

JFK - reasonably segregable

JFK and King assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 1/19/80  
Classification claims - unjustified yet claimed to be indefinite under GDS  
Reasonably segregable not disclosed  
E.O. on classification and declassification ignored  
Classification of the public domain - of the Warren Report!

While the attached illustrations are from JFK PHINQ file 105-82955 they illustrate also abuses that characterize the processing of King assassination records and all claims to exemption on "national security" grounds.

It is not often that what had been held to be exempt for an indefinite period of time under the General Declassification Schedule is disclosed and can be examined. The attached samples from the BSW of Serial 4214 were so stamped, "SECRET."

However, neither the cover nor the covering memorandum <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ marked as classified, nor are they declassified. The attachments that were marked as exempt as Group 1 also are not properly declassified, in accordance with the requirements of the E.O.

Of the several attachments I provide the first three (of 17) pages of the Ruby record and the first two (of 13) pages of the assassination record. Each is a fair illustration of the entire record.

The most casual examination, even by one with no subject matter knowledge, makes it clear that a) none of the content is properly subject to classification and b) if any were, certainly most is reasonably segregable.

Anyone reviewing this record, even without any subject matter knowledge, surely should have wondered if the content had been disclosed earlier. In fact it was all in the public domain and all the substantive information is in the Warren Report.

As this fairly represents the abuse of the Act and requesters, it also fairly represents the great costs and wastes of unjustifiable claims to exemption.

If you had acted on my similar King assassination records appeals you would know that this kind of improper claim to classification characterizes those records. An example is a (b)(1) claim for withholding the name of the late Stanley Levison, a well-known King associate. (This illustration comes to mind because at the time the records were processed I informed the FBI and also called to its attention the prominent portrayal of him on the TV <sup>Schulzaker "King"</sup> ~~screen~~ ~~news~~ ~~program~~ ~~etc.~~)

bcc: records attached to JFK-classification