

Memorandum

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Brennan	CD
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Walters	
Mr. [unclear]	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO : J. Edgar Hoover
 Director
 Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: SEP 4 1970

FROM: William H. Rehnquist
 Assistant Attorney General
 Office of Legal Counsel

Raymond

SUBJECT: Five-Year Review of Warren Commission Files.

The Attorney General has referred to me the letter to him of August 17, 1970 from Herbert E. Angel, Acting Archivist of the United States (a copy of which is attached), notifying the Department that it is time for the documents in the Numbered Document File of the Warren Commission which have previously been withheld from public scrutiny to be reviewed for the purpose of determining whether any of those documents may now be released. Mr. Angel points out that the documents of the Department in question include "about four linear feet of reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation" and "Commission Document 355, a volume (about 2 inches thick) of copies of summaries of FBI interviews with acquaintances of Jack L. Ruby." Mr. Angel states that the Archives will be pleased to make these documents available to those members of the Department selected to review them.

In late 1968, at the request of the Attorney General, this Office made a complete review of all of the documents in the Commission's files and listed those items which appeared to be releasable. We recommended to the Attorney General, however, that no release of documents be made at that time. My predecessor, Mr. Frank Wozencraft, stated in a memorandum to the Attorney General that-

[I]n view of the lack of substantive value of these materials and the very small proportion which they represent of the total presently withheld, I do not believe that any constructive purpose would be served by their release prior to the review scheduled for 1970, for which this list would furnish an appropriate starting point.

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2 ENCLOSURE

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*let to HLG, Office of Legal Counsel
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The Attorney General accepted this recommendation, and no new release of documents was made at that time.

In view of the fact that the Department's documents which are presently being withheld were generated by the Bureau, it is appropriate that the Bureau assist in the present five-year review. The inventory prepared by this Office in 1968 will, we believe, facilitate the task at hand. The attorney in this Office handling this matter is Steven P. Lockman, code 187, extension 2053. If you will designate an individual from the Bureau and direct him to notify Mr. Lockman, we can proceed with the review and the preparation of a recommendation to the Attorney General.

Attachments