

Dear Jim,

11/12/77

In trying to clear my desk for the first time in months I came across these two Memphis field office reports. They are probably accidental copies, not copies I intended to have made. If not I have no recollection of the reason for making these copies.

I am certain the reason was not the obliterations to withhold file identifications that in and of themselves are covered by the political requests. There are better cases. I am sure I've put copies aside of these better cases to take up with John if I didn't actually do it.

Nor do I think it was to show the selectiveness with which the privacy claim is made, although this kind of information relating to whites is often withheld. I have better cases of that, too.

Rather than throw these away I give them to you to establish that the FBI does index by name.

When I first raised this question with John and his people and Charles at a June meeting John insisted there are no indexes. When it became impossible to obliterate all the indexing ~~stamps~~ stamps from thousands of records they merely forgot they had lied. Now they'd deny it, claiming that somehow we managed to misunderstand them.

I think that yesterday's claim to there being no indexes was a fingers-crossed one. These indexes do not exist in headquarters. They are in the field offices.

Memphis as the Office of Origin is probably where the Murkin index is.

While the existence of the Headquarters index to those 29 volumes can be taken as an indication Memphis did not have such an index other interpretations are possible. I am inclined to believe that it would have been too much for Memphis to make a separate index of what would be given to the prosecution and that it would not turn over its master index to make ~~them~~ access to the prosecutorial volumes possible. The simple solution would have been to have it done in Washington. There is also the possibility that Headquarters might want instant access to what was given the Memphis prosecution and for this reason had the index made.

I have great difficulty believing that the FBI would index all this trivia and what is even more inconsequential and not index its major case.

Best,