

Ferris docs-suppression

1/30/70

At the Archives today I asked for the Ferris name files and CD75, among a few others. CD 75 has chapter headings but no page numbers given in the table of contents.

As the Ferris files, Simmons produced two, both in plain white file folders (very rare), both in Marion Johnson's handwriting. One says "David W. Ferris from CD75" and the other "David W. Ferris-name file in "Other Individuals and Organizations Involved and Interviewed". In the first there was a single report, CD75:589-90 only. The second contained CDs 6:165; 75:199-200; 87:620; 20r:583-6; 301:85-7.

Aside from the very obvious fact this is less than half of the documents relating to Ferris of which I know, there is at least the second report, from the second file, not in the first. There is hardly any point in having a separate file for a single document, nor is there any readily-apparent point in having more than a single file for either all of these or even these and the others of which I know. This suggests there was a special reason for segregating the Ferris material from CD75.

Paul Koch had sent me a copy of the summary of CD 75. It has this line: "Subject's (i.e., Oswald's) contacts with DAVID FERRIS, New Orleans, set forth."

Well, in CD75 they are not-not as it exists today. In report Unit page 84, the heading is "Employment", from 85, "Residences"; from 139, "Education"; from 144, "Relations"; from 179, "Associates". It is here, by the meaning of words and by the sequence of the summary I would expect to find what is "set forth" about Oswald's "contacts with David Ferris".

Page 180, apparently the first of a two-page Turnely report, is withheld. It and all the following withheld pages are noted on the green slips saying it is at the request of the FBI. Pages 199-200 are the Wall-Vister interview with Ferris, the only mention of him in the very long part of the file. (I noted pp. 182-3 and possibly failed to note they were withheld. I do not recall, for there is no notation following the numbers.)

The other pages withheld are:

- 207-210
- 212-221
- 225-8
- 257-60
- 281-304
- 307-311
- 313-316
- 319-323
- 341-3
- 345-7

"Arrest begins on p. 350.

Thus a fairly large percentage of the file on Oswald's associates are withheld, the last thing in the world one would expect if there had been a serious investigation of this and the last thing one would expect the government not to want known, to validate what it alleges about his associations. And unless one is to assume the synopsis is utterly meaningless, one must assume that at least an appreciable portion of the withheld pages deal with what is in the summary and is not in the file today, Oswald's "contacts with DAVID FERRIS".