

JFK - N.O. works

Mr. Quinn Shea, Director
FOIPA Appeals
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

1/23/81

Dear Mr. Shea,

The Orwellians with a dedication to seeing to it that FOIA cases never end have contrived further delays pertaining to the spectrographic plates in the King and JFK assassination cases. With regard to the King case, there are two different versions, neither of which can be credited by reasonable people. Mr. Bresson's letter claims that these plates did not "burn up" in a search of which no meaningful description was provided. As presented to the Court by imaginative Department counsel, this came out that the spectrographic plates do not exist. It is with regard to a previous and also unsworn such representation and with regard to a spectrographic plate that the appeals court had something to say. No record of any destruction or authorization for destruction is provided. I address the JFK plates in my attached letter to Mr. Bresson of 1/19/81.

It appears that the FBI is determined not to comply with regard to any spectrographic plates. It could hardly deny that they exist in the JFK case because of the chortling when I was asked \$50 each for them, what would have come to close to \$1,000.

There appears to be pertinence in the field office case, U.A. 75-0322 in that while there is remarkably little information added to these plates, in several instances it is indicated that tests were made at a time that would seem to be precluded by what the FBI provided earlier. With the origin of the evidence in the field offices and the return of information from FBIHQ to them these tests should have generated records. I have no way of identifying them if they were provided and with prior FBI assurance of the date of testing that appears to be ruled out.

Also enclosed is a copy of a letter to me from IRS. It is careful not to identify the subject matter but I believe it may have to do with what is stated in Mr. Schenefield's letter. If so, it seems to state the opposite. The IRS letter also presents other problems, like is discretionary release appropriate and was a balancing test made.

Mr. Schmeid's letter also reports that a fairly large number of formerly classified records were found to be improperly classified and were to be disclosed to me. I have heard nothing further, which also means I have not received a single one of those pages that as of the time of the letter were ready for disclosure to me. That was some time ago.

Ms. Barrett was here for a few days. She reports that some New Orleans cross references cannot be found in what was provided to me. I enclose the memo she prepared. These were to have been provided months ago.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg