Assassination Records Review Board Final Determination Notification

AGENCY : HSCA

RECORD NUMBER: 180-10070-10164

RECORD SERIES : STAFF PAYROLL RECORDS

AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

December 8, 1995

Status of Document: Po

Postponed in Part

Number of releases of previously postponed information: 18

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: 8

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

Released under the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW 88326 Date: 2025

Date: 08/20/93

Page:1

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY: HSCA

RECORD NUMBER: 180-10070-10164

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RECORDS SERIES: STAFF PAYROLL RECORDS

AGENCY FILE NUMBER:

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR: HSCA

FROM:

TO:

TITLE :

DATE: 11/08/76

PAGES: 24

SUBJECTS: HSCA; ADMINISTRATION

THORNELL, JOAN TALBERT

DOCUMENT TYPE : PRINTED FORM

CLASSIFICATION : U

RESTRICTIONS: 3

CURRENT STATUS : P

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 07/16/93

OPENING CRITERIA:

COMMENTS:

Box 3.

Mrs. Joan Thornell
Special Assistant to the Treasurer
Office of the Treasurer of the
United States
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mrs. Thornell:

I am sorry you feel that you were not treated fairly upon termination of your services with the Committee.

When I received your letter, I asked Tom Howarth to give me a memorandum outlining the terms of your settlement. Enclosed is a copy.

I am sure that after you read the memorandum, you will agree that the Committee was more than fair, especially in light of the fact there was no official leave policy at the time and thus, no obligation to pay any terminating compensation at all.

As to your main area of concern, the one-day break in service, Mr. Howarth's memorandum points out that such a break has no effect whatsoever on the transfer of your benefits.

I wish you every success in your new position with the Administration.

Sincerely,

Louis Stokes Chairman

LS/thj

cc: Honorable Walker E. Fauntroy, M.C.

MEMORANDUM

TO:

CHAIRMAN STOKES

FROM:

THOMAS HOWARTH

BUDGET OFFICER

DATE:

JUNE 14, 1977

RE:

JOAN T. THORNELL, LETTER RE LEAVE

Mrs. Thornell left at the close of business on Friday, May 13, 1977. As the Committee had no leave policy at that time, she made her termination effective Sunday, May 15, 1977, at my suggestion, so that she would receive two days extra in pay.

Mrs. Thornell began employment November 8, 1976 and left May 13, 1977. Under the Clerk of the House's leave policy, she would be entitled to 5 days, no credit being given for a fraction of a month when hired or a fraction of a month when terminated.

The Clerk's policy further states there are no provisions to permit reimbursement to an employee upon termination for any accumulation of leave. However, to the extent possible and practicable, every effort should be made to consider such accumulation when submitting a recommendation for termination.

Twelve Committee Staff Members with a total of 42 days accumulated leave who have terminated, including one who terminated the same day as Mrs. Thornell, were given no credit for their leave because the Committee had no policy at that time.

This fact and the fact that Mrs. Thornell was paid for six days past May 13, in my opinion, discredits Mrs. Thornell claim to "the punitive nature of the decision." The facts clearly show that Mrs. Thornell was given special consideration.

MEMORANDUM CHAIRMAN STOKES JUNE 14, 1977 PAGE 2

For the record, Acting Chief Counsel Al Lewis was paid for no accumulated leave. After Mr. Lewis left the Committee, he was kept on the payroll long enough to recover his back salary which I understand was the Committee's request. (Mrs. Thornell had already recovered her back salary.)

As to Mrs. Thornell's break in service, I have been told by the Finance Office that such a break has no effect whatsoever on the transfer of her benefits.

cc: Honorable Walter E. Fauntroy, M.C.



THE TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

May 27, 1977

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

Dear Chairman Stokes:

The circumstances of my departure from the Committee staff have saddened me because of the following:

On May 6, 1977, in writing (enclosed) I advised the then-Acting Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Alvin B. Lewis, Jr., of my intention to leave the staff as of May 15, 1977 plus whatever vacation time I had accrued since my date of entry to service, November 8, 1976.

Since there was no formal leave policy established by the Committee at the date of my notice and since I was aware of leave being extended to the Acting Chief Counsel who was also leaving service at about the same time, I began making inquiries about my own accrued leave.

On Thursday, May 12, Thomas Howarth, the Budget Officer, advised me verbally that he had not yet cleared with you the rate of leave to be extended to me in days accrued per month, but he thought that a rate of one day per month was going to be approved. On that basis, he calculated that I would be allowed 5 1/2 or 6 days of leave.

