

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, King and Kennedy assassination records 6/22/79  
appeals relating to searches made and refused; books and authors; PA

There is a specific Item in my King requests relating to other writers and any information provided to them. While this is not an explicit Item of my JFK assassination requests it is inherent in the historical-case determination and is of great historical significance because of the uses made by the FBI of sycophantic books and authors and the means by which the FBI assists such writers. I have provided copies of records ~~xx~~ reporting ~~which~~ various kinds of assistance was provided by the FBI. This information was in no case provided in compliance. Rather did the FBI file a false representation with the Court. The FBI has yet to comply with those Items.

One of the importances is that the FBI has become an agency for forming public opinion and influencing it and ~~official~~ official knowledge and belief. This is particularly important when one is examining the functioning of the agency itself.

In the King case I have obtained and provided copies of records disclosing that the FBI actually planned to have an officially unofficial book written and considered several authors included in my request.

The first of the sycophantic books relating to the assassination of President Kennedy was written by a well-known White House correspondent who had much to gain by writing what officialdom liked - which is precisely what he did. Charles Robert was then White House correspondent for Newsweek, a full-time job. The title of his book, "The Truth About the Assassination," amounts to false advertising.

What struck me immediately about the book and Roberts is the extremely unlikelihood of his having read all the books he wrote a book to criticize and having done all the required research into the Warren Commission's records within the time he had and still have had time to meet his regular obligations to Newsweek. I also wondered about a hardback publisher who owned the largest paperback publisher coming out with a dollar paperback instead of having it done by its subsidiary.

I met Roberts only once. I found him more extreme as an official defender than any official within my experience. The occasion was a debate in which he was joined by that

eminence of the law, Louis Nizer. Nizer also has a long record of sycophancy on major political cases in which he is the FBI's defender. Robert was so carried away in his passion that he actually said that all writers who disagreed with the official account of the assassination should be suppressed. He was not much more acquainted with the facts of the assassination than Nizer, who did not even know how many volumes the Warren Commission published.

(A major station in New York carried the four-hour show on four different and well-advertised occasions, which makes the total lack of reference to it in any records I have ever received quite exceptional. But then the outcome was not to the FBI's liking, despite Nizer's courtroom experience.)

Now I find that the Director was recommending Roberts' book even to total strangers.

A systematic search is impossible in the voluminous records but I attach those I have come across.

On March 15, 1967 the Director thanked the publisher for a copy of the book. The added note includes "We have had cordial relations with his company." The letter and the note refer to a press release by the FBI that it refused to give me from the time it was first released and published until after the amending of the Act, when Mr. Bresson required that I file an FOIA request for it. (This, of course, added to the statistics and FOIA costs.) This FBI press release addressed the content of my second book of which the printer then did not have a copy. However, one of the copies of the manuscript disappeared in New York. I did not give the FBI a copy of the manuscript. Not knowingly in any event.

This record is from the Commission file, which is strange considering that content is related to the assassination. (62-109090-588) There is an illegible marginal note in which the word "Books" is clear. I ask for a clear copy of this version and for copies of all other versions, however filed, to ~~XXXX~~ ascertain if any other notations have been added.

The Legat, Hong Kong, appreciated the Roberts book from the "review" by that other political partisan Victor Lasky of later CREEP subsidized writing fame. His request

of FBIHQ for copies for "contacts of this office," not doubt to aid his law enforcement function, has the Lasky piece attached. The caption is "PUBLIC RELATIONS MATTERS," not JFK as<sup>s</sup> assassination of Warren Commission. However, he did not note an open public relations file. Rather did he use a secret one the actual ~~title~~ title of which is "80. Laboratory Research Matters." (You have not responded to my appeal from the denial of all 80 and similarly filed records in both King and JFK cases.)

Aside from assassination filing at FBIHQ this record~~s~~ was placed in two other files, a 64 file and one entirely illegible. I request compliance by providing of copies from all files and a clear copy of this one.

In rejecting his request the HQ even refused to endorse the Warren Report. Duplicate filings of this record also are illegible on the copy provided to me. The response adds a second caption, not "Laboratory Research Matters" but "RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)". Those files also have not been searched in either case and I have appealed the refusal to do so.

~~WKK~~ When an Irishman wanted to be able to rebut criticism of the official account of the crime that was of sufficient importance to require the Director's attention. "Suggest Roberts book," he ordered, and it was done (Serial 5086) Again the duplicate filing notations are not legible.

The note added with the xeroxing mark relating to Roberts suggests other indices exist. It is "D.C. \* TEXAS." (Robert neither lived nor worked in Texas.)

While the FBI did not withhold the name of this letter writer it did that in Serial 5118, which is arbitrary and capricious and inconsistent. Comparison of these two ~~Serials~~ Serials indicates that the FBI had a form letter for plugging Roberts' book. They are identical, line-for-line.

I believe it is obvious that compliance in both cases requires the searching of files ignored by the FBI. I can't be certain that I have identified all of them to you but I have provided those identifications of which I have seen relevant uses, like this one to add to your "80" stack.

*Handwritten signature*