

DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD [NIXON PROJECT]

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
1	Interview notes	Interview of Alice Nelsen by FBI 2 unsanitized pgs.	1/23/74	A, D

FILE GROUP TITLE

WHCF: SMOF Rose Mary Woods

BOX NUMBER

20

FOLDER TITLE

Alice Nelsen - FBI Interview

RESTRICTION CODES

- A. Release would violate a Federal statute or Agency Policy.
B. National security classified information.
C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights.
D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person.

- E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information.
F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes.
G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material.
H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material.

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT
DOCUMENT CONTROL RECORD

ITEM REMOVED FROM THIS FILE FOLDER

A RESTRICTED DOCUMENT OR CASE FILE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS FILE FOLDER. FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE ITEM REMOVED AND THE REASON FOR ITS REMOVAL, CONSULT DOCUMENT ENTRY NUMBER 1 ON EITHER THE DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD (GSA FORM 7279 OR NA FORM 1421) OR NARA WITHDRAWAL SHEET (GSA FORM 7122) LOCATED IN THE FRONT OF THIS FILE FOLDER.

Conducted by Special Agents **Sanitized** and **Sanitized** who are
both assigned to the Washington Field Office

with

Alice E. Nelsen

Mr. **Sanitized** spent about 15 minutes explaining why they were conducting this interview and that I was not obliged to answer any questions if I had any doubt in my mind about whether or not I should answer. I could postpone, or not answer, pending seeking advice from whomever I might wish. The interview is being conducted at the request of the special prosecutors office and the information will be reported only to that office. It was arranged through the office of Loren Smith.

(They had my name spelled incorrectly, so corrected that)

1. Name , address and telephone (both home and office)
2. Employed by: Rose Mary Woods (resigned Civil Service position for duration of employment at the White House)
3. Husband: Robert J. Nelsen
4. Husband's work: Executive Secretary, American College of Dentists
5. My duties: Basically receptionist: open office, etc.

file x-copies of RN's and RMW's letters after they are sent out
Answer telephone-- refer caller to appropriate office or person in our office -- take message for RMW, MA or AMcP if they are not available, or note to return the call.

Filing: Social cards, Church cards
Appointment to position file, (Presidential appts.), Pres. gift list; keep up to date lists of people wishing to attend W.H. social events, etc.

Open mail occasionally
Answer inquiries re: autographs & sometimes make up cards for this

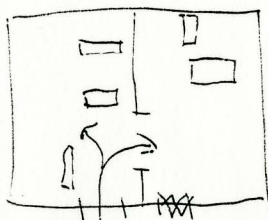
Type incoming hand-written letters for the President for easier reading

Xeroxing
Help proof read Pres. speeches
Hand carry messages when necess.

6. Do you log phone calls: No.. if they can't be completed at time, I type up note as to who called, when and where to call them & give that note to appropriate person.
7. Office personnel: Rose Mary Woods, Marje Acker, Alice McPhillips myself.

At this point Mr. ~~Sanitized~~ left the room for a phone call

8. Mr. ~~Sanitized~~ continued: Do I ever type up rough drafts for the President? No.. very little typing
9. What is physical set up of office: He drew a "box" and asked me to fill in the desks and doors of office as it was in Sept-Oct.



- 10: Show the flow of visitors to the office...noted they all come in the one door, had to come by Mrs. Ackers desk as only other door is always supposed to be locked and usually has boxes of things stored in front of it.

At this point Mr. ~~Sanitized~~ came back in and Mr. ~~Sanitized~~ reviewed what we had spoken of.