When I began a new appointment with a Federal agency on Monday, May 23, I called Mr. Howarth from the new personnel office to establish my date of termination in order to comply with the Federal law which prohibits Federal employees from receiving payment from more than one Federal source at a time. In other words, I was attempting to clear the date of May 23 as a starting date for the new employment.

At that time, Mr. Howarth advised that I had been terminated on May 19, based on a calculation of leave beginning May 14 for a total of 6 days -- which included counting weekend days in the leave period. At the time of our initial conversation, how-

ever, I was not advised that <u>weekend</u> days would be counted in the calculation of the leave period.

He further advised that since the House payroll system is based on a 30-day month, for purposes of calculating a termination date he counted weekend days, whereas a vacationing employee who would be returning to work after vacation would not have weekend days counted. (I checked with the Committee on House Administration and learned that though each Committee establishes its own leave policy, it is unusual to penalize a terminating employee by counting in weekend days.)

Inasmuch as there was no written leave policy I had no way of anticipating his method of calculating leave. And because of the punitive nature of the decision I have suffered a break in service which may affect seriously my transfer of benefits from the House of Representatives to my new employment. Had I been aware of his method of calculating leave, my dates of departure from the Committee, obviously, would have been different.

I hope that you will review the calculation of my date of departure and act swiftly to rectify the situation to allow my termination date from the Committee to be set at Friday, May 20, 1977, which would reflect 5 working days leave from the Committee.

I have already acted to begin employment at the Department of the Treasury as of May 23. I gladly forfeit the 6th vacation day which would have been May 23.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to this matter and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Joan Talbert Thornell Special Assistant to the Treasurer-Designate

cc: Hon. Walter E. Fauntroy, M.C.

Enclosure

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June 16, 1977

Mrs. Joan Talbert Thornell 3175 Apple Road, N.E. Washington, DC. 20018

Dear Joan:

I want you to know how much the Committee and I appreciate your service and how much we regret that you will no longer be a member of the Staff.

You have our best wishes always.

Sincerely yours,

Louis Stokes Chairman

LS:tle

May 6, 1977

MEMORANDUM

To

Alvin B. Lewis, Jr.

From

Joan Talbert Thornell

It has been my pleasure to serve as your special Assistant for Administrative Projects. Your recent assignments in the areas of affirmative action and staff review are nearing completion.

I will be leaving the staff of the Select Committee on Assassinations as of May 15, 1977 (plus any vacation time that may have accrued to me since November, 1976).

I wish you all the best in your new undertakings and
I have appreciated your sensitivity during a difficult time.
Thanks.

MEMORANDUM

TO:

CHAIRMAN STOKES

FROM:

THOMAS HOWARTH

BUDGET OFFICER

DATE:

JUNE 14, 1977

RE:

JOAN T. THORNELL, LETTER RE LEAVE

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MEMORANDUM CHAIRMAN STOKES JUNE 14, 1977 PAGE 2

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cc: Honorable Walter E. Fauntroy, M.C.



THE TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

May 27, 1977

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

Dear Chairman Stokes:

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On Thursday, May 12, Thomas Howarth, the Budget Officer, advised me verbally that he had not yet cleared with you the rate of leave to be extended to me in days accrued per month, but he thought that a rate of one day per month was going to be approved. On that basis, he calculated that I would be allowed 5 1/2 or 6 days of leave.

When I began a new appointment with a Federal agency on Monday, May 23, I called Mr. Howarth from the new personnel office to establish my date of termination in order to comply with the Federal law which prohibits Federal employees from receiving payment from more than one Federal source at a time. In other words, I was attempting to clear the date of May 23 as a starting date for the new employment.

At that time, Mr. Howarth advised that I had been terminated on May 19, based on a calculation of leave beginning May 14 for a total of 6 days -- which included counting weekend days in the leave period. At the time of our initial conversation, how-

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He further advised that since the House payroll system is based on a 30-day month, for purposes of calculating a termination date he counted weekend days, whereas a vacationing employee who would be returning to work after vacation would not have weekend days counted. (I checked with the Committee on House Administration and learned that though each Committee establishes its own leave policy, it is unusual to penalize a terminating employee by counting in weekend days.)

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I hope that you will review the calculation of my date of departure and act swiftly to rectify the situation to allow my termination date from the Committee to be set at Friday, May 20, 1977, which would reflect 5 working days leave from the Committee.

