

Mr. Quinan J. Shea, Director  
FOIA/PA Appeals  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

5/4/78

Dear Quin,

Yesterday Jim told me about your letter of the 21. It came today. Glad to get it. Thanks.

I've also been thinking of the number of matters, different subjects, that Linda has to contend with. So I think that where I'll be responding to what relates to any one of those I'll do it in a separate sheet of paper. Perhaps this can make things easier for her.

Especially because of the length I've gone to in an effort to be informative.

I have received the first Kennedy release. Because I had always expected to I made provision for it in a special set of file cabinets I obtained for them. Since then I've added more to accommodate the field office files. I'm glad you will be coming up. You will then be able to see that while the accommodations I will be providing for others are limited I have made provision for a place to work and I've put in extra lighting. In time I'll straighten that area out better than it now is.

Having made a fairly accurate guess of the space the ~~first~~ release would require I now have those records in sequential order.

A college student who lives not far away has set them up. She works on it in spare time. I don't think she has completed the job but it is close to finished. She'll probably not have more time until after finals. A severe case of poison ivy interrupted her I think just before she finished.

I'm also trying to establish a separate file on each request. My wife has broken these down as best she can. I've arranged file space for them but I've not been able to going over what my wife has done and setting up a separate file. Temporarily these records are in a box. Once this is completed if Linda has questions I'll be able to respond better.

It would be good, I believe, for someone in the Department to be aware that I am keeping these records exactly as I received them and to see that I have made what arrangements are possible for the access of others. In fact I've started a file card record of who has read what so that these people can be consulted by others later.

There have not been many requests. The only one I've turned down would have required that I ship them to California for copying.

Whatever the FBI tells you about microfilming, it is being offered for sale. I can provide copies if I have not.

On the worksheets, there was to have been a status call that was cancelled, I think. Maybe the judge rescheduled himself. Whichever, that gives more time. I'll not press on this. Please bear in mind that my request was not limited to the worksheets.

On the pre-assassination Oswald file, if these records were included in the release I'd appreciate being given citations. I'll give Linda more information separately.

You have been assured that I "either have gotten or will soon get everything on the King and Kennedy assassinations that ever has been released to anyone." Fine. I received five photographs today. McDwright's letter and my response will be enclosed.

But in G.A.75-1996 there are some items that do not relate to the assassination investigation. I also clarified one item where I had not been able to specify the FBI's cryptonym. Although I was told I would not have to do this in writing I did put it in writing and I've received nothing. This was for political staff. I did specify that I was not interested in the personal stuff on King, what Judge Smith later had put aside for 75 years in the Archives. I do have records reflecting compliance with the similar requests of others. I'm pretty sure the FBI totally ignored my subsequent reminders on this.

There is the separate question of unjustifiable withholdings and still another about ignored referrals. I can't tell you how many attachments have not been provided where they are referred to.

What I believe will yet be a major problem will be the files the FBI refused to search. They lied straight out in saying there were not other files. I now have proof of their existence. One of these was Hoover's personal files. Not destroyed, either.

I don't know how far I can go on this without crossing the line. I don't want to do that. Jim is now too tied up to do anything or for me to ask him.

Perhaps I can tell you enough in generalities. There has been pervasive and persisting dishonesty in this case, from the first and not unaided. The judge has been imposed upon repeatedly, and not by us.

I don't know if there is anyone in the office of the SAC who is interested in this, what it represents and what it can yet mean but if there is I'm willing to help.

Six months ago I did not expect what has happened so I did not establish a separate file. I have begun to do that. There is a status call on the 17th. I do not know how much I can promise by then but if I am called to testify I have already segregated more than enough from which to testify.

If Jim were not as tied up as he is and for a while will be I believe he would be preparing something for the 17th.

In that case except for one newspaper story from which the name of an FBI agent had been removed 10 times I can't think of a single record in which there had been unjustifiable withholding that has been replaced. I can't think of an FBI record in this case that I've received in these six months. Not even those called for by stipulation that were not provided within the stipulated time.

I'd much prefer not to have to do what is going to be required of me.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg