

FILE

cc: Bruce Robit: Subj.
Jerry Warren

August 9, 1973

MEMORANDUM TO: DAVE GERGEN

FROM: MARGARET EARL ME

RE: EXPENSES FOR RFK AND JFK FUNERAL AND BURIAL

Note: Very little public notice has been given to the costs incurred by the Government as a result of the Kennedy assassinations, so that our standard chain of reference has proven to be of little help. There are, of course, a couple of sources who would keep records, but I'm hesitant to contact them unless you desperately need the information.

JFK--The only central source for this information seems to be Tom Steed(D.-Okla.), whose subcommittee coordinated reports on all costs related to JFK's assassination. Because of the distance in time, DOD no longer maintains its own file on the burial costs--it has turned over its figures to Steed. Steed, of course, did defend the amount we have spent in security, citing the difference between defending a live President and burying a deceased one.

We do know that PL88-195 provided \$15,000 for JFK's burial, including office space and equipment for Jackie, in addition to the \$65,000 she received in widow's payment. This, of course, doesn't even approach the amount that Steed cites as the total cost(I believe it is \$4 million.)

Still, regardless of how prohibitive the cost was at that time, we should be careful about criticizing costs that we have since escalated--e.g. US News reports this week that the Secret Service's budget has grown from \$7.7 million in 1963 to \$64 million in 1973.

RFK--Again, comprehensive figures are scarce, and any use of them would require a great deal of discretion. The Senate did, in 1968, pass two resolutions related to RFK's death and burial. The first authorized \$30,000, the equivalent of one year's salary, to be paid to Ehtel Kennedy; the second(S.Res. 301) authorized payment "for expenses of RFK funeral". There is some vagueness as to the extent of costs covered by the resolution(OMB could not find any exact amount); it did, at

the very least, include transportation for senators and cortege to and from the funeral in New York City. Because it is a Senate resolution, there is some doubt as to how much more it covered, and that also means that we cannot ascertain the exact amount without going to the Senate.

In any case, the whole subject is touchy, because the Kennedy family then offered to spend \$600,000 on a joint memoraiial to JFK and RFK at Arlington, if the Government would balance it with a \$400,000 "contribution." Working through Robert McNamara, Teddy Kennedy got the amount to be added to the FY '69 budget. But because LBJ had it added as a line item instead of a special projects expenditure, it permitted RN to drop the whole project. The family was quite upset about it, and it doesn't make us look particularly generous(not to mention LBJ, who committed the original "error ").

Warren Commission lost?