I have already acted to begin employment at the Department of the Treasury as of May 23. I gladly forfeit the 6th vacation day which would have been May 23.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to this matter and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Joan Talbert Thornell Special Assistant to the Treasurer-Designate

cc: Hon. Walter E. Fauntroy, M.C.

Enclosure

(Please Use Typewriter U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES or Ballpoint Pen) 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:

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on effective date)
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Official)
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(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:

Employee Name (First-Middle-Last)		Effective Date
Joan Talbert Thornell	5/15/7	77
Employee Social Security Number		Type of Action
579 54 1505	□Арро	
Employing Office or Committee		y Adjustment
Employing Office of Committee		nation (At close of business on effective date)
Assassinations		
If type of action is an Appointment or Salary Adjustment, o	complete the fol	lowing information.)
Position Title		Gross Annual Salary
If Committee Employee, complete appropriate item below.	.)	5/1-8 - 1055.56. 5/9 -15 486.11
1. Standing Committee: Staff—Clerical or P	Professional.	
2. X Special or Select Committee: Authority—H. Res	s. 465 of 95	5th Congress. 5 1177 PM 2:
3. Joint Committee.		•
If Employee of an Officer of the House, complete item bel	ow.)	HOS R. FINANCE OF
Position NumberIf applicable, Lev	velStep	0
I certify that this authorization is not in viole relatives.	ation of 5 U.S.	C. 3110(b), prohibiting the employme
Date May 10 19 77	AM	
	Louis	(Signature of Authorizing Official) Stokes
		(Type or print name of Authorizing Official)
	Chairn	(Title—If Member, District and State)
All appointments and salary adjustments for employed ployees, except those of the Committee on Appropriations, to be approved by the Committee on House Administration.		
APPROVED):YAGhe	ui men, Committee ant House Administration
Office of Finance use only:		∅

(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
Joan Talbert Thornell	5/15/77
Employee Social Security Number	Type of Action
579 54 1505	☐ Appointment
Employing Office or Committee	☐ Salary Adjustment
Assassinations	Termination (At close of business on effective date)
(If type of action is an Appointment or Salary Adjustment, co	omplete the following information.)
Position Title	Gross Annual Salary
(If Committee Employee, complete appropriate item below.)	
1. Standing Committee: Staff—Clerical or Pr	ofessional.
2. 🖹 Special or Select Committee: Authority—H. Res.	465 of 95th Congress.
3. Joint Committee.	
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DateMay 10 19 77	
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	Louis Stokes
	(Type or print name of Authorizing Official)
	(Title—If Member, District and State)
All appointments and salary adjustments for employees ployees, except those of the Committee on Appropriations, the be approved by the Committee on House Administration.	e Committee on the Budget, and the Joint Committees, mus
APPROVED:	Chairman, Committee on House Administration
Office of Finance use only:	
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(Please Use Typewriter or Ballpoint Pen)

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

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To the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

I hereby authorize the following payroll action:

Employee Name (First-Middle-Last)	Effective Date	
Joan Talbert Thornell	5/9/77	
Employee Social Security Number	Type of Action	
579 54 1505	☐ Appointment	
Employing Office or Committee	Salary Adjustment	
Assassinations	☐ Termination (At close of business on effective date)	
(If type of action is an Appointment or Salary Adjustment, co	mplete the following information.)	
Position Title	Gross Annual Salary	
	\$25,000	
(If Committee Employee, complete appropriate item below.)		
1. Standing Committee: Staff—Clerical or Pro	ofessional.	
2. 🗷 Special or Select Committee: Authority—H. Res.	465 of 95th Congress.	
3. Joint Committee.		
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(If Employee of an Officer of the House, complete item below Position Number	Step	
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(Please Use Typewriter U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES or Ballpoint Pen) 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:

Type of Action Appointment Salary Adjustment Termination (At close of business on effective date) te the following information.)
Salary Adjustment Termination (At close of business on effective date)
☐ Termination (At close of business on effective date)
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Gross Annual Salary
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<u>Step</u>
of 5 U.S.C. 3110(b), prohibiting the employment
(Signature of Authorizing Official)
Louis Stokes
(Type or print name of Authorizing Official)
(Title—If Member, District and State)

(Please Use Typewriter U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES or Ballpoint Pen) 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: (1986) (1986) (1986)

