Harold Weisberg, Privacy Act appeal, JFK assassination records 8/6/79

Attached is 62-109090-593, from the Commission file, of 4/24/67 as of the time Mrs. Diana Moe wrote the President and May 2 as stamped for filing at the FBI. This record exists entirely alone in this Section of records, which is unusual within my experience in reviewing countless letters of various kinds in FBI files.

Normally there would be dupli cate filing, at least in the assassination file, that being the subject of my first book, about which Mrs. Moe wrote the President.

Normally there would be an FBI comment relating to what Bufiles reflect and a recommendation not to acknowledge or respond or perhaps a draft of a response. Nothing like this at this point in this file, as provided to me.

What is also unusual is that there is no indexing notation relating to me or the book.

With a copy of the letter sent to the Chief Justice in addition, the bald notation "No Ack" appears even more unusual, especially with the added notation directing that a copy be made. It is not provided. This copy was directed to be filed. This is to say that there are at least two copies and I've been provided with one only. I did not get that, to the best of my recollection, among the selection of records provided under my PA request.

In short I believe that with regard to Mrs. Moe's letter there remains non-compliance under the PA and JFK requests, both.

By this time the FBI had decided it had to "stop" me, its word. It had considered and abandoned filing a libel suit with an SA as its front. It had done the legal research, no copies of which have yet been provided, and it has decided that there was libel, no illutsrations of which have been provided along with what is necessary, factual proof. Conchhsory comments are included in what was disclosed that, without any backup, amounts to defamation. The Lab and Legal Counsel were involved, but none of their alleged work was provided.

I don't know if the number "226" in the lower left-hand corner provides any kind of lead but I have seen such numbers added to records that appear to have been destined for a place other than Central Files alone.

How the FBI reacted to criticism and what it did about books and authors it did not like are of historical and political importance. I therefore provide what I believe may give you some perspective on this.

I had completed my third book, had begun the fourth, and had been in New Orleans for the first time for a few days. A few months earlier one of the few copies of my second book just managed to get lost in New York. My printer did not have a copy of it by the time the Director issued a press statement making response to it, which I found and find as unusual as my inability to get a copy of that release suitable for facsimile reproduction. (Much later the FBI told Mr. Lesar to file an FOIA request for a copy of that press release and in that way, almost a decade later and after publication of the book for which I intended it, I did get that press release.) The ribbon copy of my second book suffered a series of misfortunes in the mail, from which printed copies of my first and second books requested by those who wrote to me were suffering mysterious disappearances. The Post Office never found a single one of these "lost" copies, not even in the scrap and waste paper it was required to save and sell. After I got the carbon copy intended for my Italian publisher to my agent in New York and long after the Post Office reported that search did not disclose the missing ribbon copy, my agent received it. When the Times of London wanted to read the mansucript my agent sent the ribbon copy to its Washington office, which never received it. Instead, six weeks later, I received it in the mail with a note from the Washington Post Office explaining that it had been received without wrapping and it was being sent to the address found on the inside. Only it was addressed as not on the inside. And with impressive magic, the double wrapping disappeared in the mails without a single page getting dog-eared.

There was a substantial amount of information in this book relating to the FBI, to what it had not investigated and reported, to what it had not told the Warren Commission, to what it had misrepresented to the Commission, and even LHMs which stated the opposite of the underlying records relating to Oswald's career in New Orleans. And all of this coincided with the Garrison beginnings, which did interest the FBI much.

For contrast and compariosn I provide another record of the same period and from the same file (although designated for duplicate filing), Serial 593. Here, without any of the underlying material (which remains withheld and I do appeal this because I do desire it), there are seven pages of alleged detail on a book more to the FBI's liking and simultaneously of remarkable dishonesty. It was by Lawrence Schiller, the most successful ghoul/scavenger of recent years. (Among the detail the FBI saw fit not to include is the fact that as Jack Ruby's agent he managed to pocket more than half of the money he is known to have raised ostensibly for Ruby's legal defense.) In this record I am marked for indexing but although I may have forgotten it I do not recall receiving this under my PA request.

This record appears to have gone to many in the FBI, including for no apparent reason SA Shaneyfelt. The part of the book that relates to me also relates inaccurately to SA Shaneyfelt's work, albeit more pleasantly for the FBI. At the time I thought it remarkable that Schiller, who was not reknowned for doing great amounts of detailed work, had so much partisan detail relating to SA Shaneyfelt and how it was of no consequence that when SA Shaneyfelt filmed a reconstruction of the crime it was 30% off on time.

There is no deficiency of similar records among those disclosed by the FBI. I provide this one because only one number separates it from the Mrs. Moe letter.

Meanwhile, unless the FBI is prone to allege libel and plan "stopping" suits with no factual and legal basis there are underlying records relevant in the JFK cases and my PA request that have not yet been provided. I am again appealing these denials.

Harold Weisberg