

JFK assassination records appeals

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FBI's FOIA attitude, policy of non-disclosure extending even to the public domain

I provide the three attached records all near each other in the FBIHQ assassination file to reflect what the FBI planned to withhold and to illustrate the kinds of withholdings that slipped by, as these did not. (62-109060)

It was originally planned to withhold the third paragraph of the Not~~y~~ Recorded of 12/2/63. It says that the FBI already had copies of letters to Oswald from the CP. This is public domain and even the most diligent withholder who read the FBI's own files had to know that there were search warrants and long inventories of what the police got and turned over to the FBI. It was planned to withhold what the Commission published. And if you think it could have been because the FBI obtained copies by other means, that also was within the public domain.

The planned Ricciardelli withholding in Serial 1366 runs afoul of the 5/5/77 policy and the historical case determination and in addition, there was no privacy. What the record does not state is that this man also was a defector who reflected. It was in the papers. The Russians knew it. But the FBI was about to try to withhold it from the American people.

In Serial 1358 they were actually going to withhold Oswald's published Social Security Number and the identification of the quarters of his pay periods and employment. And how secret do you think the Baltimore source of such information is?

These reflect an attitude that is as opposed to the Law and supposed Department policy as can be imagined. They account for enormous wastes of time and money and they do not end. This was in 1977, not the early days of the Act, after the policy was stated publicly and after the historical case determination.

Can you imagine what the FBI would have tried to pull without them and the 1974 amending of the Act?