To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, re PA and unmet JFK requests and appeals 10/2/78

As you are aware I am no longer a spry youngster of a mere 60 years. It therefore seemed prudent to me, as I reviewed the day before retiring, to prepare for what I might anticipate in the future by starting a separate file for each of the numbers you once started assigning to each of my appeals.

Your letter of March 31,1978, in answer to mine of five months earlier, includes a partial list.

In looking at this list it appears to me that not counting MLK records the time elapsed had in some cases been more than a year.

I believe that there came a time when because of many circumstances, including my personal circumstances, I asked for expedited processing.

I am aware, of course, that you have a heavy load. I know you are aware that some of the requests involved are ten years old. The PA request is of 1975. I therefor trust that you will not regard it as unduly impatient if I ask for a progress-status report.

It is my recollection that I provided many specific leads, even specifying where withheld records would be found. This was quite some time ago. I recall no developments since then. I received no added records.

In your penultimate paragraph you refer to my having made comment about the inaccuracy of the PA records I had received. You then say quite properly that the accuracy of these records does not relate to your function but access does. My point in these references, as I now recall, was first that compliance ended when I proved inaccuracy to the FBI and denial of the remaining records was de facto negation and denial of my rights under PA.

I believe that I also informed you of having been told by the press that some of these nasty records were released despite the appeal to the AG which remains without response. That appeal was in advance of disclosure.

If not by then certainly by now Ms. Robinson has learned of some of the (mis) used made of what I regard as deliberate fabrication intended for ulterior/ political purposes, including prejudicing my FOIA and PA rights but not so limited.

As long as these records remain denied - and is there a three-year backlog? - I continue to be denied my rights under PA. I desire to exercise these rights, as I havemade clear from the first. Given the opinion in your second paragraph, that no one "in the Department was acted with an improper motive," I hope that by now you may be able to let me know a) what has been done to obtain compliance and b) when I may expect 1) any additional records and 2) full compliance. (Please bear in mind that while this includes the FBI it also includes other components.)

Bearing on what I wrote you earlier with regard to MLK records and the fact I neither asked for nor referred to the MURKIN file I refer you to the list you attached to your 3/31/78 letter. Your #139 refers to the 4/18/75 "seven-part request." Your #1359a-c is the 12/23/75 "28-Part Request." Neither here nor elsewhere is there any MURKIN reference. And 35 parts do not equal one MURKIN.

Subsequent to the promises made by the Department in C.A. 77-2155 I appealed a number of denials. I asked for records made available to others and appealed their denial. Expecting that the Department would keep the promise it made to a federal judge I have been patient about these unmet requests and appeals that have not been acted upon.

I do not recall any appeals numbers being assigned to any of these matters.

By now I have no reason to believe that the FBI is going to comply. It has not kept its word to you and/I did believe your word.

In some months it has not even provided acknowledgement of receipt of letters. You may recall that it would not even make an appointment for me to examine the photographs it had released so I could request copies of those I want for my work. Yet it requires the making of an appointment for such purposes. (This led me torequest a copy of all photographs, a request not yet acknowledged. I believe I appealed the denial. If I did not, this is that appeal.)

In short we have a lawless FBI and no official in the Department willing to undertake to lead it to comply with the law.

Among my alternatives is the filing of a separate suit for each request not complied with. This is an alternative I would much prefer not to exercise. But I do want compliance with my information/ requests and I believe that when some of these have been ignored - with high-level authorization for this contempt for the Act - for more than 10 years it is not unreasonable of me to expect and ask for prompt action now.