administration

Office of Finance use only:
Office Code _____
Monthly Annuity \$ _____ .00

to FO 3/24/77

Copy for Initiating Office or Committee

MAR 11 1977

3301 N. W. 27th Terrace
Gainesville, Florida 32605
March 8, 1977

The Honorable Louis Stokes, Chairman
House Select Committee on Assassinations
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I submit herewith my resignation from the staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations effective this date or at such time hereafter as the Members of the Select Committee shall determine to be fair and equitable. I resign as a matter of professional principle and not out of the belief that the investigations should not be continued by some appropriate body.

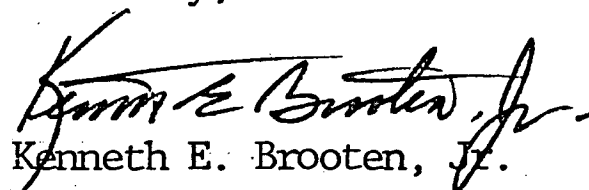
The attention of the Members of the Select Committee is respectfully directed to the fact that on or about January 11, 1977, while acting within the course and scope of his employment as an agent, ostensible agent, servant or employee of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the current chief counsel and staff director Richard A. Sprague, represented to the staff during the course of a staff meeting that if certain staff members were to accept a 35 percent reduction in pay that he (Sprague) would see that such staff members were reimbursed the full amount of the decrease in pay. In justifiable reliance upon the representations of your agent, I continued to render professional services to the House Select Committee which accepted such services. I understand that there is an admission of Mr. Sprague's representations in the record of the Committee proceedings for Monday, March 6, 1977. I bring this matter to your attention so the Committee, while a duly constituted legal body may take appropriate action to restore the pay reductions for January and February, 1977. Of course, if the matter can be resolved equitably then litigation may be avoided.

Also enclosed herewith are copies of telephone bills which I incurred while performing official duties as Acting Staff Director and Chief Counsel for the Select Committee under former Chairman Henry B. Gonzalez. I trust this voucher will be processed promptly so I will be reimbursed for my actual expenses.

I shall look forward to hearing from you as to the matter of the restoration of my January and February, 1977, reduction in pay so I may take appropriate action. I appreciated having had an opportunity to serve on the staff of the Select Committee.

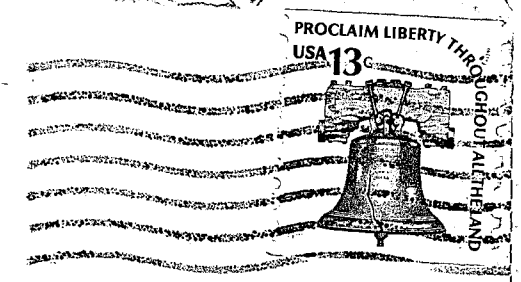
With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,


Kenneth E. Brooten, Jr.

Enclosure: Telephone Bills for Official Calls

Kenneth E. Brooten, Jr.
3301 N. W. 27th Terrace
Gainesville, FL. 32605



Mrs. Rebecca Martin, Chief Clerk
House Select Committee on Assassinations
3342 House Annex #2
Washington, D. C. 20515



March 8, 1977

Mr. Kenneth E. Brooten
Carter & Brooten, P.A.
4131 N.W. 13th Street
Suite 104
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Dear Mr. Brooten:

At a meeting of the Select Committee today in accordance with Committee Rule 11.6 the Committee by majority vote, a majority of the Committee being present, voted to terminate your services as a staff member effective at the close of business today.

Sincerely,



Louis Stokes
Chairman

3301 N. W. 27th Terrace
Gainesville, Florida 32605
March 8, 1977

MAR 10 1977

The Honorable Louis Stokes, Chairman
House Select Committee on Assassinations
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I submit herewith my resignation from the staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations effective this date or at such time hereafter as the Members of the Select Committee shall determine to be fair and equitable. I resign as a matter of professional principle and not out of the belief that the investigations should not be continued by some appropriate body.

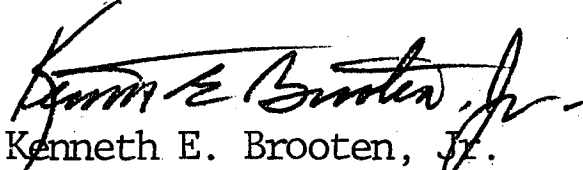
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With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,


Kenneth E. Brooten, Jr.

Enclosure: Telephone Bills for Official Calls

Northern Bell

904 372 8021 932
YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER

FEB 26 1977
DATE OF BILL

P 372 8021 932
ACCOUNT NUMBER

LIST OF CALLS

See reverse for explanation of Conn Time and Codes appearing in the T & C columns

DATE	PLACE CALLED	TELEPHONE NUMBER	T	C	CONN TIME	MIN	AMOUNT
CHARGES FOR 372 8021							
211	WASHINGTON DC	202 543 2064	AE		1040	14	31
212	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AN		142	5	7
212	PALMYRA PA	717 838 4372	AN		401	10	14
212	NEW YORK NY	212 355 3400	AN		437	2	3
212	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AN		559	1	2
213	NEW YORK NY	212 689 1272	AN		923	19	26
213	WASHINGTON DC	202 547 3049	AN		249	30	41
213	GREENSBORO NC	919 272 8642	AE		720	18	40
213	WASHINGTON DC	202 723 5772	AE		740	9	20
214	SAN ANTONIO TEX	512 732 9779	AD		900	1	5
214	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AD		1051	1	5
214	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AD		1109	1	5

