

Dear Jim,

4/5/81

I have received from the FBI the declassified records referred to in Shenefield's letter of last ~~JANUARY~~ December and a smaller batch that may be titled "SEES," I can't be sure. The covering letter makes it apparent that Metcalfe was lied to when he asked about the delay, the number of pages declassified does not equal the number in the Shenefield letter, those records had been processed, as the letter states and as I told you long ago and were merely held back, and nothing that was declassified was every classified properly. All of it was in my ignored appeals. It also is apparent that the FBI did not have to familiarize staff with the subject matter and that they are still withholding as "national security" what they disclosed long ago and is in their public reading room.

If Metcalfe wants to spend the rest of his life choosing to believe that the FBI does not lie to him and that he does not as a result lie to others, I can't help him in ~~that~~ that. I want him to be informed, to know, as before now he should have known, that he is not repeating truthful statements. They are untruthful.

Now he can again know that he did not state the truth to the Court. Last time he accepted and repeated childish explanations. This time he can do or not do what he wants, but I do want him witting. He has lied about the time required, etc., as I said in advance would be the case.

All of this wastes extraordinary amounts of time and for me entails considerable costs. I have seven file drawers of appeals and to a large extent they are of copies of records that illustrate improper withholdings. I am confident that what was just sent to me was noted as improperly classified by Phyllis, when she read those appeals. These records are not now disclosed as the result of a formal declassification review, which I asked for and never got when the previous EO was first effective. But largely, save for their historical value, those appeals and all their costs are wasted because nobody has the disposition or backbone to stand up to the FBI.

I want Metcalfe to know but I also want to start reducing these great costs. I also do not want you incurring them or taking time you don't have and can be used in my interest in other ways. So don't make copies for Metcalfe. Instead show him the copy for Shea or let him have it for copying, if he wants to do that, and then give to Shea or return to you for forwarding to Shea.

Among the "declassified" records that was never classified is a revealing one. It says again that the FBI did not investigate the crime, didn't intend to and had no interest in the facts of the crime. All they wanted to do is make Oswald look bad. And propagate Hoover's political beliefs and prejudices. This is motive enough for that withholding under a non-existing "classification" claim.

I think that however he takes it or can be expected to take it, this newest lie should get to the judge, with a reminder that to now they have done nothing but lie and in particular about when what records would be provided. If Metcalfe were a genuine conservative and man of principle he would want to correct the false representations he made and I suggest that you give him the opportunity. I don't think he is willing to face the FBI if he makes such an admission. But if he doesn't my reactions to the certain repetitions will be much more vigorous and pointed. They simply have got to stop or no case will ever end.

Also, as I've asked you before, please ask for and insist on dated worksheets. They can phoney some, but make them be honest or fakers. These will disclose the deliberateness of the lying.

The second copy is for you.

Sincerely,