

0322 - field offices

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, JFK and King assassination records appeals 8/24/69  
Records not provided  
Lead cards  
Field offices  
Appeals rulings ignored by FBI

Your letter of 10/26/69 is one of the small proportion of the appeals in both cases to which there has been response. It therefore follows that the FBI has totally ignored what you reported. The matter referred to is leads and lead cards.

Leads originate at FBIHQ and in the field offices. They also are set forth on cards. There is no question about the existence of such cards because there are many references to them on the records I have examined in both cases.

According to your letter the FBI was to process these cards for release or articulate a legal basis for refusing to do so.

You stated that the FBI would respond directly to me. In 10 months it has not.

These records are within those that were to have been provided by the field offices in both cases. Pertinent information also should be in the appropriate FBIHQ records, <sup>these</sup> including ticklers in ~~his~~ still open cases. (Director Hoover stated that the JFK case would be an open case forever. Not only has there been constant litigation in the King/ Ray case, the House assassins committee's report states that it remains an open case.)

These lead records are important records. They also reflect how government worked - or didn't work - in both crises.

And who knows - they may even reflect how the FBI came to include me in not fewer than five bank robbery files.

JL- Records to have been provided and not provided HW 8/24/80

Shea agreed that absent a legal basis for withholding them the lead cards in both cases should be provided to me. The attached appeal is a reminder that they have not been. The FBI was to have articulated a legal basis for withholding them or to have processed them. I have not heard anything further in 10 months.

With Cole always pressing for summary judgement and always claiming complete compliance I believe it is important now, while he is having to undo some of what he has ~~mis~~ done, to give him a 10-day reminder about them, alternative a motion to compel. It can be as short as the appeal, which will not take the judge/clerk long to read, and it will be apparent that the FBI is not in compliance and knows it while it seeks summary judgement.

I urge that you send a copy to Notcalife, too.