

For info / public - JFK

King and JFK assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 1/2/80
Privacy claims - FBI files on people as defamations of them
Disclosures of intimate details
Foreign operations/ foreign police sources
Referrals

In prior appeals in both cases I have provided copies of records that reflect the inconsistency of the withholdings relating to the captioned subjects and to a consistent FBI practice, of disclosing intimate details of personal lives of those not liked by the FBI, including for political reasons.

It is claimed that "disclosing" the well-known fact of the cooperation of foreign police and U.S. foreign operations would be an intelligence disaster. In these areas there is no question of disclosure, the information being public domain.

This and the claim that letting it be known that the FBI files held information on anyone was hurtful was alleged in the recent depositions in U.A. 75-1996, of which yours was the last. Disclosing that there is an FBI file on a person was alleged to be even more hurtful, although it was suggested that any information really meant a file on that person and in turn an FBI interest disclosure of which is allegedly hurtful, therefore withholding.

While I have not had much time for reading records recently and have read all the King records that have been provided, I have been going over FBIHQ "Oswald" records, 105-32555. Several of these bear on the spuriousness of the claims captioned above, with regard to foreign police cooperation and foreign operations and privacy.

Thomas Eli Davis, III and Howard Leeb Schulman have no substantial connection with the assassination or its investigation. Of Schulman no more is alleged than that he "has in the past expressed pro-Castro sympathies and made an unauthorized trip to Cuba." ^{This} ~~It~~ does not alleged any connection with the assassination at all. It is therefore also disclosed that he allegedly "possesses suicidal tendencies." His right to privacy is also protected by the disclosure of the fact that the FBI has an "internal security" file on him, perhaps more, those of LA and NY not being identified. Davis was using a subterfuge to obtain an interview with a "soldier of fortune" type.

With regard to these two men, about whom the existence of FBI files and their numbers is disclosed, contrary to the FBI's claims to the contrary, it is clear that the FBI is disclosing State Department information from Morocco and the fact of Moroccan Surete cooperation. Yet there was no referral to the State Department, a device used to withhold in the past, continuing into the present. (Serial 957, attached)

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Mexican cooperation and the fact of CIA operations ~~is~~ disclosed in attached Serial 119. That the CIA had bank and Western Union sources in Mexico also is disclosed. This means it is disclosed that the CIA had operational capabilities in Mexico, something the Department has persistently claimed it cannot disclose.

These records are not classified and unlike others were not classified on FOIA review.

The FBI did not like Marguerite Oswald, mother of the accused assassin. It therefore disclosed in a 12/24/63 FD302, not attached, that while she was married to the first of her three husbands she was "unfaithful" to him with a named other person who certainly has no connection with the assassination or its investigation, V.J. Knoblock. I know of no connection of Mrs. Oswald's sister Pearl, of whom it is reported in this disclosed record that she "died in the Louisiana State Mental Hospital."

Pearl and Knoblock are hardly public personalities, as contrasted with persons included in my request item relating to information and assistance provided to them for their writings on the King assassination, like Gerald Frank and Jerry O'Leary. Yet you support the position of the FBI, that prior even to making any search it now requires a privacy waiver from them. (As it did not of me and many others whose writings are not liked by the FBI. Yet it considered having Frank write the unofficial official book it desired to have published, praising the FBI, as Frank, as O'Leary and others in the item did.)

Do you and the FBI have more than one set of standards for historical cases? Special categories for those liked and disliked by the FBI?