

To John Shea from Harold Weisberg, JFK assassination, SA records appeals 3/21/00
lawyer claims to exemption (b5)
Criminal Division records
OIG records
Files not searched (?)

letter copy

The attached records, from 129-11, are from Criminal Division.

In 1306 the above handwritten notations seem to indicate other files to be searched, the Rex Barker at the top and the unclear "file" notation at the bottom. The subject matter is a civil suit to obtain the Oswald rifle, purchased by King. Unless there is significant content pertaining to this litigation, it is my belief that what has been disclosed about this litigation is adequate.

In 1317 there is this note to two men, both dead. Houghton was general counsel, DeBoerwald (Paul) was chief of AEC isotope developments. He wrote AIG Criminal offering help in neutron activation analysis of the JFK evidentiary materials. This and his correspondence are involved in NY O.A. 75-226, just reviewed for at least the fifth time. The only copy provided to me of our DeBoerwald letter is unclear. No pertinent documents have been provided.

DeBoerwald's letter was critical of the FBI's report to the President, later to be known as Executive Document 1, which is disclosed. The (b)(5) claim was made without basis, apparently to withhold his pertinent and critical comments on the FBI's deficiencies despite the three-volume extent of that report. (As independently, in 1966, I made and published similar criticisms.) It is this kind of (b)(5) claim I have opposed re Criminal Division and other records.

Marion Johnson, who wrote the memo, is a NARS archivist who also is a lawyer.

The second paragraph of 1376 refers to the withholding of records that are pertinent in the request being processed and in O.A. 75-226. The reference to the 1/27/64 sensitive session transcript may be pertinent to my 25 request. I went to obtain that transcript (O.A. 2052-73) and I published it in full in Esquire in 1977. The context, non-event, is embarrassing to the FBI and the CIA.

Docs 1376, 1377 in an OIG report I believe it has not provided in compliance with my 5/31/77 request. It pertains to records of the review of withheld Commission records. To a large degree, some withheld records were disclosed it was apparent that there was no real basis for the withholding. In many instances they might be attributed to a lack of knowledge on the part of the witnesses. There could be historically important records. The withholdings had a significant relationship to the ongoing investigations about this important historical events they had much to do with what was said and not done, including to officials from the President down, and to their many public statements.

If 5/30 is relevant, it was referred to the FBI. It is a communication from the Dallas FBI to JMW, JFE, the above named and agent via Robert E. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. It has since been public, in substance and on the books about his interpretation to which was arranged on short-to-come. It was in the ongoing program.