11. Spent some time on the set up of the room.. placement of RMW's typing table, what was on the desk and on typing table....I mentioned lamp, telephone, in and out boxes, calendar, accessories, momentoes etc. I was not sure if there were 2 or one tensor lamps...he asked what a tensor lamp was....I explained a high intensity lamp with a small base so it could be moved around
12. Asked if the phone was attached to the the desk....No... regular phone with panel of buttons... could be moved, but I don't know if it was ever used at other side of desk, but it could be moved.. depending on how long the cable was.. I didn't know. Asked length of receiver cord.. I don't know exactly but it would easily stretch at least the length of desk... probably like the one on my desk.. I can walk around my desk with it. He asked if RMW ever had it on the other (right side) of desk.. I had never seen it there.
13. Asked about typewriter stand, location, size, type, placement....
Ans: to right of desk at right angles, didn't know size (told him it had been measured, but I didn't see figures), wooden cabinet style.. don't think it has drawers; space to walk between

it and desk (small space);

14. Asking about position of things on desk and in room... I said there were pictures taken and they could get all that from them.. I was sorry I was obviously not very observant of the details.

Insert: Did you see

"tape" machine They said they didn't have the pictures.. hadn't seen the one on the in RMW's office? cover of the magazine.... (this seems unlikely to me!) *SONY*

...I must have.. saw Rose with lg. earphones on transcribing from something..

15. About files in office... were they regular office types with key lock or safe style. Office type with key lock.
- k6. Any safe in the office.. yes, but I think it is RMW's personal one... Do I ever open it? Anyone else. No.. only RMW that I know of.
17. Did I go to Camp David on Sept 28-29? No.. have never been on any trip the President went on.
18. About taping system and or microphones in the W.H.... when did I first learn of it? In the newspaper.. don't remember the date.
19. Do you work with the files..No ... only the social card files mentioned before
20. Have you ever been asked to get anything from the files in office? Once I believe, when they were in Calif.. to get dinner list or information about possible guests to WH social function... Can't recall exactly...
21. Back to taping system in WH... have you ever seen tapes or had access to them.... No
22. Were you gone from office during period of Sept to Nov.... Yes to Dental convention with husband late Oct.. established the 26-27-28 29 and 30.. back at work on 31st.
23. Did I work weekend of Sept 28-29-30? No
24. Do you usually work weekends? No... special arrangement with RMW when I first came to work that I would not because of needs of my personal commitment at home... unless emergency.
25. Have I ever worked weekends..... a couple of times when Pres. and RMW and Marje were in Calif or Florida.. don't remember which. I came in on Sat. to put mail in the pouch to go out to them.. don't recall exact ~~time~~ date...
26. Do you remember when RMW was working on tapes? I remember she said she would be working on a "Special project" for the President and didn't want to be disturbed.. take all messages.. she would call back.

27. When was this...before or after RMW had been to Camp David?
I couldn't recall... only thing I remember it was while Marje was out for her operation....
28. Do you ever work at RMW's desk when she is not there? No.. as far as I know, no one does.
29. Do you know about or ever use her phone? Only when ~~neither~~ ^{not} RMW or Marje are there, should one of the private lines ring, we must go in to answer.
30. These private lines don't automatically switch over to main switch board or to another desk if she isn't there? Not that I know of.. we go in to answer.
31. Is there something on her phone that shows when there is someone with the President? I believe there is.. a "guest lite", but I have never observed it myself.
32. When did RMW work on the special project in her office? I can't remember the date...but while Marje was out
33. Wasn't this unusual? Not too much so.. other times she has had special rush "jobs".. the ones that I think of were speeches.. she types the final copy and we always hold all calls then because it is usually last minute rush on them.
34. When RMW is working on special projects, is her door closed? Yes.
35. Does she usually work with door open or closed.... often closed.. otherwise people going by the door would be dropping in oftener interrupting her.. never get her work done. I'm sure when she needs to "think" she has it closed to keep out noises etc.also.
35. While RMW was working on the special project, did she ever rush out looking upset, saying that she had to see the Pres. right away? No... RMW is very cool and collected.. never looks upset.. she wouldn't be likely to tell me she had to see the President. She always moves fast, esp when the Pres. buzzes her (we can hear the buzz), but doesn't usually say where she is going, as it is obvious to us as we hear the buzz. Other times when she leaves, she sometimes tells us where she is going, other times not.. just tells us about how long she will be gone.. often tells us where, but not always.
36. In the old set up, could she go to the Pres.'s office without going by your desk... no. Of course, I'm not always at my desk, but we try to always have one of us in the office at all times.
37. In the new set up? Yes, she has direct access to the President's off.
38. Back to position of tape recorded on typwriter desk....It was on right typwriter... discussion of what it looked like....I'm not very observant as I can't recall...Size? ~~MMX~~ like typwriter? I don't think so seems to me it must be smaller as I didn't pay much attention to it as I came into the room....noticed that RMW had large ear phones. so

