

2599 LeConte Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
June 8, 1976

Mr. Gene F. Wilson  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Wilson:

It was reported recently that the CIA is contemplating the destruction of records relating to various questionable practices, including the mail interception program. I believe that no material relating in any way to the assassination of President Kennedy or to Lee Harvey Oswald should be destroyed. Therefore, I am making a formal request for all CIA records relating to the interception of any letters to or from Oswald or his wife.

According to Dan Rather, "CIA Director Colby told CBS News that his agency intercepted Oswald's mail - going both ways" (that is, to and from the USSR), (CBS Reports Inquiry, Part 2, November 26, 1975, p. 8)

The available record, however, indicates that this information was not given to the Warren Commission. A footnote on page 2 of Commission Document 347 indicates that until early October 1963 the Oswald file consisted entirely of press materials and disseminations received from State, FBI, and Navy. (This document, a memo of January 31, 1964, is still withheld (despite my requests), but the footnote is cited in a letter from the Commission to the CIA.) When the file was turned over, the pre-1963 items included only 5 internal CIA papers, none of which mention any mail interception. I am aware of reports that an "ordinary" name trace might not uncover information from the mail-opening program. Nonetheless, DDP Helms did testify that a Commission staff lawyer had had full access to the entire file. (5H122)

I would appreciate your prompt attention to this request, and to my pending request for the CIA's response to my memo (which was submitted to you by the Rockefeller Commission).

Sincerely yours,

*Paul L. Hoch*

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cc: Sen. Richard Schweiker