

See file on Briggs affidavit

Dear Jim - Briggs second 1448 affidavit and my attached memo on it 3/14/78

With today's rain mitigating against my going outside to get the remainder of the ice off the driveway and lane I decided first thing this morning to go over this second Briggs affidavit and make some notes on it for you. It had been my hope that I could complete this before mail time and that I could then do the mail and return to the dictating of the 1996 notes. However, it has taken much longer than I'd anticipated so I'm not taking the time to read and correct it.

It is my impression, a very strong impression, that especially when combined with the efforts to keep any of this from getting before the appeals court it gives us an unprecedented opportunity.

In the light of what is new to us as well as of what the crazy Briggs did swear to I believe this is enough to give them great worries. If they take time to look and see and perhaps understand they may undertake to seek a means of mooting, as you know I've been expecting for a while.

But whether or not they seek such a course we have really unprecedented means of going after them all.

By all I mean Briggs and the CIA as for beginners. Archives and Justice have responsibilities.

If I'm not optimistic about a ny court taking any vigorous step or of meaningful employment of the punitive provisions I am certain that the situation justifying, more than merely justifying both, is in hand.

Whether there is a reman, whether we move for reconsideration and whether there are other options I believe the best first step is to press before the appeals court. You can ~~encapsulate~~ and I think demand that it make a judicial inquiry into the fraud practised upon it. (Your focus in the excellent reply brief was on the defrauding of the court below, not it.)

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Hastily,

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Par. 1. He attests to having drawn upon the experts of various kinds as required in the A.G.'s memo, II-C. This is relevant in my refused Epstein request.

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2. Having qualified himself as an expert he attests that disclosure of the 6/23/64 transcript and pp. 63-73 of that of 1/21/64 "would jeopardize (my emphasis) foreign intelligence sources and methods which the Director of Central Intelligence is responsible for protecting from unauthorized disclosure pursuant to the National Security Act of 1947, as amended..."

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This after making Nosenko available to Barron and Epstein and after the release of the FBI's long reports on what Nosenko said!

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I THINK THIS IN ITSELF PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT THING FOR FLORENCE TO EVALUATE.

Florence is an authentic classification expert. Why do we not ask that he be given the transcript, the FBI reports, and the Epstein and Barron writings and ask him to inform the court if he finds anything in the transcript not already publicly available?

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At this point Briggs postulates two kinds of damage, "most likely in the ~~area~~^{area} of foreign intelligence operations (sources and methods) with a somewhat less threatening possibility of damages in the field of foreign relations."

These false claims under oath provide similar opportunities. I'm thinking here also of remand. He should be asked to inform the court under oath how this is possible in the light of what is known, specifying what he has to read of what is known.

11. "There is nothing in either document that is embarrassing to the CIA." This is his full paragraph. Then this means that the transcript does not include Nosenko's statement that the KGB considered Oswald an American sleeper agent." If he does he swears falsely.

12. He claims that despite the extensive disclosures there can't be declassification "because it is impossible to predict...when the ~~threat~~ potential threats to intelligence sources and methods involved will no longer exist." What can there be after Barron and Epstein and the FBI reports? He should be asked to specify to the court. The same is true of the claimed exemption from automatic declassification.

14. Relates to the time to review 11 pages for declassification. In his non-response he avoids and deceives because he does not address the time that could be taken for a subject expert who knows what the CIA let out. There would be very little time required for a review looking toward declassification if the review was by CIA subject experts. He misleads and evades. He resorts to irrelevant generalities not to face the ~~by~~ specifics. For an expert I think this is defrauding us and the court.

15. In claiming there is "no readily available records reflecting that the two documents were ever handled in a manner inconsistent with their classification" he swears falsely because the CIA's known files "reflect" that it lost copies. TOP SECRET, too.

This is without regard to what else its files must hold, like the missing copies and the ~~files~~ files if not also the Ford archival deposits.

In his resort to an escape hatch, "readily available", I think he has crossed the line and that this is material and falsely sworn to. He did not say "I know of no records" or anything with these kinds of loopholes.

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These ~~also~~ claims under oath provide similar opportunities. I'm thinking here also of remand. He should be asked to inform the court under oath how this is possible in the light of what is known, specifying what he has to read of what is known.

11. "There is nothing in either document that is embarrassing to the CIA." This is his full paragraph. Then this means that the transcript does not include Nosenko's statement that the KGB considered Oswald an American sleeper agent." If he does he swears falsely.

12. He claims that despite the extensive disclosures there can't be declassification "because it is impossible to predict...when the ~~known~~ potential threats to intelligence sources and methods involved will no longer exist." What can there be after Barron and Epstein and the FBI reports? He should be asked to specify to the court. The same is true of the claimed exemption from automatic declassification.

14. Relates to the time to review 11 pages for declassification. In his non-response he avoids and deceives because he does not address the time that could be taken for a subject expert who knows what the CIA let out. There would be very little time required for a review looking toward declassification if the review was by CIA subject experts. He misleads and evades. He resorts to irrelevant generalities not to face the ~~the~~ specifics. For an expert I think this is defrauding us and the court.

15. In claiming there is "no readily available records reflecting that the two documents were ever handled in a manner inconsistent with their classification" he swears falsely because the CIA's known files "reflect" that it lost copies. TOP SECRET, too.

This is without regard to what else its files must hold, like the missing copies and the ~~files~~ if not also the Ford archival deposits.

In his resort to an escape hatch, "readily available", I think he has crossed the line and that this is material and falsely sworn to. He did not say "I know of no records" or anything with these kinds of loopholes.

Briggs & much wordage, no substance. He does not
state any qualifications in training or authority
to classify or ^{declassify} ~~classify~~. He also says his affidavit
is not just heard & I want no more 2 court
heard ones. CA says just - prison any way

CA says to state what "person intelligence source &
method involved is secret" - departure & depiction &
not of the Russians do not have to be told they judge
have left the loop. Where else the possibility of any
truth in this. True this has to be an "unclassified
disclosure." How can a non-secret be a secret?