Cum-JFK

Mr. E Ross Buckley
Criminal Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

3/16/81

CRM-2546

Dear Mr. Buckley,

While I welcome belated response to one of my letters I am less than pleased with some of what you say in your letter of 3/13/81.

With regard to your items 1641 and 1644 you claim (b)(2) on the invalid basis that the withheld file numbers meet the "solely" test. They do not and throughout they have been provided by you and by the FBI, among many agencies. You also claim (b)(5) for a reason not within the Act, "... a candid comment from a Department attorney."

I request that you forward copies of these records to Mr. Shea for him to make an appeal determination. Your delays with so many of these matters really is begging for unnecessary trouble and wasted cost. So is wrongful/and unnecessary claim to exemption, which these, I believe, typify. What is the need for withholding a file number, for example? Particularly in what the Attorney General has determined to be an historical case. Was there any balancing test?

You say you process documents in the order in which they appear in the file. That is, of course, reasonable. But you do not say why it is taking so inordinately great an amount of time now in responding to a 1977 request.

The longer you delay responding to the many matters I have raised over the many months of this processing the more you make unnecessary trouble for all parties.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg