

Mr. Robert J. Walsh, Jr., chief  
Freedom of Information/Privacy Office  
U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command  
Fort George G. Meade, Md. 20755-5995

1/19/90

Dear Mr. Walsh,

re:#033P-90

Your letter of the 17th does respond to portions of mine of the third but not to all of it. It also reflects an Army Catch-22 in which it is free to distribute false and defamatory information about citizens and then destroy the basis for it, thus in effect nullifying the law, in this instance the Privacy Act, which gives me rights you wiped out and leaves me defamed wherever you sent copies of that false and defamatory material. As you have seen, some of those to whom the Army sent copies did preserve them and they thus are still available for defamation.

Obviously, all records cannot be preserved indefinitely but does that mean that when such material is circulated the Army has no responsibility other than defaming? I see from your letter no way in which you can undo the harm you did me, to the degree that could be possible after so many years.

Nor, come to think of it, any expression of any regret.

Have you any way of determining what other distribution might then have been made so that some effort might be made outside your command to see if the original source is still available?

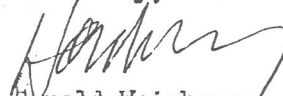
I raised the question of authority for destroying records of such historical importance as those relating ~~the~~ to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is my understanding that under the law the approval of the National Archives must be sought and obtained and that the Archives has the right to preserve such records. So, now that you nonfirm the destruction by your command, at least as a matter of historical record I would like, please, copies of all records relating to this destruction, including the request for and the granting of authority and any relating to any other possible disposition of them.

Are there any possibilities of the existence of unindexed copies? For example, if what was sent to the FBI related to application for employment by Nancy Haycock, would those records have been preserved and could any copies be with them?

I am disturbed by all of this, by the spreading of defamations and then seeing to it that no rectification is possible, and by the destruction of records of great historical importance, those relating to what I regard as the greatest subversion in our society, the assassination of a president.

And I regret very much that the Army appears to have had so little concern about either that assassination or the preservation or any information relating to it.

Sincerely,

  
Harold Weisberg