

Mr. John W. Douglas
Assistant Attorney General

June 15, 1965

Director, FBI

62-109060-4632

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach

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JOHN J. KING V. NICHOLAS & D. KATZENBACH
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
(US DC D. COLO.) CIVIL NO. 9188

In response to your letter dated June 9, 1965, your reference JWD:HFLeathers:ic, 145-12-979, the described weapons listed in the complaint of John J. King are being temporarily retained by this Bureau. We have not received any previous information concerning contracts to dispose of the weapons and no investigation has been conducted concerning this matter. The President's Commission assigned these weapons Commission exhibit numbers, which were revealed in the Commission report. The rifle was given Commission Exhibit Number 139 and the .38 revolver Commission Exhibit Number 143. The President's Commission utilized these weapons on several occasions during the course of their official investigation and subsequently returned them to this Bureau for temporary retention until disposition is determined by the Attorney General.

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This Bureau is not aware of any Departmental regulations or orders relating to this matter. My letter dated February 24, 1965, addressed to former Assistant Attorney General Herbert J. Miller, Jr., captioned "Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, November 22, 1963, Dallas, Texas, Miscellaneous - Information Concerning," relates to the "Retention of Physical Items Pertaining to the Assassination." Reference is made to my letter dated May 4, 1965, addressed to the Deputy Attorney General captioned "Legislative Program Number 201 - Providing for the Acquisition and Preservation by the United States of Certain Items of Evidence Pertaining to the Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy." This letter was in response to the communication of Mr. Herbert E. Hoffman dated May 3, 1965. We do not have in our possession any relevant documents, such as contracts, items of correspondence, transcripts of administrative

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- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- DeLoach _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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NOTE: See Rosen to Belmont memo dated 6/14/65, entitled "Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, November 22, 1963, Dallas, Texas, Miscellaneous - Information Concerning."

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hearings and administrative rules or orders relating to this matter or any information which would establish the legal ownership of the weapons described in the complaint by Mr. John J. King.

It is pointed out this Bureau did not recover the described weapons. The rifle was recovered in the Texas School Book Depository Building by representatives of the Dallas County Sheriff's Office and the Dallas, Texas, Police Department which information may be found in the report of The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, page 79. The revolver was recovered by members of the Dallas, Texas, Police Department following the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald in the Texas Theater Building and the facts relating to this arrest begin on page 176 of the Commission report. Subsequently, these items were furnished to the FBI for appropriate examination and temporary custody.

In connection with the answer to the complaint you intend to file, we have no facts beyond the allegation in the complaint in addition to those set forth herein. Consequently we are not in a position to comment concerning the procedures to be followed by the Department in its pleadings in this matter.

1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General