

Mr. David G. Flanders, Chief
FOIA/PA branch
FBI
Washington, D.C. 20535

1/1/80

Dear Mr. Flanders,

Thanks you for attaching a copy of the request in question with your letter of 12/4/79. I am sorry I have not been able to respond sooner. If you check your files I believe you will find a covering letter with that request, which you do not date.

I have no objection to your regarding this as an amplification but it is not limited to FBIHQ records, as I reread it and recall my intentions. If you insist on this (mis) interpretation I will be forced to file additional requests and I believe that would serve no interest, including that of the FBI.

The FBI and the Attorney General issued ~~statements~~ statements that mean there would be full disclosure. There has not been. In addition, the excisions have been excessive, unnecessary and in most cases unjustified. Problems in this regard began with the assigning of "Onslaught" personnel to the processing of so vast a volume of records so much of which was within the public domain. Interest in the subject matter is not going to die soon nor will it if the Act is amended. I do believe that all interests, including the FBI's, are best served by less restrictive attitudes and interpretations. Otherwise requests and litigation will be endless.

If your counsel did not inform you of it, my counsel and I conferred with him prior to his trip to Dallas in connection with that case. He asked if I would be making more requests. I informed him that would depend on the fullness with which the existing requests were met and the time required for this. If you review the record you will find, I am confident, that I filed a large number of appeals, almost all of which were and remain ignored, specified files not searched and still not searched, found once again that the FBI was not disclosing all records even within its own and unjustified limitations on the request, and after almost two years I still await the first pages of some records within those requests. You will also find that I did

wait a long time before filing any additional requests, which really are intended to get the improperly withheld information, no more.

The FBI is wasting a great amount of time in the processing of the Dallas case index for the purpose of duplicating unjustifiable withholdings in the underlying records. It has withheld information that its own 1963 and 1964 records state would not be withheld because of the special charact of the crime and interest in it. And that was before there was the FOIA,

This attitude guarantees that the FBI will be involved in these matters for a time that will extend ~~to~~ far into the future, no matter how the Act may be amended.

This attitude also causes suspicions about the FBI.

This attitude also extends to my PA request, which is really part of my quest for information relating to the political assassinations and how the FBI investigated them and what it did about those who criticized its performance. The FBI itself made its interpretations of some of its records relating to me part of the assassinations cases. This makes them all relevant. Its (mis)uses of them extend from the White House and the Congress to Tennessee officials at the time of the Ray evidentiary hearing. (It still has not provided the report Memphis filed on what uses it made of what was sent it for this purpose.)

This attitude really should be re-examined. Otherwise there is going to continue to be considerable wasted cost and much trouble for the FBI, regardless of what it may be able to get away with in court.

Twelve years ago today I filed information requests with which the FBI has not yet complied. And those were simple requests, too.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg