

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, suppression of writing about political assassinations - PA requests & appeals; Historical Cases 6/23/79

In his testimony before the House assassins committee former Attorney General Katzenbach testified that the CIA asked his assistance in suppressing books.

As any such efforts might extend to me, directly or indirectly, any and all records are within my PA requests.

As they may relate to other writing I believe they are properly part of the scope and standards for historical case disclosure. If you disagree then please regard this part as a new request, although I would disagree with you.

The information sought is of the entire Department, all components, including the FBI and the Office of the Attorney General.

As part of prior appeals I have provided copies of FBI records reflecting intrusion into my public appearances and ^{my} efforts to attract interest in my books. These ~~efforts~~ ^{intrusions} were made on both coasts. The FBI and the CIA, both of which have yet to admit it, monitored what I said and stored the records.

My first book, which was the very first on the Warren Commission and the assassination of President Kennedy, has an unusual history. I recount part of this history for your information.

Under a contract with a publisher (whose father turns out to have been an intelligence operative of some fame) I delivered the manuscript about 2/15/65. While the publisher was drooling over advance indication of a best seller the vice president made a trip to Washington and the next day rejected the book. In rejecting the book, which he had already advertised, the publisher managed never to return the manuscript. It was produced in such great haste that I did not have carbon copies of some portions. I had to reconstruct them and did, fast, and ^{then} made the rounds of publishing houses. There was widespread editorial approval, quite a number of raves, but as was often enough presented as a policy decision, management declined the book.

Later that year a Member of the House Judiciary Committee read the book. He then

offered the opinion that as soon as I left a publishing house a federal agent entered to express official disapproval. (I know of one case, not involving me, in which the FBI did this with another book. I had offered my book to that publisher.)

Refusal of many publishers to bring out a book for which their editors forecast considerable promise forced me to become my own publisher. With those great limitations that book was quite successful. In terms of quality it was runner-up for the mystery writers award of that year.

Of course it was not possible to prevent me from publishing myself.

However, the FBI did interfere with my efforts, as records I have already provided make clear. The known efforts extended to the White House.

Captioned
~~SARA~~ records would not be in the main assassination of Commission files.

Any search for them within the FBI would require searching the records of the various parts and operations of the FBI, like DeLoach's. I have also provided you with the identifications of files used for not unrelated operations and filings.

Because this is a matter of great interest to me and because my PA requests are so old I ask that there be priority attention.

I mean this to include all records, whether or not they report any efforts by any Department component. It also includes any efforts subsequent to publication, which is an interference with publication.