

5/22/80

JFK assassination records
Field Offices
Files not searched
Warren Commission

Referrals

Beginning about two years ago I started appealing the FBI's obvious omission of files pertinent to the general HQ and field office releases. I do not recall having heard from you or the FBI in response. In the interim I have not received any records from any of the unsearched files (in many cases identified by me) and I have not been informed of any such search made or to be made.

I believe this is an indispensable part of any belated review - what files, known to exist, have not been searched for compliance.

A week after JFK was assassinated the Presidential commission was appointed. It issued its report 9/21/64. A copy was made available to the President 9/24/64. However, the field office files are virtually void on the Warren Commission until issuance of the report. However, for all the intervening period the FBI serviced the Commission, conducted its investigations, lined up and investigated its witnesses, made scientific studies for it and reported on them, and throughout managed to remain offended, indignant and critical of the Commission's inquiries, requests and performance.

Yet there is no field office file reflecting any of this from what has been provided.

New Orleans 62-3702 is the only Warren Commission file provided from that office. Serial 1 is of 9/30/64. One record only is dated prior to the end of the Commission's official life, on 9/24/64. It is Serial 8, 9/9/64, a Ray Kellough story dealing with the Report for Copley News Service, which was virtually an FBI and CIA adjunct.

In the entire file there are only 20 serials. Yet the Commission represented one of the FBI's major preoccupations of all time and the major one of that period. It had great need for Commission files in its field offices.

It did have various Commission files at HQ, although compliance was limited to one, 62-109090. (I provided you with other numbers representing other Commission files but you have done nothing about having them searched.) This file is not duplicated in those provided by the field offices.

What I say about New Orleans above pertains to Dallas, where the Commission file, 62-35834 has as its first date 9/30/64.

Referrals

As best we can determine, with all the obfuscation built into referrals and all communications from the FBI and agencies to which it makes referrals, there still appear to be 143 not yet acted on, 127 Dallas and 16 New Orleans.

Moreover, when I receive a record from an agency to which the FBI has made referral, I do not receive a copy of the FBI's copy and the record therefore is not identifiable from the worksheets. In addition, it still withholds FBI information.

This is deliberate obfuscation, as are the letters, which refer to the dates of other letters (most of the time) but not their subject matter.

Still more confusion is built in by misidentification of the referring agency. State, for example, recently referred to what it described as two FBI referrals. One was not an FBI record and the other remains completely unidentified because there is total withholding and no identification at all in the covering letter. If it is pertinent in litigation, I have no way of knowing it. (Chief Judge Wright had questions of this general nature on 5/19/60 in my No. 79-1729, which involves FBI referrals, all studiously unidentified.)

Non-compliance is built into this Rube Goldberg replacement of the Act, which has no provision for referrals. One agency withholds what the other has already disclosed, and this, too, involves the FBI.

None of this is necessary. It is part of the campaign against the Act and requesters. With letters it is easier to include proper identification, which is necessary for internal filing in any event.

How much longer will I have to wait for action on referrals made more than two years ago, or for any accounting of them?