SERVING CITY
KENNETH E BOOTEN JR
3301 NW 27TH TERR
GAINVL FL 32605

CURRENT CHARGES
PAST DUE
MAR 22

PAYMENTS	ADJUSTMENTS	BALANCE
4834		
FEB 26 TO MAR 26		15 15
LOC	ST	FED
		76
NG FROM TO		
OF CALLS INCL TAX		67 63
EDITS INCL TAX - SEE ENCLOSURE		
TOTAL		83 54

PAGE	2	TOTAL EXCL TAX	6441	LOC TAX		ST TAX		FED TAX		TOTAL INCL TAX	322
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Northern Bell

YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER

FEB 26 1977
DATE OF BILL

P 372 8021 932
ACCOUNT NUMBER

LIST OF CALLS

See reverse for explanation of Conn Time and Codes appearing in the T & C columns

DATE	PLACE CALLED	TELEPHONE NUMBER	T	C	CONN TIME	MIN	AMOUNT
CHARGES FOR 372 8021							
210	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AD		349	2	8
210	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AE		540	10	23
210	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AE		659	8	18
210	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 4624	AE		759	11	25
210	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AE		819	10	23
210	SAN ANTONIO TEX	512 732 9759	AE		932	1	3
211	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AD		137	6	22
211	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AD		207	3	11
211	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AD		212	6	22
211	SAN ANTONIO TEX	512 732 9759	AD		351	3	12
211	WASHINGTON DC	202 225 3236	AD		354	8	28

CURRENT CHARGES
PAST DUE

PAYMENTS	ADJUSTMENTS	BALANCE
TO		
LOC	ST	FED
NG FROM TO		
OF CALLS INCL TAX		
EDITS INCL TAX - SEE ENCLOSURE		
TOTAL		

PAGE	1	TOTAL EXCL TAX		LOC TAX		ST TAX		FED TAX		TOTAL INCL TAX	
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MAR 15 1977

3301 N. W. 27th Terrace
Gainesville, Florida
10 March 1977

The Honorable Louis Stokes, Chairman
House Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter which was mailed to my former law firm in Gainesville, Florida on Monday, March 7, 1977 and which was received on Wednesday, March 9, 1977 at 2:00 P.M.

On Tuesday, March 8, 1977, immediately following the acceptance by the House of Representatives of Chairman Gonzalez's resignation, I mailed you my formal resignation from the staff of the Select Committee, a copy of which is also enclosed.

On Sunday, March 6, 1977, having completed my final reports to former Chairman Gonzalez, I moved all of my possessions from my apartment and flew to Florida. A number of people in Washington knew I was leaving Washington and resigning from the Committee. I was not going to tender my formal resignation until such time as the House accepted the resignation of Mr. Gonzalez for to do so would leave Mr. Gonzalez without counsel. Since I had decided to resign immediately upon the acceptance by the House of the resignation of Mr. Gonzalez, I saw no reason to stay in Washington where the Committee was to hold a meeting as my presence at that point would simply provoke unnecessary confrontation.

On Wednesday, March 9, 1977, at 12:15 P.M., I learned from Congressman Gonzalez's office that the Select Committee held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 1977 for the sole purpose of firing me notwithstanding the fact that my resignation was already in the mail to you and that the letter which I received on March 9th directed me to report to the Committee offices that same day.

It is implicit in Mr. Lewis' letter that since I was not in the staff offices since February 9, 1977 that I was not performing duties for the Select Committee. Enclosed for your information is a copy of a telegram which I received from former Chairman Gonzalez on February 11, 1977. As you are no doubt aware, both at the request of former Chairman Gonzalez as well as Congressman Richardson Preyer, Congressman Walter Fauntroy

The Honorable Louis Stokes, Chairman
Page Two
March 10, 1977

and Congressman Christopher Dodd, I did not go to the Committee staff offices so as not to cause unnecessary confrontations. However, I enclose herewith copies of correspondence between myself and Richard Sprague and Majority Leader Wright relating to my continuing efforts to resolve some of the problems confronting the Select Committee.

I bring this chronology to your attention as well as the copies of documents which I have enclosed because I can only construe the calling of a special meeting to "fire" me as a vindictive act on the part of Mr. Sprague, who could have determined from a number of sources that I had already returned to Florida and intended to submit a formal written resignation, as I in fact did.

Accordingly, I will appreciate it if you will advise me as to the following:

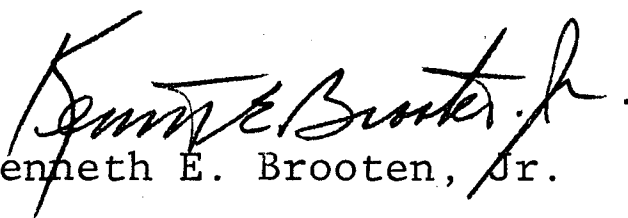
(a) Whether a meeting of the Select Committee was held on Tuesday, March 8, 1977, and if so, was that meeting held in compliance with the Rules of the House and the Rules of the Select Committee and what official action was taken.

(b) The position of the Committee as to whether my resignation is accepted or whether I was "fired" and the effective date of the acceptance of my resignation or my "firing".

I shall look forward to hearing from you. You may feel free to call me at my home in Florida, 904-372-8021, should you wish to discuss this matter personally.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,


Kenneth E. Brooten, Jr.

KEBJr/dly
Enclosures

