



United States Department of Justice

OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12 - Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your letter of July 10 and to clarify several of the points raised in my letter of July 6, in which I addressed your complaints about the F.B.I.'s processing of the Dallas bulky exhibits and the Warren Commission*file.

At the outset, let me assure you that, other than the occasional authorized destruction of materials noted in records already in your possession, I am aware of no evidence in Bureau files or otherwise that the Bureau destroyed any Kennedy assassination material either before or after October 31, 1966. As you know, an inventory sheet, Form FD-192, is prepared for each bulky exhibit created during the course of an investigation. These unserialized forms are placed together in the bulky file, usually in the first section. The processing worksheets prepared for the Dallas Oswald file (#100-10461) -- copies of which you have -- list all of the FD-192's contained in the file, including those for the bulky exhibits you suspect to be missing.

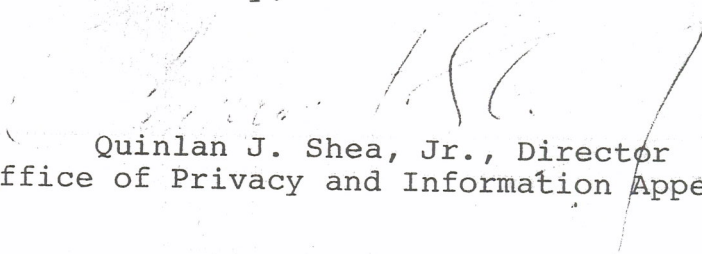
I can also assure you that there is no evidence to indicate, nor have I any reason to believe, that the Kennedy assassination files have ever been rearranged. Routine transfers of materials between F.B.I. Headquarters and the various field offices do occur with some frequency, but they are always indicated by notations on the appropriate records. A transfer of a bulky from Dallas to Headquarters, for example, would be noted on the FD-192 prepared for that exhibit. Mr. Mitchell's review of the Dallas Oswald file confirmed that all bulky exhibits in this file are accounted for in the FD-192's contained in the file and made available to you. To illustrate a typical example, I have enclosed a copy of FD-192 #100-10461-1B28, an

inventory of the carbine, revolver and holster taken from Lee Oswald. The note on this document indicates that these items were shipped to Bureau Headquarters on November 5, 1966. Also enclosed are several serials from the Headquarters file, copies of which you have, which indicate the Bureau's receipt of the shipment and the ultimate transfer of these items to the National Archives. Any further questions you may have concerning the remaining bulky exhibits could be answered by a review of the records already in your possession.

Regarding the Warren Commission documents, I am advised that the Bureau checked with the Archives whenever it was believed that an F.B.I. document had been sent to the Warren Commission and made public. As I indicated earlier and now reaffirm, many of these documents were processed during Project Onslaught, at a time when worksheets were being prepared for internal use only. Any confusion resulting from worksheets containing items crossed out or erasures that make it unclear whether a specific document had been released or withheld simply reflects the Bureau's effort to verify for itself whether or not the document was already in the public domain.

I regret any confusion my earlier letter may have caused.

Sincerely,


Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals

Enclosures