I hereby authorize the following payroll action:

Employee Name (First-Middle-Last)		Effective Date
Joan Talbert Thornell	2-1-7	7
Employee Social Security Number		Type of Action
579-54-1505	☐ Appointment	
Employing Office or Committee		
Select Committee on Assassinations		
(If type of action is an Appointment or Salary Adjustment, comple	te the foll	lowing information.)
Position Title		Gross Annual Salary
		\$15,375.
(If Committee Employee, complete appropriate item below.)		
1. Standing Committee: Staff—Clerical or Professi	onal.	
2. X Special or Select Committee: Authority—H. Res1	of_ <u>95</u>	Congress.
3. Joint Committee.		
(If Employee of an Officer of the House, complete item below.)		en e
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2-2877		
		(Signature of Authorizing Official) GONZalez
	a irman	(Type or print name of Authorizing Official)
		(Title—If Member, District and State)
All appointments and salary adjustments for employees und ployees, except those of the Committee on Appropriations, the Corbe approved by the Committee on House Administration. APPROVED:	erathe Ho nmittee or	use Classification Act and for Committee em- nothe Budget, and the Joint Committees, must
Office of Finance use only:	a yan wasan a sagar a sa s	
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Monthly Annuity \$00		

(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
Joan Talbert Thornell	1/3/77
Employee Social Security Number	Type of Action
579 54 1505	☐ Appointment
Employing Office or Committee	Salary Adjustment
Select Committee on Assassinations	☐ Termination (At close of business on effective date)
(If type of action is an Appointment or Salary Adjustment, co	omplete the following information.)
Position Title	Gross Annual Salary
	\$16,250.
(If Committee Employee, complete appropriate item below.)	
1. Standing Committee: Staff—Clerical or Pr	ofessional.
2. 🕱 Special or Select Committee: Authority—H. Res.	
3. Doint Committee.	
(If Employee of an Officer of the House, complete item belo	w.)
Position NumberIf applicable, Leve	elStep
I certify that this authorization is not in violat relatives.	ion of 5 U.S.C. 3110(b), prohibiting the employment
Date, 19 77	
Duie, 17 * *	(Signature of Authorizing Official) Henry B. Gonzalez
	(Type or print name of Authorizing Official)
All appointments and salary adjustments for employee ployees, except those of the Committee on Appropriations, the approved by the Committee on House Administration.	(Title—If Member, District and State) s under the House Classification Act and for Committee er e Committee on the Budget, and the Joint Committees, mu
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NW 88326 Docld:32244106 Page 20

To the Clerk of the House of Representatives:	And the second	• .				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
I hereby authorize the following payroll action:					<i>(</i>	
Employee Name (First-Middle-Last)			(ffective Date	9	
Joan Talbert Thornell	(,		11/8/75		,	
Employee Social Security Number			······································	ype of Action	n	. ":
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Position Title	, r	V.	, , ,	Gross Annua	l Salary	
Special Assistant			\$25,000			
 Standing Committee: Staff— Clerical or Carried Special or Select Committee: Authority—H. Joint Committee. (If Employee of an Officer of the House, complete item)	. Res. <u>1557</u>		Congress			
2. Special or Select Committee: Authority—H. 3. Joint Committee.	. Res. <u>1557</u> below.) , Level	of <u>941</u>	C 3110(b), ₁	prohibiting	·	loyment
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All Staff Employees

Budget Officer

January 3, 1977

TO:

FROM:

DATE:

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NW 88326 Docld:32244106 Page 22

TALBERT JOAN THORNELL

579.54-1505 8 Nov 122 Sixth Street, S. E. 20003 Washington, D. C. 543 - 7785

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Valedictory, 1956, Dunbar High School; Washington, D.C. A.B., Psychology, 1960, George Washington University; Washington, D.C. Professional Training in Dance Therapy, 1958-61, St. Elizabeths Hospital

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Chronological)

