JFK assassination records appeals — Withholding of FBI names

Harold Weisberg 10/28/79

Deliberate violation of 5/5/77 standards, historical case standards, and statement of Director Kelley on this

You have not acted on my appeals from the withholding of FBI names in either the King of the JFK cases. In the King case these names were withheld after the judge issued an order prohibiting it, which was not appealed, and prior to the processing of a single page of MURKIN records. In the JFK case this was done, arbitrarily and capriciously, in the last part of the processing of the Dallas records, but not in the first part of them. I had already provide what the FBI has to have known, a written statement from Director Kelley that this would not be done.

The arbitrariness and capriciousness and the inconsistency of the withholdings of these names became apparent when I provided you with what the FBI provided me, a list of not only the Dallas names, but the home addresses and phone numbers.

Yet you did nothing at all, and more than a year has passed - under a 20-day appeal standard.

The deliberateness of this FBI contempt for anything and everything in its determination to be lawless is apparent in the HQ general releases, which were completed prior to the processing of the field office files.

As I have told you, I believe that the FBI also intends harassment and making use of FOIA prohibitive for the requester by its deliberate violations of the Act and of standards under the Act with which it is supposed to comply.

Not only did the FBI not withhold FBI names in the processing of HQ records - I emphasize before it processed any field office records - but it again provided lists of Dallas names, those withheld in the Dallas processing, which was at HQ.

It seems that in its determination to live with all those cliches that characterize FBI records when the police and FBI handled the cartons both alleged Oswald used in creating what both called his snipers nest both neglected to avoid adding fingerprints. Neither undertook to identify these added prints until the Commission asked it, which was rather late in the Commission's life. This required the FBI to ascertain the names of all its people and all of the police who might have handled those boxes. While elsewhere it claims the need to withhold the names of local police, here it does not. There are many pages of lists of names of FBI employees. The extent to which this was done was driven home to me when at one point (of many) in 62-109060 Section 91 I found three consecutive pages of lists of Dallas FBI names, mostly SA names. This makes it apparent that the withholding of the same names in Dallas records was for extra-legal purposes, including harassment and inflating FOIA costs. It is apparent that the FBI's claims for these withholdings are spurious as well as inconsistent and unnecessary.