

Privacy JFK

JFK assassination records appeals
More restrictive disclosure attitude after enactment of FOIA
Privacy
National Security

Harold Weisberg 2/25/80

You have not agreed that the FBI withheld under FOIA what it did not withhold prior to the Act and that its attitude grew more restrictive after the Act.

105-92555-3665 is a Branigan to Sullivan (Domestic Intelligence) memo of 5/1/64.

It expresses concern over Warren Commission desires to make certain FBI records public. It advances the stock argument, that FBI records are not prepared for public consumption. Director Hoover annotated it at several places. Some of these notations are illegible.

On page 6, after anticipated consequences are stated in general, there are such specifics as marital difficulties, mental ailment, Communist membership and "publication of the WFO airtel of 11-29-63, in light of the current Congressional interest in mail covers could well result in criticism of the Post Office Department and the loss of Post Office Department cooperation in highly delicate investigative techniques." This refers to covering the USMC subway mail and picking up an Oswald letter, about which I have appealed in the past without acknowledgement.

Hoover's note is short and to the point: "I don't share your concerns about these matters."

The alleged privacy concerns did not deter publication by the Commission, with FBI approval, and while the mail cover was not headlined, it also was not kept secret.

Doc filed "foreign notes"