

6/16/73

Dear Ken,

After long delay in one of my FOIA cases I have just obtained a copy of a Treasury record of a decade ago.

I do not intend to take time to appeal the extensive excisions.

This is an ATF record of 1/22/68. It begins,

"On January 15, 1968, Vincent DePalma a Minuteman member . . . called at the AATT Office in Denver to state that he had 'defected' from the Minutemen and wished to furnish ~~such~~ information to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax."

On page 2: "There do exist 19 'strike teams' throughout the U. S. with from 5 to 10 members each. These are the persons who would be primarily responsible for carrying out the assassination assignments."

All but two lines between these two quotes are excised.

A graf after the second quote is excised and then, "Minutemen plan to start Black power riots in Summer of 1968 if they do not start on their own."

The defection was three months before King was killed.

It is obvious that the initial excisions relate to assassinations. I'd appeal the withholding if there were any use for that info. I believe the apparent exemption claimed is what would "interfere with law enforcement proceedings, including pending investigations" in the FBI's unilateral revision of the language of the statute, which is "interfere with enforcement proceedings."

After a decade there can be no "enforcement proceedings."

If you are interested, let me know.

Best,

Harold Weisberg