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6/76 - 3/76	Editorial and Research Consultant to the Joint Committee on Arrangements for Commemoration of the Bicentennial for its dual project (publication and exhibit for U.S. Capitol), "Black Americans in Congress, 1870-1976"
9/75 - 6/76	Fundraising Consultant for The Black Student Fund a scholarship and service organization to increase black enrollment in independent schools in the Washington metropolitan area.
10/75 - 2/76	Planning Consultant to the National Council of Organizations for Children and Youth for their first national conference
4/73 - 2/75	Assistant to the President for Special Projects The National Urban Coalition M. Carl Holman, President Planning national and local conferences and meetings, awards events and other special projects; designing public relations strategy; liaison with the Chairman, Walter N. Rothschild, Jr.
11/72 - 2/73	Consultant, Office of Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr. Researching formation of new House Committee on the District of Columbia; arranging ceremony to cite Congressman Diggs' appointment as Chairman by House Speaker Carl Albert.
8/72 - 10/72	Consultant to McGovern/Shriver Campaign Establishing representative membership on the Issue Task Forces of the national campaign staff; coordinating Education Task Force; Marian Wright Edelman, Chairwoman.
7/72 and Runoff	Assistant to the Campaign Director for the Successful Mayoral Campaign of Hon. A.J. Cooper, Prichard, Alabama Coordinating volunteers; establishing telephone bank, day care center, and car pool operations for voter

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2/72 - 4/72	Fellow, The Joint Center for Political Studies, serving as Staff Coordinator, Platform Committee of The National Black Political Convention, Gary, Indiana. Platform Committee Chairman, Hon. Walter E. Fauntroy (Del, D.C.)
9/71 - 1/72	Staff Director Hon. D'Army Bailey and Hon. Ira Simmons City Council, Berkeley California Coordinating staff of researchers and clerical workers; supervision of three staff members and fifty volunteers.
1/71 - 6/71	Director, District Office of Hon. Willie L. Brown, Jr. State Assemblyman and Chairman, Ways and Means Committee San Francisco, California Liaison with Sacremento office; administration of district office with four employees and over 100 volunteers.
3/70 - 12/70	Consultant, Self-employed. New York City Speech writing, editing and research; program planning, development and evaluation. Manager for Cecil P. Taylor, pianist and composer.
1/69 - 3/70	New York Urban Coalition 2. Special Assistant to the Executive Vice President for Education and Manpower, Lincoln O. Lynch Staff supervision (8 employees), research, speech writing and publication design 1. Assistant to the Executive Director, Coalition JOBS, William Kaufmann. Conference coordination and staff supervision (52 employees).
1/68 - 11/68	Volunteer Community Work New Haven, Connecticut Chairman, Black Women of Greater New Haven Board of Directors, Black Coalition of New Haven Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Community Housing, Inc., non-profit housing development corporation Board of Directors, Yale Upward Bound Board of Directors, Perspectives program for high school students

Director, Harvard-Yale-Columbia Intensive Summer Studies
Program; New Haven, Connecticut
Program purpose: to recruit, select, train and place students
from predominantly Black southern colleges in the graduate
programs of the three cooperating universities and other
graduate schools. Staff of four; faculty of fifty; 150
students.

10/65 - 1/67	The White House, Washington, D. C. 2. Executive Assistant to the Chairman The National Advisory Commission on Selective Service Hon. Burke Marshall, Chairman Liaison with commission members; arrangements for all commission meetings; coordination of publication of commission report. 1. White House Conference "To Fulfill These Rights" Special Assistant to the Director/Senior Staff Associate Planning and implementation of the civil rights conference; assisting in the drafting and editing of the final report.
4/65 - 10/65	Personal Secretary to the Director Peace Corps and Office of Economic Opportunity Hon. R. Sargent Shriver, Jr.
1/65 - 4/65	Administrative Assistant to the Inspector General/OEO William F. Haddad, Associate Director/Inspector General
11/63 - 1/65	Maternity Leave
9/62 - 11/63	Administrative Assistant to the Associate Director for Planning Evaluation and Research, Peace Corps. William F. Haddad
4/62 - 9/62	Dance Therapist, St. Elizabeths Hospital Conducting dance therapy sessions with schizophrenic patients; participating in diagnostic and treatment- planning staff meetings.
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Research lettersont 10/7

EDUCATION & TRAINING

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State Assemblyman and Chairman, Ways and Means Committee San Francisco, California

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Chairman, Black Women of Greater New Haven Board of Directors, Black Coalition of New Haven Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Community Housing Inc., non-profit housing development corporation Board of Directors, Yale Upward Bound

Board of Directors, Perspectives -- program for high school students

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11/68

12/67

10/65 - 1/67	 The White House, Washington, D. C. 2. Executive Assistant to the Chairman
4/65 - 10/65	Personal Secretary to the Director Peace Corps and Office of Economic Opportunity Hon. R. Sargent Shriver, Jr.
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Runoff

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