

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg re King & Kennedy assassination records appeals - 7D claims for records of other police; withholdings relating to ~~XXXXX~~ Clare Keating

6/4/79

Until the 1974 amending of FOIA I do not recall any withholding of any records provided by other police agencies, foreign or domestic. Now the FBI withholds, willy-nilly, under claim to 7D and including what is entirely within the public domain. I have appealed this without appealing any instance where there is an authentic question of confidentiality. One of the reasons is to keep the historical records as unconfused and as unconfusing as possible. possible.

Beginning not later than June 1977 I started appealing the withholding of the name of Clare Keating, a Canadian woman who had slept with James Earl Ray. Obviously when I knew this, and it has all been within the public domain since William Bradford Huie published it so he would have something other than a void for his book allegedly on the King assassination, I had no need for the information for my own work. (Or interest) As in other cases, (Marjorie Fettes) and I recall the PCI who slept with Jerry Ray, there was another woman involved. My purpose in appealing was for the record to be straight, for the innocent not to be injured, and so that the FBI and Department could know that the FBI was playing its usual FOIA games by withholding what was within the public domain. In the Keating case the same FOIA unit released news accounts of her suit against Huie, so it knew her name was public. FBI

The House assassins committee has published a record it obtained from the FBI, which withheld it from me while disclosing a portion of it in another record in which it was referred to. This record, in facsimile in Volume 3, pages 581-2, is a letter to one I believe was the Legat, from the headquarters of the RCMP.

At the time agreement was reached with the FBI the committee let it be known that the FBI would have to clear its personnel who would have access to FBI records and that the committee had agreed not to disclose what the FBI did not want disclosed. I have neither seen nor heard of any FBI or Department protest over any alleged violation of this agreement by the committee.

Yet in C.A. 75-1997, including after my appeals and protests to the Court, the FBI

has insisted, falsely it is clear and undisputed, that it is required to withhold any and all information from other police agencies. I believe it also has claimed "national security" for this but I'm not certain. This was carried to the extreme in C.A. 78-0249, where the RCMP initials were obliterated on worksheets despite disclosure in the underlying records, referral slips I have provided the Department along with an affidavit.

The record published by the committee should have been provided to me. ^{It} It should also been a MURKIN record. Even if the claimed need to some withholding had a basis, which I believe in this case it does not, reading it discloses that almost without exception even to the totally uninformed the content cannot be withheld and there is at the very least much reasonably segregable information in it. It does not mention Mrs. Keating name.

The same volume of hearings includes facsimile reproduction of the Ray guilty plea hearing. Reading it will let you know that information from four foreign police agencies was made public and that if there had been a trial their representatives had been subpoenaed, which is public knowledge, and would have testified in public.

I believe this also raises a quaver question as ~~well~~ well as one of selective disclosure- of only what the FBI wants to be known and believed.

Permitting a committee to reproduce in facsimile what is withheld in litigation and providing ^{sworn} ~~sworn~~ assurances of need to withhold to a court is at best arbitrary and capricious. I believe a more serious offense is actual, especially because the FBI knows that everything withheld from me and included in this record, even the letterhead itself, is within the public domain. (Perhaps the RCMP file number isn't, but that is not withheld from what the FBI permitted the committee to publish.)