

JFK office
Dear Jim, re enclosed appeals to Shea

HW 3/4/79

I write this in anticipation of getting the draft affidavit by bus to sign and of returning it and the enclosures by the same means in the morning if I cannot get other means.

Please do not take time for anything but the affidavit until after you have that matter eased for and filed. Then I think it would be better if you could read all the enclosures at one time. Probably beginning with the last, dated today, first, and get that shock over with. It really is not a shocker, as you will realize when you read the rest. But I think knowing what is in it will add importance and sharpen your perceptions of what you will see in the earlier appeals.

I believe that in addition to the seriousness with which I make the request it is ideally suited to any uses you may want to make with the House committee. You have said several times that you think we should. I have not because of my own reasons but I am inclined now to agree with your judgement on this. If possible I'll include a couple of extra copies, for Dick, Tim, etc.

I do not think the House will want testimony from me but I am willing to testify if they do want it. If they want to save the Act in pretty much its present form they need it but the decision is theirs to make and I do not press it.

If Shea is playing a bureaucratic or stonewalling game, and I do not assume this, then I have no choice. If he is not, if he is the victim of understaffing or anything else, then this helps him. Particularly with a budgetary request, which I understand he had to make and justify.

If I would not undertake to anticipate the committee's reaction and have not given it any thought I do not have to give thought to what one determined member of the committee, if there is such, can do with this kind of case and the kinds of documentation that can be provided.

If you stop and think I believe you will agree that for us this is a no-lose situation. What can they or anyone do? Non-compliance can't be much greater, delays much longer. How can any of this be defended?

My Powell request is of 1/1/68. Still not complied with and the Army destroyed all its JFK assassination records. What official wants that advertised?

My first appeals from withholdings in 1996 have been ignored and those withholdings are of the public domain, where I serve a public rather than personal interest because I know what was withheld. But the mere refusal to replace those pages - what can anyone do to offset that?

These people are now hoist on the petard of their infamous consultancy. That is a long and detailed memo in which as their consultant I gave advice that is now fully justified. It was wise and unselfish advice. (I suppose those crocks assume all others are dishonest, but they now have that to face.)

This thing can reach truly scandalous dimension. There is fat and there is fire and this is the time to bring them both together.

Not by phone I think that when there is time you might want to let Bast know what you suspect is involved in the assignment on my cases. It might hold special interest to him now and he has capabilities we do not.

This is the moment for intellectual judo I've been waiting for. If they try hard enough who knows, they may give themselves a karate chop.