

JFK assassination records appeals

Harold Weisberg 10/14/79

— Photographers and their film: Hughes and WDSU (Jesse Core)  
FBI control over what would and could be known, including in HQ  
Secrecy, internally, and motive for withholding

Attached are 62-109090-456 and 787. The former relates to a completely unidentified film I identify as the Hughes film, the latter to WDSU's footage and to Jesse Core, not fully identified in the Record. He was also public relations director for the International Trade Mart.

Why the Rosen to Belmont memo, 456, fails to identify Hughes and reports incompletely and in fact misleadingly I leave to your own conjectures. I believe this and the omissions of what I have already told you in the Core memo are consistent with the control within FBIHQ of what would be and could be known in HQ, including by Hoover. These address motive for withholding. Additionally they serve to control the investigation of the assassination of the President to eliminate all not consistent with the FBI's preconceptions so that what was ordained in the first few moments, prior to any investigation, would be the unquestioned conclusions. Also motive for present withholdings.

The Hughes film does not show anyone in the window at the time the shots were fired, despite what this memo implies. It also is not the only such film. Another is the Powell film, subject of my 1968 request on the appeal of which you have not acted. Still another is one I learned about in the Dallas field offices files. It shows two images in motion in that window but the FBI said it didn't even show the window. (My private information is that only recently has the FBI tried to obtain it and then refused a copy when the owner was unwilling to part with the original.)

787 confirms what I told you in my Core-WDSU appeals, that he had gone to WDSU and seen the footage on their "oviscala right after Oswald's name was published 11/22/63. After that, at 6:30, which was pretty soon, he told the FBI, with which he was in frequent touch, that the footage was provided to the NBC net. Why the FBI omitted what else Core said again you can conjecture about but it did omit relevant information or still withholds field office information I requested...I am aware that requests have to be for existing information, which I believe there is. However, I am also trying to provide you with explanations for their withholding - with motive for withholding.