

THERE APPEARED IN THE FEBRUARY TWENTYEIGHT INSTANT ISSUE OF:
THE NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE NEWSPAPER AN ARTICLE SETTING FORTH
THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE TRIAL OF CLAY L. SHAW ON FEBRUARY
TWENTYSEVEN INSTANT.

ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, THE AFTERNOON SESSION CONSISTED OF THE PROSECUTION CALLING REBUTTAL WITNESSES.

THE FIRST WITNESS CALLED WAS EMMETT J. BARBE. WHO TESTIFIED

THAT IN NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE HE WAS THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE FOREMAN

FOR THE WILLIAM D. REILY COFFEE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS. HE TESTI
FIED THAT DURING THIS PERIOD LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS EMPLOYED IN THE

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Plaintiff) Civil Action) No. 78-249 CLARENCE M. KELLEY, et al., Defendants) FILED | FEB 15 1979

OPINION MAMES F. DATEY, Clark

This is an action arising under the Freedom of
Information Act wherein the plaintiff, Harold Weisberg, seeks
disclosure of worksheets and records relating to the processing, review and release of the material on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, made public by the
Federal Bureau of Investigation on December 7, 1977 and
thereafter. On April 12, 1978, 2,581 pages of worksheets
were released to plaintiff pursuant to this request.
Certain information was withheld pursuant to Title 5, U.S.C.
SS 552(b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D) and (b)(7)(E).
The matter is before the Court on cross-motions for summary
judgment.

Exemption 1 of the Freedom of Information Act, (FOIA), protects from disclosure materials that are:

(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order.

Two affidavits submitted by defendants state that the deleted information was supplied by foreign police agencies, related to specific intelligence methods, and was produced under a promise of confidentiality. Defendants re-reviewed

the withheld material pursuant to the standards set forth in Executive Order 12065 which became effective December 1, 1978. It was determined that the unauthorized disclosure of this material reasonably could be expected to cause at least identifiable damage to the national security. The affidavit then further described that damage.

The legislative history clearly indicates that substantial weight is to be accorded to agency affidavits setting forth the basis for its claims of exemption under subsection (b)(1). S.Rep. 93-1200, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. 12 (1974); Weisman v Central Intelligence Agency, 565 F.2d 692 (D.C. Cir. 1977). Here the FBI affidavits show that the documents are classified according to the proper procedural criteria and that they are correctly withheld under both Executive Orders 11652 and 12065.

There has been no showing of lack of good faith on the part of the FBI. On the contrary, the agency has been in communication with the plaintiff throughout the pendency of the proceeding and has released 2,581 pages in response to this request. The defendants have sustained their burden of showing that the withheld material is protected from disclosure under Exemption 1.

The agency has deleted file and symbol numbers related to the informant program and the administration thereof, claiming both Exemption 2 and 7(D). Not only do these numbers relate to the internal practices of an agency under Exemption 2, but release of the numbers could result in the disclosure of the identity of the informant, protected by Exemption 7(D).

The Supreme Court stated:

...the clear legislative intent [of FOIA is] to assure public access to all governmental records whose disclosure would not harm significantly specific governmental interests. Department of the Air Force v. Rose, 425 U.S. 352 (1976) at 365.

It is obvious that the public's interest in knowing the names of FBI informants is neither significant nor genuine when compared with the FBI's need to keep this information confidential. Therefore the numbers utilized by the FBI have been properly withheld pursuant to Exemptions 2 and 7(D).

Subsection (b)(7)(C) of FOIA was enacted to protect "investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes ... to the extent that the production of such records would ...(C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Defendants have invoked this section to withhold names, background data and other identifying information involving third parties as well as the names of FBI agents who produced the worksheets. This exemption should be applied using the de novo balancing test, weighing the public's interest in disclosure against the individual privacy interest and the extent of invasion of that interest. Congressional News Syndicate v U.S. Department of Justice, et al., 438 F. Supp. 538 (D.D.C. 1977). Here the information pertains to individuals coming to the attention of the FBI who were not the subject of the investigation. The public interest in disclosing this information does not outweigh the privacy interests of these individuals. Ott v Levi, 419 F.Supp. 750 (E.D.Md. 1976).

The agency has invoked Exemption 7(D) to withhold the identity of confidential informants and the information supplied by them. This is consistent with the legislative history which indicates that the exemption was intended to protect the identity of the source as well as information provided by the source which might reasonably lead to disclosure of the source's identity. 120 Cong. Rec. S-19, 812 (November 21, 1974) (Remarks of Sen. Phillip Hart). In Church of Scientology of California v U.S. Department of Justice, 410 F.Supp. 1297 (C.D.Cal. 1976) the Court found that the purpose of (7)(D) is "to protect against disclosure of confidential information provided by any source." Id at 1303. This would include any source whether it be an individual, an agency or a commercial or institutional source. Therefore the material is exempt under subsection (7)(D).

The FBI has asserted Exemption (7)(E) to protect two investigative techniques from disclosure. This is consistent with the purpose of the exemption. Ott v Levi, supra.

Finally, the action must be dismissed as to defendants Kelley and Bell since the FOIA grants jurisdiction to the courts "to enjoin the agency from withholding agency records and to order the production of any agency records improperly withheld from the complainant." Neither Kelley nor Bell are agencies and therefore are not proper parties to this action.

Accordingly, defendants' motion for summary judgment is granted and plaintiff's motion for summary judgment is denied.

Dated: 34.15, 1979.

United States District Judge

FILED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURFEB 15 1979 - FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JAMES F. DAVEY, Clark

HAROLD WEISBERG, Civil Action Plaintiff No. 78-249 CLARENCE M. KELLEY, et al., Defendants

ORDER

Upon consideration of defendants' motion for summary judgment, memoranda in support thereof and in opposition thereto, the entire record herein and oral argument of counsel, it is by the Court this As day of February 1979

ORDERED that defendants' motion for summary judgment is granted.