JFK assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 9/5/79
Oswald-Mexico; classification of public domain; withholding the reasonably segregable

One of the consequences of your failure to act on appeals is that I must keep providing you with relevant records where I believe there is improper withholding. Other consequences include alternatives of permanent withholding of what should not be withheld (and in fact is at least in part within the public domain) on the one hand and the great cost of proper reprocessing.

I have provided you with an abundance of information relating to the investigation of Oswald's trip to Mexico and withholdings of relevant information. Historically this is information of considerable importance. The character of the investigation is also of considerable importance. I believe the character of the withholding has now assumed this importance. If you require more information and cannot obtain it from the FBI you also have not asked me if I can provide it.

Yet my appeal relating to this matter is an old one. And supposedly this is an historical case. Some of the records are involved in a case in court. Under any circumstances delays as great as this deny me my rights and deny the rights of the people through me. Under my circumstances it is particularly and I believe unnecessarily burdensome for me.

I have long since stopped copying records of this nature from which there is improper withholding that is obvious, or others that disclose what is also withheld. But after all I've seen of 2040's work lately when I saw this blocked withholding that must contain what is reasonably segregable and that he classified the record for the first time (obliterating part of the 1977 date in his obliterating) more than a decade after it was created as an unclassified record - and then classified it Top Secret - I thought you might as well add this to your stack.

Then also there is the little matter of my having asked for a review of all claims to classification under the provisions of the new E.O., on which nothing has happened. (Not that there is any reason to believe the reviewers will know what is within the public domain or give a damn about it.