

Dallas Index

Dear Paul,

9/5/79

In your 8/26, in response to having examined a sample of the Dallas documents list, you asked about having another share the cost of copying with you, which would be fine with me, and to see the first 25 serials, plus two particular entries. Part of this is not simple, as it turned out. Of course I don't care who shares the cost of copying or use or if anyone wants a complete copy from any copy you get.

There are serious problems in using this list, which the FBI calls an index.

One is entirely unjustifiable withholdings. For the most part these are carefully made, to make it impossible to prove that in the underlying records there also are entirely unjustifiable withholdings. The FBI never says, "Well, we should not have done that - let's clean it up and get it over with." So it perpetuates wrongful withholdings. Those not aware of this can easily jump to other conclusions and read in what is not there. All sorts of things can be imagined and I fear will be.

It actually required about four hours to identify and locate all the first 25 serials in the first part of the index, the part I sent you. For your information I will enclose the list of where they are that Rae made as a result of four hours of work. She never did locate No. 20.

What is readily accessible will be enclosed. It is on the copying machine awaiting copying when Lil can do it. Along with this will be the related worksheets, which will reflect the degree to which Dallas records were withheld on the claim that they had been previously processed at FBIHQ. In fact you may have copies of some in the FBIHQ records you have.

The others are scattered through six other FBIHQ ~~records~~ Sections, as I understand Rae's note. If fewer perhaps Lil can also get them copied.

You asked for two others from that list. Rae located one and it awaits copying. She has not located the other. The one she located is, she told me, heavily excised. I appealed that long ago.

Supposedly the FBI is preparing something that will say where each "previously processed" record is. After a long time I have received nothing. For another long period of time it claimed that proving this information constituted doing research for me. Of course it knew full well that by withholding the Dallas (and New Orleans) copies under this contrived "previously processed" claim it was in fact denying records, but again it feared what is commonplace, that in one set it would disclose what it withheld in the other set, showing that the withholding was unjustified.

It may be a day or two before this gets mailed. In addition to what you asked for I've come across several other items I think will interest you. One that I recall is the absence of any records relating to Oswald's specialized training at Keesler Field. All that appears to have existed in 1973 is the fact of his having been there. If I knew I'd forgotten that the Marine who killed himself at Subic Bay, Martin Schmand, was in that same small class.

Lil is still asleep. I have two early morning medical appointments. If she feels OK when she gets up and does some of the accumulated copying before it gets too hot I may have more to add. It has been hot and sticky and the machine generates much heat in a small area so she usually does the copying when it is least uncomfortable.

Despite the problems and costs created by the FBI this is a valuable record. However, you should also be aware of the additional cost that will come when they provide their previously processed solution. ...There has been further delay in the depositions. They will probably not be completed until after Via returns from a trip abroad that begins next month. This means that when I have a rental car to get to the depositions after his return I can still take the documents index to Washington for copying for you then, or you have longer to make up your mind. Sincerely,