





not inconsiderable efforts were, clearly, Civil Division functions. The records of the cited litigation should provide more leads.

I think another lawyer involved was Joseph Hannon.

Mr. Shea was looking for a formal structure and a formal report, although I told him I did not expect there was either. If he looked for what did not exist, naturally, he would not find it.

This was an informal unit, of members from different components, whose function was to defend the official conclusions about the assassination.

In his writing after he left the White House, John P. Roche, who had been LBJ's intellectual in residence, took credit for some if not all of those functions being assigned to the Department.

I have read a great number of pages of pertinent Department records and I assure you that there never was any consideration of anything asked, stated or suggested by any concerned citizen or Member of the Congress. There was boilerplated non-response, with responsibility for making it at various time divided between and shifted between various components.

One of the problems today is this history, of inflexibility and total refusal to consider anything other than the official "line."

These are records of considerable historical interest and importance now. Perhaps there is now no embarrassment over the manner in which the function was handled. The function, it is clear, was defending this official line.

I do not mean that no such attitude exists today, for it does, but not with the identical information.

All of the records generated are not in the records - have been provided. It appears to be probable, I think, that where they were filed they were filed under a different subject and that the members of this informal group kept additional copies, more or less as kicklers, in anticipation of future needs. Even after the retirement of Mr. Bardley and others the needs continued, for the official account of the crime still is not credited by very many concerned people, without any manifestation of any official willingness to consider any of the substantial information that was always available to officialdom.

I'd appreciate it if you could make an additional search after making inquiries of those who might have some knowledge and might not be unwilling for the records to be disclosed.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg