

JFK assassination records appeals  
Dallas index

Harold Weisberg 8/17/79

With the attached 4/2/79 letter I received the Dallas communications index to which it refers, shortly thereafter I filed an appeal in which I stated that there are obliterations without even pro forma claim to exemption and that the claims to exemption are unjustified.

It had been my hope that I'd be able to make a definitive analysis for you because of the historical importance of having the fullest possible versions of all indices available. However, this has been beyond my capabilities.

I attach a copy of the initial portion of this index, through the first 2500 Serials listed.

You can see for yourself that there are obliterations not accompanied by any claim to any exemption.

It is my recollection that withholdings would be limited to the withholding of the actual identifications of symbolled informants and perhaps in a few rare cases where there was a genuinely confidential source, where confidentiality really had to be protected. As usual the FBI did not live up to its word. As usual it flaunts its contempt for the Attorney General - any Attorney General - by flagrant violation of the 5/5/77 policy on FOIA processing.

The most casual examination of what is attached discloses that the FBI is harassing and wasting time and money by withholding what prior to FOIA it did NOT withhold and that its withholdings are designed to protect the unjustifiable withholdings in the underlying records.

Having withheld in the underlying records what I appealed and what was not withheld under Director Hoover in the initial disclosures of the Warren Commission's records and thereafter, until the FBI began its assault on the amended Act, the FBI is not now about to do right. This would enable me to provide you with what is unjustifiably withheld in the underlying records. It therefore engages in further improper and unjustifiable withholdings to try to protect the unjustifiable character of its withholdings from the underlying records.

This is what takes so much time in the processing of indices - covering the Bureau, not complying with the Act.

In this the FBI has its side benefit - wasting you and your staff, which delays all action on all appeals and perpetuates the FBI's intended violation of the Act while running up all costs and wasting much government money and time.

If as appears to be the case it is processing the main special index in this manner the wastes and costs will be greater and there will be wasted litigation costs and time. And it will be deliberately violating the Act again.