See insert on
last page:

See insert on
last Page

(must have been transcribing something. Wasn't in room very long.. probably to bring in lunch or something like that....

39. Had you ever seen the recording device in the office before the "special project"? No.
40. Have you ever seen any recording machines..... No only the ones we have had at home... one was old big one lg. as a typewriter, and a little pocket one.
41. Do you still have it... No we gave it to our son some years ago.. 4-5 years ago.
42. Do you know who brought the recording device to Miss Woods? When? No, don't recall seeing it come in.
43. Did you see tapes on RMW desk at any time? No...presumed there must have been one on machine by her typewriter as she was listening to something on the ear phones while working on the special project.
44. Was machine at her desk when they went to Camp David or Key Biscayne? I don't recall.. only actually noticed it when RMW was working on it...
45. When did it leave the office... don't know, don't recall seeing it leave. Don't know whether or not it went with typewriter and tensor lamp up to NY for testing... didn't see it, but might not have recognized it as I'm not familiar with what it looks like.
46. Did anyone else in the office use the machine when it was in RMW's office. No
47. Did I see Marje use it? No....Marje did work on transcribing some tape off and on for several days, I think, but I don't know what machine she was using, whether or not it was the same one RMW had used. She had great difficulty understanding and transcribing whatever she was working on.
48. Does Marje often transcribe tapes? Yes, dictaphone belts..
49. Are these from the President? I presume so, his valet brings them in.
50. Do you transcribe tapes? Never
51. Does Marje usually transcribe them right away? Yes
52. ~~XXX~~ What does she do with them after? I don't know.. File them or throw them away? I don't know

53. Do you ever see what was on the tapes ? The dictaphone tapes ?,.No
54. Did you ever listen to tapes? Not any.. never use them^{or} handle them myself
55. Where were the tapes from the special project kept? I think RMW locked them in her safe.
56. Has anyone access to it... I think she is the only one... I certainly don't.
57. Did you ever hear any discussion about destroying any memos? No
58. Were you ever asked to look for any memos regarding Watergate? No
59. Were you ever asked to destroy any memos relating to Watergate? No
60. Is this the only interview you have had regarding Watergate? Yes
61. Do you recall any time while RMW was working on the special project that there was any sudden or unusual activity in RMW's office... visits by Haig, Bennet, Buzhardt, secret service men? No. Did they ever come in ? Upon occasion they all come in.. but I don't recall when, nor do I recall any unusual activity or any time when they all came in together. Regarding Secret Service men.. I might not of recognized them as such, but I don't recall any undue activity like that...
62. As of now, is there any recording device or listening device in the office or WH. Not that I know of
63. Do you know when the listening devices were in effect, or for what period of time? No
64. Does any member of your family work in the WH? No

I took this opportunity, as the interview was over to say that I was the only one in my family who had been privileged to work in the WH

They didn't ask me how long I had worked in the WH nor how I happened to begin, and as I had tried not to offer any extras, the opportunity just didn't come up for me to say anything about it.

Insert by #35: When I said RMW never looked upset, they said, come now, surely you can tell from working with her when she is upset just as you can tell when your husband is upset. I replied that I had lived with my

husband for 32 years, sure I could tell when he was upset, but that I had only worked with RMW for a couple of years or so and that I couldn't tell as she always is in control

Just before we left I asked them if I could ask them a question?.. THEY said certainly.... I asked if they looked at their own FBI files on people like me before the interview.... they said no, why should they.. I thought it would be logical and was surprised that they had not.