

JFK assassination records appeals

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FBI attitude toward disclosure of Warren Commission records

FBI attitude toward FOIA - non-disclosure

Records relating to Mark Lane as "pending" security case in 1970

The attached 62-109080-617 relates to the mandatory 1970 review of the Warren Commission's files at the National Archives. The year was nearing its end before the FBI began to get started.

There is no reference to FOIA, which was the law of the land. There is reference only to administrative guidelines that were superseded by the Act. Under these guidelines records were withheld and continued to be withheld, despite FOIA.

As the record states at the bottom of page 1, when there was an earlier review, in 1968, no release of information was made although it is beyond question from subsequent releases that withheld records included what should not have been withheld and later were released.

Although this review was mandatory, aside from FOIA, the note appended by Director reflects the continuing FBI attitude, "I think this whole project is ill-advised."

In describing the records to be reviewed (page 2) the FBI states that some relate to Mark Lane, "subject of a pending Bureau security case."

No file on Mark Lane as a security case has been revealed. I recall no records indicating this from FBIHQ records and I am certain none have been provided by the field offices, although I believe I filed an appeal relating to Dallas records.

Unfortunately Mark Lane now is an even more important part of the overall historical case than he was in 1970. He was the subject of FBI investigations requested by the Commission as well as of other investigations initiated by the FBI. The FBI's copies of the records it provided to the Commission from its file on Lane certainly should have been disclosed as a file rather than as records scattered through perhaps a half-dozen files, particularly because they contain information not on the Commission's copies. I therefore do not regard this as a new request but as an essential part of the historical case disclosure. I believe the same is true of subsequent records, through the House assassins committee period but I include a carbon in the event you disagree and regard any part as a